Cristal Vincent has been named CEO of the Federation’s human services department, with responsibilities for Heritage Manor/Adult Daycare, Levy Gardens, and Jewish Family Services. (See the story on page 5.)

With your help, a new playground for infants and toddlers adjacent to Noah’s Park will be a reality. Your donation will support the only developmentally appropriate, designated play space for children 6 months through age 3 in the entire community. For more information, see page 10.

Suspension of Western Wall deal leaves Jewish leaders feeling betrayed

By Ben Sales

June 25 (JTA) — They’ve tried strongly-worded statements. They’ve tried private meetings with the prime minister. They’ve tried negotiations, protest and prayer.

But for the past five years, despite broad internal consensus and consistent pressure, the American Jewish establishment has been unable to persuade Israel’s government to create an equitable space for non-Orthodox prayer at the Western Wall.

**Major setback**

The latest setback in that fight came Sunday, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the suspension of a 2016 agreement to expand the holy site’s southern section, used for egalitarian prayer, and appoint an interdenominational commission to oversee it. The compromise was a result of three years of negotiation between the Jewish Agency for Israel, non-Orthodox leaders, the Israeli government and the Western Wall’s haredi Orthodox management.

Work to expand the egalitarian section will continue during the suspension. But a new agreement will now be negotiated by Israel’s cabinet, and will need to come to a new vote before moving forward.

The suspension is a result of pressure from Netanyahu’s haredi Orthodox partners, who allowed the compromise to pass last year but have since railed against it, blocking its implementation. American Jewish leaders had hailed the agreement last year as a step forward for Jewish pluralism, and at the time, Netanyahu called it a “fair and creative solution.”

**Betrayal**

Now, the American Jewish leaders who pushed for the agreement say they feel betrayed by Netanyahu. They will be meeting in Israel this week to discuss a response, and the Jewish Agency will hold a special session Monday to discuss the issue. But no leaders committed to concrete plans for a response, beyond continued vocal protest.

“It’s deeply troubling and very disappointing that they would suspend the implementation of this resolution,” Jerry Silverman, CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, told JTA Sunday. “We are going to be assertive in asking what’s next.”

Various advocates for the agreement have warned of a crisis among American non-Orthodox Jews should the compromise collapse. Last year, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, said the collapse of the deal “will signal a very serious rupture in the relationship between North American Jewry and the State of Israel.”

On Sunday, Jacobs expressed strong disappointment in the suspension, but did not say it would lead to any concrete loss of support for Israel from the Reform movement. He included it in a list of recent Israeli government decisions the Reform movement opposes, including recent legislation to bar supporters of Israel boycotts from entering the country, and another law legalizing Israeli settlements’ appropriation of Palestinian land.

**Rights sold**

“This decision screams out that when all is said and done, the state of Israel and government of Israel is willing to sell our rights and our well-being for coalition politics,” he told JTA. “This does not add up to be a compelling example of what all of us understand Jewish life to be, and if there’s growing dissonance between those who lead the state of Israel and those who lead American Jewry, the consequences are serious.”

(Continued on page 11)

Outrage over Israeli government actions

By Eric S. Goldstein
CEO UJA-Federation of New York

NEW YORK, June 26 — “We are outraged at two Israeli government actions yesterday that would destroy the fundamental principle that Israel, our Jewish homeland, is a place where all Jews can and must feel at home.

The decision by the Cabinet to suspend the landmark Kotel agreement is a rejection of the practice and traditions of millions of Jews around the world. The Kotel agreement would have protected worship for Jews of every denomination. Instead, a single group will continue to control prayer at the Kotel restricting the rights of millions of Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

We are equally outraged by the government’s decision to move ahead with legislation that would recognize only those conversions performed by the Israeli Rabbinate. Were this to become law, the Rabbinate would have absolute control over conversion in Israel, potentially excluding conversions of thousands of people already converted outside the Israeli Rabbinate, and excluding such conversions going forward.

Today’s actions will only deepen the already accelerating divide between Diaspora Jews and Israel, precisely at a time when Jewish unity has never been more important.

We call on the government to immediately restore and move ahead with the Kotel agreement — a rare, unified compromise between all denominations that would be a landmark achievement for all Jews.

We also call on the government to promptly reverse its position on the conversion bill, which does such enormous damage to the hope and promise of Israel as a Jewish state for all the Jewish people.”

Islamic group salutes Jewish agency fighting refugee ban

(JTA) HIAS, a Jewish agency that resettles refugees in the United States, was honored by the humanitarian organization Islamic Relief USA for its "tireless work assisting refugees and for standing up against the refugee ban in the court of law."

HIAS was among three organizations and six individuals who spearheaded the litigation against President Donald Trump’s executive orders temporarily banning refugees and travelers from six Muslim-majority countries. The orders triggered large protests, some organized by HIAS and other immigration advocacy groups.

Islamic Relief USA was one of many organizations to join an amicus brief by religious organizations supporting HIAS’ litigation opposing the ban.

HIAS was honored Wednesday night with the Courage Award at an interfaith iftar, the meal marking the end of the day’s Ramadan fast, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. Its president, Mark Hetfield, accepted the award presented by the CEO of Islamic Relief USA, Anwar Khan.

“Welcoming immigrants, welcoming refugees. These are not ‘liberal values.’ These are traditional American values,” Khan said. He called on his audience to continue working together to make the world a better place.

Hetfield noted that both HIAS and Islamic Relief USA help people based on need, even as they are both driven by their faiths to do such work.

“All the Abrahamic faiths are united by the value of hospitality and welcoming the stranger as ourselves, for we were all once strangers in a strange land,” he said.

“When we welcome refugees to the United States, we consider them to be part of our family and our community, no matter what their faith is. This is because Jewish Americans are a refugee people – there would be no American Jewish community had America not had the courage to open its doors to refugees.”
What’s in this month’s *Jewish Journal*?

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**JJMM Mission Statement**

- The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —
- Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;
- Present current local, national and world news of Jewish interest;
- Offer timely commentary, interpretation, analysis and authentic background on events of the day for the purpose of encouraging the concern and response vital to our responsibilities as Americans and Jews;
- Enrich the cultural interest of individuals and the community through articles, features and other material of both local and national Jewish content and interest;
- Provide a communication tool to enable all members of the Jewish community to express their viewpoints on issues of Jewish importance and interest;
- Demonstrate commitment to the progress and continuity of Jewish life in the U.S., especially our local area, Israel and around the world.

The *JJMM* does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

July 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the August 2017 issue.

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**Candle-Lighting Times**

- June 30
- July 7  8:39 p.m.
- July 14  8:36 p.m.
- July 21  8:31 p.m.
- July 28  8:25 p.m.
- August 4  8:17 p.m.

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**About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine**

**Publisher:** Andrew L. Lipkin  
**Editor:** Patricia R. Kelvin, Ph.D., APR  
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The *Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine* is a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and has received major grants from the Schermer Trust, The Maurice and Florence Lipscher Charitable Trust, and ZOA.

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- **Phone** 330-746-3250  
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Happy Fourth of July

Three Cheers for the Red, White, and Blue!
Shalom, Youngstown:
So long, and thanks for all the (gefilte) fish

Rabbi Saul Oresky
Ohev Tzedek – Shaarei Torah

As Phyllis and I prepare to return to Maryland, where I will assume the pulpit of Congregation Mishkan Torah in Greenbelt, we are packing away fond memories of Youngstown along with our material possessions. We appreciate having been welcomed into this vital Jewish community and will surely miss the people from Ohev Tzedek and the entire Jewish community, the somewhat slower pace of life, the practically non-existent traffic, and the area’s many wonderful resources.

Many people have approached us, asking if we have enjoyed our time here and expressing understanding of why we are leaving. I have heard in their questions a need for validation of their own feelings about this town. Folks here understand very quickly, perhaps too quickly, why people leave the area, having seen so much of that in the last 40-plus years, but I would like to inject a little more balance into their perspective. From the outside looking in, the area might seem to have too little attraction, but we have had the perspective of the last few years of being on the inside and looking out, and would easily dispute those impressions.

You should know, and feel in your souls, that Youngstown still has a lot to offer, and we would be staying if family needs and the opportunity to serve our “home” congregation didn’t draw us back to Maryland.

We have loved Ohev Tzedek and its people and will miss the beauty of our sanctuary. This unique and warm community has allowed me to mature as a rabbi – I will always be grateful to the community has allowed me to mature as a rabbi – I will always be grateful to the community for giving me my first opportunity to be a full-time pulpit rabbi.

We will miss Boardman-Youngstown as well; its people are often more accepting and easygoing than those we find back East; we’ve enjoyed the area’s many cultural and natural treasures; and we’ve appreciated the many opportunities for growth and learning throughout the area.

We have found the Jewish community, although small, to be active far beyond our expectation. Its Federation consistently seeks to serve the interests of both the local Jewish community and the overall Youngstown community. What with four synagogues and access to two large cities in which any Jewish resource one might want can be found, we don’t understand why greater Youngstown wouldn’t be attractive to more Jewish families, especially those who would like to escape the hassle of life in larger metropolitan areas.

I leave you, then, with praise for what you have accomplished and what you have maintained. However, I also have some serious recommendations for what you could, as a community, strive to create or strengthen:

- A substantive area-wide adult Jewish educational program
- An excellent, area-wide Jewish educational program for high school juniors and seniors – stopping with 10th grade Confirmation robs our young people of two of the most important years for their Jewish growth and development
- Concerted efforts to reach out to our neighboring churches and mosques to foster understanding and to further peace in the community
- A concerted and aggressive effort to recruit Jewish families to the greater Youngstown area – as I have said, this town and this community have a lot to offer.

Finally, the Jewish community should try to minimize or totally rid itself of this false division of North side vs South side! Each congregation should support each other’s activities — religious services (especially for holidays that typically draw low attendances), cultural events, and social actions, in particular. You can “be true to your shul” and still be an active member of the greater Jewish community.

Phyllis and I will remember all the friends we’ve made throughout the Youngstown community and will visit when we can. We wish you all the best – may you go from strength to strength!

On the July calendar at Ohev Tzedek

Rabbi Oresky

Rabbi Oresky will be leading his final service as spiritual leader of Ohev Tzedek on Saturday, July 29. We will be throwing a going-away party for him on Saturday, July 22, beginning at 6 pm, featuring a dinner and a Havdalah service. For more details, call the Ohev Tzedek office (330.758.2321).

The July meeting of the women’s Rosh Chodesh group will be held at Phyllis Oresky’s house at 6 pm on Monday, July 24. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office (330.758.2321).

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Join us for the traditional Tisha B’Av reading of Lamentations by candlelight. We will meet in the small sanctuary of Ohev Tzedek at 8 pm on Erev Tisha B’Av (Monday, July 31).

Adult Education – Summer 2017

As Rabbi Oresky will be leaving us at the end of July, adult education classes will wrap up by the last week of July. Some classes may require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee of $50/class. Unless otherwise noted, all classes will be held at Ohev Tzedek. All classes are open to the en-

(Continued on page 11)
Cristal Vincent has been appointed chief executive officer of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation’s Human Services Department. Marc Rubin, president of the human services department and Andrew Lipkin, executive vice-president of the YAJF announced the appointment effective July 1.

As CEO, Mrs. Vincent will be responsible for overseeing three YAJF agencies: Heritage Manor and Adult Day Services, the Jewish home for the aged; Levy Gardens, assisted living residence; and Jewish Family Services.

Mrs. Vincent was born in East Liverpool, but grew up in Newell, WV. She attended Kent State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Health Studies and Health Care Administration.

She also earned a certificate in long-term care administration from St. Joseph’s College in Standish, ME.

Mrs. Vincent has been a licensed nursing home administrator in Ohio since December 2012.

“When I first came here as an intern,” Mrs. Vincent said, ”I really wasn’t sure what to expect, because I didn’t know about Jewish culture or traditions.” She said, “Even though I didn’t know what kind of learning curve I’d be facing, the administrators, patients, and board members were patient with me.

“I find I am comfortable with Jewish traditions. Regardless of a person’s faith, we have a choice to look at the differences or similarities in people. From my Christian perspective, I see the similarities. We’re all people, regardless of our faiths,” she said. “We all need acceptance, respect, and love.

“I am very grateful that folks took an interest me and in teaching me,” she said, adding “I was surprised by the number of people who are engaged with family members — parents grandparents or other family members at Heritage — more than at any other place I’ve seen.”

Mrs. Vincent began working at Heritage Manor in January 2012 as an administrator-in-training. She was named the Home’s first assistant administrator in February 2013.

In that position, she wrote and updated policies and procedures to be in compliance with federal, state, Veteran’s Administration, PASSPORT, and OSHA rules and regulations, and organized. Further she served on such quality committee committees including indirect care, employee incidents and accidents/safety, and abuse/neglect.

After three years of successfully overseeing housekeeping and maintenance and staffing the quality committees, Mrs. Vincent was promoted to administrator of Heritage Manor, in January 2017. She oversees daily operations of the Home’s non-profit 72-bed skilled nursing facility.

According to Marc Rubin, under Mrs. Vincent’s leadership, Heritage implementation of an electronic health record system in March. Mrs. Vincent said, “That project took a year in planning — it was almost another full time job for me — then another year for implementation. She explained it was done in phases to allow the staff to feel comfortable at each stage. “I didn’t want to overwhelm the staff when we embarked on that project,” she said.

“It took cooperation from everyone to complete the new system — from maintenance, to the secretary getting explanations on issues we discovered, to setting up the computers to train employees. The nursing director, spent a lot of extra time with nursing staff as phases were implemented affecting the way we did everything. I really appreciated the positive attitudes of other professionals in every aspect of care, such as the social workers, the dietitians, and the doctors.”

She added, “I can’t say enough about how everybody came together to have a good outcome.”

Now, the majority of residents’ charts are on line; orders, progress notes, and “vitals” are on line. Allen’s pharmacy has been integrated into the system so that the system can be used to reorder and document medications. Lab reports are scanned, and practically everything has been transitioned to the Point Click Care software.

Although no federal funds were available to accomplish the mandated time-consuming and expensive changes, Mrs. Vincent explained that among the benefits to the new system, we can show areas that are doing well and areas that might need more attention.

Mrs. Vincent will be working with Executive Director Gary Weiss for the next six months and will assume full responsibilities of the human service department when he retired on December 31 of this year.

The new federation structure, approved at the Annual Meeting in June, put Adult Daycare, Heritage, Levy, and JFS under the human services advisory board.

My perception is that we in our organization have a tremendous group of leaders and new leaders that are coming on board, and I have complete confidence that there’s nothing we can’t accomplish together.

Mrs. Vincent hopes to look at some additional programs for residents who have dementia and develop additional services to the community through JFS and/or Heritage.

She and her husband, Mark Vincent, live in Berlin Center. He is the pastor of Berlin Center United Methodist Church. Mrs. Vincent serves as the Honorary Vice-President of United Methodist Women at her church. She said her passions include reading, Bible study, traveling, and helping people, especially the elderly.

She participates in women’s ministry in her church, works on larger events, and as she puts it, “I take part in many aspects of the congregation.”
Only in death, you know Irwin’s deeds

By Todd Franko
Editor, The Vindicator

On Monday night, a 10-minute video rolled out at the Jewish Community Center during a special global gathering in Youngstown.

The video includes Valley leaders such as Barb Ewing and Jim Cossler of the Youngstown Business Incubator, Becky Keck of SMARTS, Tom Roberts of Hope Center, Penny Wells of Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past, and more.

And all of them will say one name over, and over, and over.

“If not for Thomases…”

“Because of Thomases…”

“Thomases has allowed…”

Irwin Thomases died in 2011 at 87. Had he been alive, you never would have heard his name. He’s been helping for decades, and most people never knew. It was upon his death in 2011 that the Thomases Family Endowment was created through the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. Irwin took part in its structuring while he was alive.

That’s how Irwin lived life and carried out his will to help mankind. He had plenty of will.

“During the 1960s and 1970s, both of my parents were active in social justice causes, especially the American Civil Liberties Union. My mom was president of the local chapter for a time. Most vividly, I remember her getting hateful phone calls after Kent State,” said Martha Thomases, one of Irwin’s daughters.

With that courage and righteousness, Irwin tackled life. Today, six years after his life ended, about $1 million per year is gifted to organizations in the Mahoning Valley and across the world.

Raised in the Bronx, he lived for a time in Jamestown, N.Y., before finding Youngstown in 1957. He built a national real-estate development company with partners. It was called Center Associates.


“If you were having a conversation with him, he would come out with this one-liner,” said Andi. “We called those ‘Irwinisms.’

Starting in 1996, gifts from him would come anonymously through the Jewish Federation via a special fund.

“In terms of giving away money, it was important to my dad that those things be anonymous,” Martha said. “He thought it was terrible to put people in a position where they felt indebted to him.”

“His mission was to make the world a better place — whether social justice, race or women’s issues,” said Debbi Grinstein, director of the fund. “He was so progressive in his thinking. He pushed us to get out in the community to learn what was going on and what was needed.”

In the video shown Monday, you see a common theme in which organizations get funds: changed populations; challenged norms; saved ventures.

“We would not have made the transition without Thomases. SMARTS was let go in 2013. Thomases came to us immediately,” said Keck.

“Without the gift, it would be questionable if some of our programs would exist,” said Cossler.

“Thomases support gave us critical momentum early on [when project was just notes on paper], said Roberts of Hope, located in Sharon, Pa. “It established and legitimized us as we were going to talk to other funders.”

“The endowment was one of the earliest funders of the new building we are getting ready to open,” said Ewing.

“The fund allowed us to establish the first day camp for Jewish and Arab teens (Continued on page 11)

This article has been reprinted with the permission of The Vindicator Printing Company. It originally appeared in The Vindicator of Sunday, June 25, 2017, on page A2.

Syrian war victims being saved at Western Galilee Medical Center

Dr. Arie Eisenman spoke to a Partnership2Gether event recently. While in the Youngstown area, he made numerous presentations explaining Israel’s role in saving the lives of Syrian men, women, and children who had been taught that the Israelis are their mortal enemies.

The statistics describing the Syrian civil war are grim.

470,000 are dead.
1.5 million injured.
7 million have fled the conflict.
6.6 million are internally displaced.
530,000 have disappeared.

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“The fund allowed us to establish the first day camp for Jewish and Arab teens (Continued on page 14)

(Continued on page 11)
Could Gal Gadot become Israel's biggest superstar?

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — Try to think of the most famous Israelis in history. Not necessarily the most consequential or “important” ones — like any number of Nobel Prize winners or behind-the-scenes Middle East peace deal negotiators — but those who are most universally recognizable.

Most lists would likely include a pioneering role model (Golda Meir), a supermodel who once dated Leonardo DiCaprio (Bar Refaeli), its seeming prime minister for life (Benjamin Netanyahu), a politician with crazy hair (David Ben-Gurion), a war hero with a pirate-style eye patch (Moshe Dayan) and a virtuoso violinist (Itzhak Perlman).

Some might even mistakenly include a fictional character — Ziva David, a politician with crazy hair (David Benjamin Yaron Versano). And if you’re wondering: Yes, she is married (to Israeli real estate businessman Yaron Versano).

Some might even mistakenly include a fictional character — Ziva David, the famed Israeli model she is often compared to, Gadot is known, too, for her military service in the Israel Defense Forces. And if you’re wondering: Yes, she is married (to Israeli real estate businessman Yaron Versano).

Gadot scored a part as an ex-Mossad agent in the fourth film of “The Fast and the Furious” franchise in 2009 — in part, she has said, because director Justin Lin was impressed with her military experience. Since then she has had a few other small roles in Hollywood films, such as “Date Night” (starring Steve Carell and Tina Fey). Her first appearance as Princess Diana of Themyscira (Wonder Woman’s real name) came in “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice” starring Ben Affleck and Henry Cavill in 2016.

So she isn’t yet widely known outside Israel (except maybe to a hardcore cadre of “Fast and Furious” fans), but her public profile is about to radically change. “Wonder Woman” isn’t an amazing piece of art, though it will likely satisfy fans of the other over-the-top superhero films released in the past decade or so. It is projected to perform at least as well as some of its male-centric counterparts, such as “Captain America” or “Thor,” at the U.S. box office (at least $65 million to $83 million) and should rake in hundreds of millions of dollars around the world.

Beyond the numbers, “Wonder Woman” must also bear the weight of the feminist anticipation that has been building steadily around the film for years. The hype only increased when a female director (Patty Jenkins) took over the project in 2015, making “Wonder Woman” the first female superhero film to be directed by a woman.

And Gadot is actually already well on her way to becoming embraced as a feminist icon. Last fall, she was included in a U.N. ceremony honoring the Wonder Woman character as an honorary feminist icon. Last fall, she was included in a U.N. ceremony honoring the Wonder Woman character as an honorary ambassador for the empowerment of women.

Could Gal Gadot become Israel's biggest superstar?

(Continued on p. 14)
In the good, old summertime...

By Mary Lou Finesilver

I don’t know about you, but when I think summer, I think flowers, beautiful trees, sunshine, swimming, picnics and sitting in the sun reading a good book. I always feel a little liberated when summer comes. When I was younger it was because we were out of school. I remember swimming in Ligonier, PA, when we lived in Johnstown. That is where I learned how to swim.

My father was my teacher, and it wasn’t until years later I found out he could not swim. He always had to have one foot on the bottom of the pool. Ligonier had a fun pool. There was a huge diving board with three levels, not for me. Never got near it. There was a small patch where kids could play in the sand, and the big attraction was a sloped wheel where the girls could show off and sun tan while the boys ran on it to make it rotate. A great spot for picnicking was available in the small forest, and we did picnic at least once a week. Mom worked very hard at packing a great lunch for us to take. I believe it is still a lovely spot for picnics, swimming and camping.

Then I can remember walking to the Marland Heights swimming pool in Weirton, WV, with friends. We did walk a lot in those days. I’ll bet we could have clocked 10,000 steps with no problem. I also remember sitting in the sun and using baby oil with iodine to get that great tan. We moved to Weirton when I was 13 and I lived there until I was 18 and left for secretarial school in New York City.

Then my parents moved to Youngstown when I was about 22. I followed them and met Al and married him about a year and a half later. Best thing I ever did: Had three great kids, moved to Liberty and joined the Logan Swim club for almost 17 years. I don’t know about the kids, but my summer vacations were wonderful.

I resigned about 1985 because I went to work full time; the kids had all moved on; and it wasn’t Al’s favorite sport. I loved it for those 17 years. There was a whole group of us, and I could give names, but not everyone appreciates their name put out for public consumption. I don’t believe any of them that are still around go to Logan anymore. But it was a great time for us. Some of the women have moved, some, like me, have just grown a little older, and at least two of our beautiful group is no longer with us. That is sad to remember.

Anyway, we did a lot of talking, smoking, and noshing sometimes. We had our own little section of the grass close to the shallow end when the kids were small, and we never left there. I sat with my back to the diving board because it drove me crazy to watch. Now that I think about it, at Ligonier one day, I watched a kid dive from the tallest board and hit the bottom one. I do believe he was badly injured and since then, I keep my back to the diving board.

Before I started to work at the JCC I swam a lot. At one time I could do about 15 to 18 laps. Then when I started to work, I would go Sunday morning while Al walked the pool and I would go into the deep with Dodo Harris. We would talk like crazy. Then, for some reason, I have never been able to combine swimming and working.

Now, the JCC has taken over Logan Swim club, and it is now known as the Logan Campus of the JCC. I’m hoping that maybe you can “go home again” and I will take advantage of the pool and the sun. I’m sure going to try. Maybe I can find a new group with whom I can sit and talk. That would be great.

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Participants of the Jewelry Making Workshop gather round Lori Szoke, who led the session. The ladies made beautiful beaded necklaces and enjoyed wine coolers and refreshments.
Expanded screening of Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Mizrahi communities can help ensure the health of future generations of Jews

ATLANTA — JScreen, the leader in at-home genetic screening for those of Jewish descent, announced it has increased its testing panel from 100 to more than 200 disease genes that could affect a couple’s future children. JScreen is based in Emory University School of Medicine’s Department of Human Genetics and provides convenient, affordable access to help singles and couples throughout the United States plan for healthy families.

One-third of people with Jewish backgrounds are unknowingly carriers for at least one Jewish genetic disease. Within the spectrum of Jewish backgrounds, there are many common genetic diseases, including Tay-Sachs, Thalassemia, spinal muscular atrophy and others.

With the expanded panel, JScreen can now identify more disease genes from people of different backgrounds. “The only way to know you are a carrier is to either have an affected child or get screened,” says Hillary Kener, assistant director of national outreach. “JScreen’s primary goal is to help people have healthy babies and to help ensure the health of future generations.”

With JScreen, a non-profit initiative, prospective parents have a unique opportunity to access screening at low cost. Participants register online for screening kits and mail their saliva samples to the lab for testing.

JScreen’s test is significantly more comprehensive than other tests that can be ordered online. And, in contrast to other screening programs, JScreen functions under the direction of a physician specializing in genetics. Further, the cost includes genetic counseling via phone or secure video-conference. Through genetic counseling, couples found to be at increased risk gain an understanding of their risks and available options to help them have healthy children.

“Genetic testing alone is not enough. Counseling is a necessary part of the process. Labs that report results directly to consumers put people at risk for misinterpreting the information they need to make family planning decisions,” says Karen Arnowitz Grinzaid, Emory Genetics faculty, and JScreen’s executive director.

The JScreen test uses state-of-the-art genetic sequencing technology to determine carrier status for diseases common in Jewish groups and in many other ethnic groups. In addition, JScreen’s test includes genetic conditions common to the general population, making the test applicable to everyone. With the focus on pre-conception testing, thousands of couples have gone on to have healthy babies, thanks to JScreen’s technology and services.

Individuals or couples may request a screening kit and obtain additional information about the testing and counseling process at www.jscreen.org.

July happenings at El Emeth

Annual Meeting
The Temple El Emeth annual Congregational meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, July 11 at 7 p.m. Committee reports and election of members of the board of trustees will take place. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

Picnic
The Indoor/Outdoor Picnic will take place on Sunday, July 23 at the Synagogue. Minyan is at 5:45 with the picnic following at 6 p.m. Guests can eat indoors or outside on the patio.

Klezmer Shabbat
Save Friday evening, August 18 for our musical Klezmer Shabbat at the home of Sam and Terry Roth. Klezmer musicians Lori Cahan-Simon and Walt Mahovlich will be accompanied by violinist Dmitro Isakov. Services begin at 6:30 pm with a light supper following. Reservations can be made by calling the Synagogue office.

Jewish Christian Dialogue
Father George Balasko and Rabbi Joseph Schonberger have announced the theme for this year’s Jewish Christian Dialogue series. The group will hear the various religious views on “Setting the Record Straight—Misconceptions of Judaism and other Religions.” Watch for more information on the first Fall session.

Services
Daily Minyan takes place at 5:45 each afternoon including Saturday. Shabbat morning services are at 9:30 a.m.

ATLANTA — JScreen, the leader in at-home genetic screening for those of Jewish descent, announced it has increased its testing panel from 100 to more than 200 disease genes that could affect a couple’s future children. JScreen is based in Emory University School of Medicine’s Department of Human Genetics and provides convenient, affordable access to help singles and couples throughout the United States plan for healthy families.

One-third of people with Jewish backgrounds are unknowingly carriers for at least one Jewish genetic disease. Within the spectrum of Jewish backgrounds, there are many common genetic diseases, including Tay-Sachs, Thalassemia, spinal muscular atrophy and others.

With the expanded panel, JScreen can now identify more disease genes from people of different backgrounds. “The only way to know you are a carrier is to either have an affected child or get screened,” says Hillary Kener, assistant director of national outreach. “JScreen’s primary goal is to help people have healthy babies and to help ensure the health of future generations.”

With JScreen, a non-profit initiative, prospective parents have a unique opportunity to access screening at low cost. Participants register online for screening kits and mail their saliva samples to the lab for testing.

JScreen’s test is significantly more comprehensive than other tests that can be ordered online. And, in contrast to other screening programs, JScreen functions under the direction of a physician specializing in genetics. Further, the cost includes genetic counseling via phone or secure video-conference. Through genetic counseling, couples found to be at increased risk gain an understanding of their risks and available options to help them have healthy children.

“Genetic testing alone is not enough. Counseling is a necessary part of the process. Labs that report results directly to consumers put people at risk for misinterpreting the information they need to make family planning decisions,” says Karen Arnowitz Grinzaid, Emory Genetics faculty, and JScreen’s executive director.

The JScreen test uses state-of-the-art genetic sequencing technology to determine carrier status for diseases common in Jewish groups and in many other ethnic groups. In addition, JScreen’s test includes genetic conditions common to the general population, making the test applicable to everyone. With the focus on pre-conception testing, thousands of couples have gone on to have healthy babies, thanks to JScreen’s technology and services.

Individuals or couples may request a screening kit and obtain additional information about the testing and counseling process at www.jscreen.org.
Community invited to participate

JCC receives $53,500 in grants for infant/toddler playground

Meeting the $100,000 goal for the proposed infant/toddler playground got a lot closer with the announcement of these major grants: The Western Reserve Health Foundation — $40,000, the Frances and Lillian Schermer Charitable Trusts — $6,000, The Ruth Beecher Charitable Trust — $5,000, and the Home Savings and Loan Foundation — $2,500.

The playground will become the newest addition to the Noah’s Park Playground, located adjacent to the old basketball court — which is currently used as a play space for the JCC’s Infant/Toddler program at the Child Development Center.

The idea for the new facility was inspired and created by Federation Fellows, a group of emerging leaders in the Jewish community.

According to Federation Fellows Francie Yarwood and Atty. Jessica Lev, who are co-chairing the campaign for the new play area, “We see it enhancing development of children and families through play.

“Having access to quality, age-appropriate, state-approved play facilities for entire families facilitates the JCC’s promoting healthy and active lifestyles.”

The finished playground will meet state standards, be designed with universal design principles, and enhance the JCC’s infant/toddler engagement and community offerings.

Ms. Yarwood and Atty. Lev added, “Because Noah’s Park is open to the public, the greater community will also be able to enjoy the space, ensuring that all children in the area have a safe, developmentally appropriate playground.”

Within the playground, the infants will have structures that accommodate crawling, new walkers, exploration, and imagination.

They said, “We look forward to families from the greater community spending more time together in a safe, free, and fun-filled environment, with play opportunities that can develop the physical, social, motor, emotional, and cognitive skills of our community’s children.”

The Community Infant/Toddler playground will be the only developmentally appropriate, designated play space for children 6 months through age 3 in the entire community.

This playground will also replace the old, repurposed basketball court that the infant and toddler program has been using as a playground for over 15 years.

In addition to the Federation Fellows, the director of the JCC’s Child Development Center and other staff are part of the fundraising effort.

After the community capital campaign for this project ends on July 31, 2017, the final design and development process will begin.

During Spring 2018, a large community event will take place to break ground on the new playground, with the goal to have the space completed in time for the warm weather in Spring 2018.

The Federation Fellows hope that the $53,500 in grants will motivate additional donors to invest.

Co-Chairs Yarwood and Lev see the development of the playground as way of performing Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

Individuals who make a minimum contribution of $250 will be recognized (or have the opportunity to honor someone) on a panel outside the proposed playground.

For more information and to make a commitment towards the infant/toddler playground, contact Sarah Wilschek, Federation Program Coordinator, (330) 746-3250 x123 or SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org.
Wall decision (continued from page 2)

Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, said the best way forward for non-Orthodox leaders may be Israel’s Supreme Court. A court petition filed by a range of Israeli pluralist groups in 2013 seeks to compel the government to provide for non-Orthodox prayer at the wall, but had been tabled while the 2016 agreement was being negotiated and implemented.

Now that the agreement is suspended, Schonfeld feels the Supreme Court may rule favorably on the petition, forcing the government to accede to non-Orthodox demands.

“The Israeli Supreme court seems to be the only governmental venue that appreciates the long-term impact of Israel advocating its role as the home for all Jews,” she said. “Inevitably, we will find our way back to the courts. We will continue to protest.”

A range of other groups have also criticized Sunday’s decision, including the American Jewish Committee, the Women of the Wall prayer group, the Israel Democracy Institute think tank and the Jewish Agency, whose chairman, Natan Sharansky, was one of the architects of the 2016 agreement.

“After four years of intense negotiations, we reached a solution that was accepted by all major denominations and was then adopted by the government and embraced by the world’s Jewish communities,” Sharansky said in a statement. “Today’s decision signifies a retreat from that agreement and will make our work to bring Israel and the Jewish world closer together increasingly more difficult.”

Non-Orthodox leaders also decried the Israeli government’s advancing a bill to centralize authority for Jewish conversions under the Israeli Chief Rabbi’s a haredi Orthodox body. Silverman compared the bill to a 2010 bill on conversions in Israel, which American Jewish groups also opposed because they argued it would delegitimize non-Orthodox conversions.

“The conversion bill that was approved by the ministerial committee and Knesset is one that definitively changes the status quo in conversions,” Silverman said. “This is something that almost every 10 years comes up, and would have a dramatic effect on who is a Jew, which obviously has a significant impact.”

Todd Franko (continued from page 6)

to be together,” said Mirit Sulema of Israel. The fund launched in 2012 without much fanfare. It just went to work – like Irwin.

Monday [was ] that fanfare. The Federation saluted Irwin and the fund Monday while also hosting the 2017 Partnership 2Gether Summit.

More than 70 people from 14 Midwest cities, and Budapest and Israel are in town for several days for this gathering.

P2G connects Jewish communities in 46 partnerships, engaging more than 350,000 participants each year.

The P2G effort fits well with Irwin’s thinking.

“It was important to Irwin that the general community know that the Jewish community was involved in the general community. That’s why he wanted his money to be used in non-Jewish causes,” said Sam Kooperman, an endowment adviser.

Said Andi of Irwin: “He saved our community in a lot of ways, and he believed he was setting an example for others to follow.”

“He wanted us to be the best small Jewish community in the nation,” said Bruce Sherman, fund trustee. “We think we have the human and financial resources to make that happen, thanks to the Thomases.”

Todd Franko is editor of The Vindicator. He likes emails about stories and our newspaper. Email him at tfranko@vindy.com. He blogs, too, on vindy.com. Tweet him, too, at @tfranko.

Rodef Sholom

President’s message

By Arthur Greenbaum, M.D.

The fiscal year ended in style with concluding Sesquicentennial events the weekend of May 12-13, with Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ President, delivering an inspirational speech on the future of Reform Judaism, followed by the beautiful, moving Jewish folk-rock melodies of Neshama Carlebach and her band, and dinner in the newly renovated Strouss Hall, and the entertaining performance of Marc Rossio for the children.

At the Youngstown Historical Society and at our Temple, the three authors of the newly published A History of Jewish Youngstown and the Steel Valley, presented and signed the book, which features narratives obtained from many of our congregants.

At the Congregation’s recent annual meeting, Nancy Burnett and David Wilschek were added as officers to the board. Michael Rawl was elected treasurer, and Aaron Hively was advanced to the vacated role of vice-president. Neil Altman and Ashley Sperling were elected as replacement trustees.

Much has been accomplished this year, beginning with necessary replacement of the air-conditioning units last June, and finishing with the renovation of Strouss Hall with thorough cleaning, new lighting and carpet along with repair of the balcony railing, not to overlook anonymously donated replacement of the main refrigerator in the kitchen, and the creation of historical exhibits in the Wilkoff Library. All of this would not have happened without the dedicated efforts of so many of our Rabbi, Congregants, and our dedicated Temple staff.

L’Chayim.

Services

Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m.
Sanctuary
Bar Mitzvah of Aleksandr Walton

Friday, July 14, 6 p.m.
Outdoor Service
Outdoor Summer Shabbat Service at the home of Marty & Kim Hume 1848 Fifth Ave, Youngstown, OH R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, July 11

Friday, July 21, 6 p.m.
Tamarkin Chapel
Shabbat Service led by Carol Sherman, Ritual Committee Chair

Rabbi Muller will be conducting services at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York

Friday, July 28, 6 p.m.
Tamarkin Chapel
Shabbat Service led by Arthur and Esther Lamb in honor of their upcoming B’nai Mitzvah in August

Friday, Aug. 4, 6 p.m.
Tamarkin Chapel
Shabbat Service led by Elliot Legow, past president

Rabbi Muller will be in Boston con-
ADULT PROGRAMMING

For more information, contact: Emily Blau 330-746-3250 Ext. 152 or Eblau@jewishyoungstown.org

Murder Mystery Dinner at Diletto Winery
Join us for a fun evening of dinner, drinks, and drama! Everyone’s a suspect in the crime, so head to Diletto Winery to come help solve the mystery. Price includes participation in the murder mystery program, a four-course meal, and a glass of wine, sangria or beer. Participants must be 18 or older. Space is limited.

Date: Thursday, August 17
Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Location: Diletto Winery, 9182 Youngstown Salem Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406
Cost: $45/Member | $60/Non Member
Register by August 10 at jccyoungstown.org or at the Bursar’s Office at 330.746.3250 Ext. 195

Movie & Lunch Bunch: La La Land
This 2016 American musical romantic comedy-drama film written and directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone as a musician and an aspiring actress who meet and fall in love in Los Angeles. The film’s title refers both to the city of Los Angeles and to the idiom for being out of touch with reality. Price includes lunch.

Date:Wednesday, July 19
Time: 12:00-2:30 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $8/Member | $11/Non Member
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or at the JCC Bursars Office at 330.746.3250 Ext. 195

PERFORMING ARTS

Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino
July 3-14 (Two weeks)
Special two-week camp
Young artists taking part in this premier program will be exposed to a full circle musical theater experience. Campers will begin with the casting process and auditions and end with a final performance. Camp JCC campers will also perform a hit Broadway musical for the public in the Youngstown area as well as for family and friends at Camp JCC. No previous experience is required; all levels are encouraged to participate.

$300/Member | $400/Non Member
*All LRS Studio participants will receive a member rate

Martial Arts Camp
July 10- July 14
Martial Arts camp strives to develop character, personality, positive attitudes and characteristics in its students that enable them to reach their goals. With Camp JCC’s partnership with GTA Martial Arts in Girard, Ohio, participants will receive hands-on training from Martial Arts masters and learn many life lessons to be heroes at home and in public. All skill levels are welcome.

Ages 6-14
$190/Member | $255/Non Member

Magic Camp
July 17 - July 20
Have you always wanted to know how to perform like a magician? Well, now you can learn some of their secrets! With over 50 years of magic experience, magician Tom Craven will teach campers amazing close-up magic tricks that prove that the hands are quicker than the eye! Mr. Craven is a member of the Youngstown Magic Club and the author of “My (Almost) Fifty Years in Magic.”

Ages 8-14
$190/Member | $255/Non Member

Circus of the Kids
July 31 – August 4 (Auditions held on Sunday, July 30)
The JCC welcomes back the amazing Circus of the Kids! You won’t find a camp like this anywhere else in Youngstown. In one week, campers will be challenged to do things beyond their wildest dreams. They will learn and practice the art of trick roller skating, trapeze and other amazing routines from circus professionals! Campers will audition on Sunday, July 30 and be placed in small groups where the circus staff will work with them one on one on their assigned circus act. At the week’s end, complete with costumes and makeup, the kids will proudly present a full-fledged circus performance for their fellow campers and then two more performances for family and friends. Don’t miss this exciting and unique experience! To learn more about Circus of the Kids visit www.circusoftkids.com. Please note: Some camper rehearsal times will be scheduled past the end of the camp day into the evening. Campers in this specialty camp will not participate in swimming during the week.

Ages 6-14 (Limited space for age 6)
$220/Member | $295/Non Member

Liz Rubino Studios
For more information on the studio offerings contact Liz Rubino at 330 509-0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com

Private Sessions
Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. All sessions are 55 minutes long with the exception of junior acting sessions which are 30 minutes long.

Triple Threat
An elite training and national performance troupe for ages 10-21. Studio students study voice, drama and dance both privately and in a group atmosphere over two semesters with opportunities for local as well as nationwide performances in NYC, Walt Disney World and more.

Liz Rubino’s Broadway 360!
Back by popular demand this summer at Camp JCC, July 3-14!
This advanced 2-week camp will be featuring the musical Beauty & The Beast. It takes students through a full-circle view of auditions, casting, rehearsals, and performance! Bookended by loads of technique and specialty topics in theatre, this specialty camp has been a huge success and we hope to see your campers there! Register online at jccyoungstown.org.

$300/Member | $400/Non Member

JCC School of Dance
Erienne Raib-Pitchkin is a well-trained and experienced local dance teacher collaborating with the JCC as the Artistic Director of the new School of Dance. This program teaches children the technique, artistry and discipline of dance in a cheerful and positive learning environment. Children develop a variety of transferable listening and learning skills in a classroom setting, while being physically healthy and having fun! Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more.

New this Summer: Adult Ballet, Tap, and Hip Hop
Summer Session II: July 14 - August 21

Acrobatics Mini Specialty Camp
July 17-July 20
A concentrated 4-day fun camp where students will learn and perfect acrobatic and tumbling basics. A
Learn about the benefits of Essential Oils from
Essential Oils with Young Living

- Personalized safe and effective fitness programs
- Get out of bed or rise from a chair independently
- Move about with ease and confidence in a crowd
- Regain a sense of moving with normality

$45/Member | $60/Non Member

Tiny Tumblers (ages 4-6)
Time: 3:45 - 5:00 p.m.

Acro-Dance (ages 7-11)
Time: 3:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Obstacle Mini: Specialty Camp
A 2-day camp that introduces kids to obstacle courses that require running, jumping, and tons of energy! Learn the skills every good superhero or ninja would need to save the day, like speed, strength, and prowess. Active wear and bare feet required.

July 31 - August 3
Super Heroes (ages 4-6)
3:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Ninja Games (ages 7-11)
3:45 - 6:15 p.m.

$45/Member | $60/Non Member

JCC School of Music
The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown School of Music! This exciting program will featuring piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! Visit Jccyoungstown.org to learn more and to register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar's Office: 330-746-3250 Ext. 195

R.I.P.P.E.D
Resistance, Intervals, Power, Plyometrics, Endurance, Diet
Total body, high intensity style program, utilizing free weights, resistance and body weight that is fun, safe, doable, and extremely effective. The deliberate combination of the R.I.P.P.E.D. elements and how they are precisely organized in the R.I.P.P.E.D. class format provide the basis for the One Stop Body Shock System, by stimulating both, different energy systems and muscles in each workout segment, changing the focus and activities every 6 to 9 minutes.

Date: Mondays
Time: 6:30-7:20 p.m.

Delay The Disease
A fitness program designed to empower people with Parkinson’s disease to take control of the disease with daily exercise. This program is free and open to the public. The empowering results of our Delay the Disease exercise program can help participants:

- Move about with ease and confidence in a crowd
- Get out of bed or rise from a chair independently
- Improve handwriting | Dress independently
- Diminish worry that stiffness, slow steps and other symptoms are obvious
- Regain a sense of moving with normality

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Noontime Blitz
This Pilates-based class will focus on core strength and stretching. Spend your lunch break building long, lean muscle while gaining flexibility and burning calories.

Date: Tuesdays/Thursdays
Time: 12:00-12:55 p.m.

Aqua strength
Aqua strength and conditioning is a total body routine filled with high intensity cardio for ultimate fat burning, and aquatic weight training for sculpting and body reshaping.

Date: Tuesdays/Thursdays
Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

(Continued on p. 15)
strored. And hospitals in Syria’s allies Jordan and Turkey are also overloaded with the war-wounded.

But of those first seven casualties, all were evacuated, received advanced medical care, survived there severe injuries, and returned home.

Every morning, now, the IDF brings in more wounded who had been left near the border during the night.

Galilee Medical Center’s underground emergency facility operates at full capacity. Dr. Eisenman said, “It’s noisy with doctors and other staff rushing to treat the victims of the war. We have to do all kinds of surgeries,” he said, “but there are many who are not stable enough for surgery and must be placed in ICUs.”

Dr. Eisenman said, “There’s no notion of civilian protection. Thirty-six percent of the wounded are women and children.” Fortunately, Israeli Arabs who live in the Western Galilee have provided support by visiting and bringing toys to try to allay the fears especially of the children.

One woman bitterly complained about her life being saved. As Dr. Eisenman tells the story, “She sobbed asking, ‘why did you save me when I’ve lost my entire family?’ Two of her daughters had been rescued, but they were sure they had lost their mother.”

To reunite the family, a special social worker was brought in to prepare them for the surprising happiness.

Dr. Eisenman said, “Why do we do this? Because we have no other choice.” He continued, “I’m sure it has a lot to do with our past. We are children of refugees, too.”

In another case Dr. Eisenman recalls, 15-year-old Nairuz — a nickname rather than her real name — had been shot in the spine by a sniper, leaving her paralyzed and deeply depressed. Unable to reach through her gloop, one doctor asked if she could have one wish that might make her happy, what would it be.

She said that she wanted to see the ocean for the first time. So she was taken to Nahariyah for her dream to come true.

The kinds of wounds are unlike anything most doctors have ever seen. Infections, which have always been the bane of the battlefield, are now appearing with drug-resistant bacteria, that are spreading because of the miserable conditions and the overall malnourishment of the afflicted.

One young man was brought in with most of his face shot off. He couldn’t swallow food; his speech was slurred; he was overwrought at his appearance; and he needed to have his trachea opened so that he could breathe.

For the first time anywhere in the world, a three-dimensional printer was used to create a jaw prosthesis. Imagine, an Israeli ENT physician is now the friend of a Syrian patient.

Dr. Eisenman said, “Our care and treatment goes beyond lifesaving. We work toward giving them the best quality of life for when they return.”

He continues, “We never ask them who they are. Instead we give them nicknames or numbers. They might be ISIS, or Assad supporters, or who knows.”

He said, “We lose contact with them, but hope someday they will build a bridge between our peoples.”

But for now, even the medicines and medical equipment that might be sent home cannot even be labeled in Hebrew, in case these victims are accused of collaborating with the enemy.

Ohev Tzedeck (cont’d from p. 5)

tire Jewish community.

The Amidah – Using Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman’s excellent volume in the My People’s Prayer Book series as a guide, we are exploring this core prayer to discuss tefilla, Jewish prayer, as a whole, and how Jews have ever understood our ongoing, evolving relationship with G-d. This class meets Monday nights at 7.

Star Shlep: The Next Generation – Using Jewish science fiction/fantasy as the starship, we are exploring the farthest reaches of the galaxy of issues of Jewish identity, survival, and development. We are currently reading the novel Snow in August by Pete Hamill. This class will continue to meet Thursday nights at 7.

Wonder Woman (continued from page 7)

women and girls. (The United Nations soon dropped the character as an honorary ambassador after staffers there complained that the comic book superheroine was “not culturally encompassing or sensitive.”) Gadot recently proclaimed that Wonder Woman “of course” is a feminist in an Entertainment Weekly interview that is being cited across the internet. From her lack of underarm hair to the kind of shoes she wears, everything is being analyzed through a feminist lens.

It won’t hurt Gadot’s popularity that she seems to be, as the original Wonder Woman character was in the comics, sculpted from clay by a god. On screen, she has a magnetic quality — simultaneously graceful, elegant, tough, athletic and bursting with sex appeal.

How popular will Gadot become? It’s hard to say. Other recent female superhero movies have starred actresses who already were well-known, such as Jennifer Garner in “Elektra” and Halle Berry in “Catwoman.” Neither movie made much of an impact. Hollywood is also prone to reboot its most popular franchises, swapping out actors and diluting a star’s connection to a character (see Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield in the various Spider-Man films, and the many actors linked to Batman and Superman).

One thing is for sure: Gadot will go down in history as a distinctly Israeli actress. Unlike Natalie Portman, an international superstar and Oscar winner who was born in Israel but left at age 2, Gadot speaks English with an Israeli accent. She talks openly about being from a small Israeli city, Rosh Haayin, and her love of the Israeli character.

“In Israel, people have chutzpah,” she said in a recent cover story in Marie Claire. “People take issue with it, but I’d rather have that than play games. Here, everyone’s like, ‘We love you; you’re so wonderful!’ I prefer to know the truth, not waste time.”

So if Gadot finds the superstar she seems headed for, Israel will have a new most famous face.
JCC Logan Campus Pavilion Rental
The JCC Logan Pavilion is a large, covered, outdoor pavilion that sits next to our tennis courts and a short walk from the full size heated pool. Round tables outfit the pavilion and you can decorate to suit your theme. Swim in our heated pool or take time out of the pool and shoot hoops on the basketball court, play volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard, bocce, or whatever you would like on our spacious grounds. Invited guests who are non members must pay price of admission. Maximum capacity is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

Pavilion Time: 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
$75/Member | $100/Non Member
$150/Member | $200/Non Member – all-day rental

JCC – Pool Party at Logan Campus
You and your party guests can swim in our full-size heated pool and enjoy time celebrating at our on-site pavilion. If you and your party guests want to take time out of the pool, you can shoot hoops on the basketball court, play volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard, bocce, or whatever you would like on our spacious grounds. Maximum party size is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

Party Size up to 25 Guests – Party time: 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
$165/Member | $220/Non Member
$255/Member | $340/Non Member – all-day rental

Party Size from 25 to 50 Guests – Party time: 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
$285/Member | $380/Non Member
$375/Member | $500/Non Member – all-day rental

Logan Campus Hours
Monday — Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 12:00 – 8 p.m.

Churchill Commons
Make every day taste better
Locally owned and operated

Great Food
Fruit Trays
Rolls, Cakes & Pastries
Meat, Vegetable & Relish Trays
Wing-Dings
Fried Chicken
Beverages

Manischewitz, Mother’s, Streitz, Rokeach, Joyva Kosher Products

See our expanded Kosher section
4700 BELMONT AVENUE
(330) 759-9502

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
LOGAN CAMPUS

Outdoor Tennis
Register online at jccyoungstown.org

Logan Campus: Beginner Clinics
Begins June 5
Date: Mondays & Wednesdays
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (ages 8-10)
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (ages 11-16)

Logan Campus: Men’s Night Tennis
Date: Tuesdays
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Women’s Night Tennis
Date: Thursdays
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Outdoor Zumba®
Begins July 5 at the JCC Logan Campus
We’ll dance to an upbeat mix of Salsa, Merengue, Mambo, Hip Hop, and much more. Come join the party in the sun and burn some major calories!
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Logan Campus Kick-Off Party!
Date: Sunday, July 2
Time: 1- 4 p.m.
Join us for a Logan Campus opening celebration. We’ll have food, music, games, prizes, contests, kids entertainment and more!

Friday Night S’mores at the JCC Logan Campus
Join us around the fire pit at 6:00 p.m. every Friday night for S’mores making fun!

Luau and Late night swim and movie at the JCC Logan Campus
Date: Saturday, July 22
Time: 8:00 -10:30 p.m.
Cost: FREE/Member | $5/Non Member
We will be watching the movie Moana, while having a late night swim. Bring your friends and be prepared for fun! Popcorn will be provided. The snack shack will be open until 10:00 p.m.

RENTALS — JCC MAIN CAMPUS
For bookings and more information on rentals, contact Kelli McCormick, 330.746.3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

The JCC is the perfect place to host your next party, meeting or corporate event. With several venues to choose from, the JCC can accommodate most function large or small throughout the year. Our Multi-Purpose Room seats up to 250 people and has an adjoining commercial kitchen, state-of-the-art audio visual system, overhead motorized theater screen, and more. A number of convenient and well-appointed break rooms are also available throughout our building.
Bertha Froomkin

YOUNGSTOWN – Services were held on June 21 at the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home for Bertha Froomkin, 92, who passed away Sunday evening at Heritage Manor.

Bertha was born April 9, 1925, in Youngstown, a daughter of Ephriam and Gail Froomkin. She graduated from The Rayen School in 1942. After graduation, she worked in her family grocery store.

She married Berkeley W. Froomkin on July 14, 1946. Mrs. Froomkin stayed home to raise her children and taught Sunday school at Temple Emanuel for 18 years during that time. She was the glue that held her extended family together for holiday and life cycle events.

Mrs. Froomkin was an active volunteer. She was president of the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel and the first president of the Sisterhood of the merged congregation, Temple El Emeth.

She was a member of Pioneer Women, now Na’amat, since 1950. She held many offices, including president for many years, and ran the donor luncheon and donor book up until 2016. Mrs. Froomkin was a member of Temple Emanuel and Temple El Emeth for 71 years.

Mrs. Froomkin was preceded in death by Berkeley Froomkin, her husband of 61 years; her brother, Hyman Berman (Sue); and her stepbrothers, Irwin Marks (Esther) and Gerald Marks (Adele).

She is survived by two daughters, Janice Moranz M.D. (Marshall) of Albuquerque, N.M. and Renee Roth (Dr. Eli) of Hilton Head, S.C.; a son, Michael (Gail) of Youngstown; grandchildren Scott (Susie) Roth of Chicago, Lee (Lisa Mazzone) of Chicago, Sam (Jennifer) Froomkin of Livonia, MI, and Carly (Steve) Burak of Champaign, IL.; and great-grandchildren Jolie, Remy and Madelyn Roth.

She is also survived by sisters Hilda Manello, Deborah Ozer, and Ruth Briefman; many nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

Bertha resided the last year at Levy Gardens and Heritage Manor. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Na’amat, Heritage Manor, and Temple El Emeth.

Shiva was held at the home of Michael and Gail Froomkin.

Jack Stein

GIRARD – Graveside service were held on June 18, at El Emeth Granada Cemetery for Jack Stein, 88, who died, June 15, at his residence.

Jack was born Oct. 8, 1928, in Youngstown, a son of Sam and Minnie Sniderman Stein.

He was a graduate of The Rayen School in 1946, attended The Ohio State University from 1946 to 1949 and graduated from Youngstown State University in 1950, with a degree in business administration.

Mr. Stein was an officer in the U.S. Navy on active duty in Korea from 1951 to 1952, and received the National Defense Service Medal, China Service Medal and Korean Service Medal. He worked with Hamburg Brothers of Pittsburgh, and owned Kenron Awning and Window Fran-

chise in 1963. He became manager of Bertram Builders from 1965 until retirement in 2000. Jack was a member of Temple El Emeth, Jewish War Veterans and a former member of B’nai Brith. He enjoyed playing golf for 61 years, where he had three holes-in-one and also was District Junior Runner up in 1944.

Jack is survived by his wife, Doris Freedman Stein, whom he married in August 1957; a daughter, Caron; and son-in-law Leonard.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Atty. Harold Stein; and a sister, Flora Steinberg.

Contributions may be made to Heritage Manor or Temple El Emeth.

Arrangements were handled by the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home in Youngstown.

Marc A. Froomkin

YOUNGSTOWN – Marc A. Froomkin, 69, died May 24, 2017, at Hospice of the Valley.

Marc was born May 14, 1948, in Youngstown, and was a lifelong resident. He was the first of three sons born to Irving and Bernice Froomkin.

Marc graduated from Liberty High School in 1966 and attend Youngstown State University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in advertising and public relations. He was a member of the Temple El Emeth in Youngstown.

Marc was a unique, kind-hearted soul and a beautiful poet. He entered and won many poetry contests over the years for his sonnets and became published in numerous literary publications. He was an avid reader and loved watching the Cleveland Indians with his late parents. He helped care for both of them until their deaths. Marc was a doting uncle to his nieces and nephews and never missed a birthday, anniversary or special occasion.

He is survived by his two younger brothers, Howard (Linda) Froomkin and Craig (Jennifer) Froomkin, both of Liberty; his nieces and nephews; and great-grandchildren.

His three great-nephews, Alex, Asher and Ethan. He is also survived by his aunt, Bertha Froomkin; as well as many cousins, including Michael (Gail) Froomkin of Liberty, Renee (Eli) Roth of Hilton Head, S.C., Dr. Janice (Marshall) Moranz of Albuquerque, N.M., Marilyn (Ken) Gerring of Tampa, Fla., and David (Joan) Simon of Pittsburgh.

Preceding him in death were his beloved parents, Irv and Bernice; his uncles, Berkeley Froomkin and Sydney Jacobson; and his aunt, Vivian Simon.

Calling hours will take place 30 minutes before the 11 a.m. funeral on Sunday, May 28, at the Itt’s Memorial Chapel at the El-Emeth Granada Cemetery.

The family would like to extend a special and heartfelt thanks to Hospice of the Valley and their staff for the exceptional care that they provided. Marc, himself, commented on how happy he was to be there because he was being treated like a king.

The family requests that memorial tributes take the form of contributions to Hospice of the Valley, 5190 Market St., Boardman, OH 44512, in memory of Marc.

Arrangements by the Shriver-Alison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.

May their memories be only for a blessing.
An outdoor preschool in the Negev is shaking up Israeli education

By Andrew Tobin

MITZPE RAMON, Israel (JTA) — It sounds like a Jewish mother’s night-mare: a preschool class held outdoors in the desert.

But parents in this remote Israeli town drop off their children at Gan Keshet every weekday during the school year, setting them free to cook on a campfire, whittle sticks with switchblades and search for scorpions. Class goes on rain (rare) or shine (intense).

“The kids meet real life when they come here,” said Ron Meltzer, the school’s soft-spoken principal and visionary. “Spending time in nature — once or twice a week to learn to live in the desert.

But Gan Keshet-like programming. A few educators from rural schools said they had started taking their children outside once or twice a week to learn to live in nature for at least a few hours.

But Mitzpe Ramon is a fairly remote town hugging the lip of the vast, crater-like Makhtesh Ramon, 50 miles from the major southern city of Beersheba. Most of the visiting educators come from Beersheba, and they described challenges adapting the model to an urban environment.

Idit Harel, a teacher and instructor for 18 preschools in the city, said she doubted she would find support to do more than visit a nearby park.

“Our parents are stressed that the kids will come home with sand in their shoes or in their clothes or in their hair. I get telephone calls saying they want their children clean,” she said. “There are also lots of concerns about security.”

Meanwhile, the children largely ignored the visiting instructors. A group of boys took a break from wrestling under the tent to show off their technique for checking under rocks for scorpions or centipedes.

Carmi, a 6-year-old girl covered in pine needles,

(Continued on page 23)
Bonnie Deutsch Burdman receives Guardian of the Menorah

This year’s Guardian of the Menorah honoree is Bonnie Deutsch Burdman. Each year, Youngstown B’nai B’rith recognizes outstanding members of the community for their dedication to preserving and extending the values of Jewish and American life and heritage.

What follows is excerpted from Ms. Burdman’s response at the presentation banquet.

I could not let this opportunity pass to talk to you about something I believe is a crucial issue facing the organized Jewish community, and by extension, the nation as a whole. There’s a question I seem to get now all the time: “Why are Jews all Democrats?”

Now I find this question fascinating on so many levels. First of all, the underlying premise that all Jews are democrats is an absolute statement that is simply false. We are a diverse community and traverse many beliefs across party lines.

Of course, if we examine presidential voting records over the last several decades, it is understandable to make the assumption. Hilary Clinton pulled about 71% of the Jewish vote; Obama, 78 and 69 respectively in his two elections; Kerry, 76; Gore, 79, Bill Clinton 80 and 78, Dukakis, 64; Mondale 67; Carter 71 the first time and 45 when he lost to Reagan.

The 1980 election was an outlier of this trend, but you get the picture. This trend relates to history, tradition, issues of anti-semitism, FDR and World War II, early 20th century Jewish immigration to the US and the connection to the labor movement, and even Judaism and its values. People who ask me this question fully understand all of this, but they say “but what about Israel? You know that Republicans are more supportive of Israel than Democrats, right?”

And therein lies the problem. As a nation, and even in our own Jewish communities, we are fractured. We exist in bubbles; in echo chambers of our own choosing where we block out everything with which we do not agree and assume a posture of superiority to the detriment of all other voices. This is not good for America and is definitely not good for Jews.

We know our history — we have largely been homeless for centuries. For the most part, we lack ethnicity, because our ancestors came from places were we were not welcome. We lived in shtetls and maintained our own Jewish identities. By default, Jewishness became our ethnicity. And then the ultimate horror of the Shoah and the redemption in the birth of the modern, Jewish nation state of Israel. This history defines us.

But as American Jews, we also need to acknowledge that other than Israel, America is the place on the planet were we are most free to be who we are and to thrive spiritually, professionally, socially, and in all other ways, our level of religiousness or secularness notwithstanding.

We are finally in the mainstream. We have succeeded. Obviously, this is all good, but with good there are always challenges, and these challenges are inherent in the question about our political affiliation and how the echo chambers in which we exist could actually reverse all that we have accomplished.

Because the question relates to Israel, this is the best example of its inherent problem. In the Jewish communal field, we have always worked diligently to build relationships with everyone, no matter their party affiliation, in order to promote the pro-Israel agenda. Israel has been and must always be non-partisan — period!

And I know that there are both Republicans and Democrats in the room, and I am here to tell all you that Israel has been a priority for leaders in both parties.

At the same time, there have been leaders in both parties that have not always supported things we believe are important. That does not mean we write these people off. Nor does it require that we automatically assume that one party is better than the other or that we must now always support one over the other.

Sadly, we are forgetting basic truths. Instead of having real conversations about important issues, we are retreating to our echo chambers where Democrats and Republicans alike try to tar opponents by association with fringe Jew or Israel bashers on both the right and left, while at the same time, ignoring the problems in their own camps.

Are the Democrats better because they support our domestic agenda. Or are the Republicans better, because they better recognize the need to support Israel and maintain her security and qualitative military edge.

Believe me when I say that there are bad politicians and bad public officials, but not bad political parties. And truthfully, I believe it is shameful to pit one against the other. And it is even more abhorrent to use Israel as a wedge issue, something that is happening with increasing regularity.

Leadership changes, but our issues — social justice, support for the most vulnerable among us, Israel, Jewish community security, the uptick in anti-Semitism and BDS, and so many other —
Who are the Federation Fellows?

The Federation Fellows are a group of 28 young Jewish leaders ranging in ages from 25-50 who all want to see our Jewish community thrive. The Fellows program is for the entire family, for the first time engaging non-Jewish spouses too.

To introduce the Community to these outstanding volunteers — the infant/toddler playground on the JCC campus within Noah’s Park is their capstone project — over the next few months the Journal will spotlight some of the Fellows in each issue with a brief paragraph written by each Fellow.

Adrienne Rawl

Mrs. Rawl is mom to four beautiful children and the wife of Michael Rawl, director of the Youngstown Jewish Community Center. She teaches a classroom of eight preschool students with intensive needs at the Austintown Early Learning Center for Mahoning County Educational Service Center.

Randall Goldberg

Dr. Goldberg is associate professor of musicology and director of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University. In addition to co-chairing the YAJF Fellows Program, he serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Youngstown JCC. He is excited to know that a new generation of leaders is engaged and ready to serve the Jewish community of the Mahoning Valley.

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New Holocaust museum will hold memories of Greek Jewish metropolis

By Adam Abrams/JNS.org

The recent visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, to Thessaloniki, Greece, marking the construction of a new Holocaust museum, turns the page in the history of city’s once thriving Jewish community.

Thessaloniki was nearly wiped out during the Holocaust.

It was formerly home to Greece’s largest Jewish community. Following the Jewish expulsion from Spain, the city was one of the most prominent centers for Sephardic Jewry for over 450 years.

Thessaloniki, also once known as Salonica, was so synonymous with its flourishing Jewish community that 16th century Jewish Portuguese author Samuel Usques, deemed it “the metropolis of Israel, the city of Justice, the mother of Israel same as Jerusalem itself.”

The Jewish community’s influence in the city was so significant that all trade and businesses — Jewish and non-Jewish alike — were closed on the Sabbath and during Jewish holidays.

At its peak during the Ottoman Empire, around 90,000 Jews lived in Thessaloniki, but by the beginning of the 20th century, only around 56,000 Jews remained.

During the early days of the Zionist movement, in the early 20th century, a young David Ben-Gurion and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi both visited Thessaloniki to study its thriving Jewish society as a model for the future Jewish state.

With the rise of Hitler, the Nazis invaded Thessaloniki in April 1941, and two years later began killing Greece’s Jews. In March 1943, the Nazis began deporting Thessaloniki’s Jews to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland.

By August 1943, 96 percent of the (Continued on page 23)
Suzyn Schwebel Epstein elected new JCRC president

A long-time leader of the Jewish and general communities, Suzyn Schwebel Epstein has been elected president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

“Suzyn brings a wealth of experience, connections, and dedication to community service to her new position and will be a tremendous asset to the JCRC Board, and by extension, the entire region,” said Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, director of community relations and government affairs for the federation.

“The pursuit of social justice, Israel advocacy, and the promotion of Holocaust education and interfaith relations are among the many vital interests of the JCRC. I look forward to working with the Jewish community leadership in these areas over the next several years,” Ms. Schwebel Epstein said.

Ms. Burdman added, “Suzyn’s record of community service is truly remarkable, in both the Jewish and greater communities,” Ms. Burdman added.

A member of the JCRC board and its Holocaust Education and Commemoration Task Force for nearly two decades, Ms. Schwebel Epstein has been a community trailblazer in the promotion of Holocaust education.

She serves on the Ohio Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education in various leadership roles, including as its current president.

She is also a member and program chair of the YSU Center for Judaic & Holocaust Studies Program Advisory Committee, a program she helped create as a driving force in the initial fundraising.

In addition to her many other leadership posts, Ms. Schwebel Epstein has also been a member of the Heritage Manor’s Jewish Home for the Aged Volunteer Programming Board since 1984, a member of the Federation’s Human Services Board since 2009, and the chair of Levy Gardens Assisted Living Facility since 2014.

She is the current president of Friends of the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, and previously has been president of the Junior League of Youngstown, a Foundation Trustee of Planned Parenthood of the Mahoning Valley, a docent and coordinator for five exhibits at the Butler Institute of American Art, past president of the Youngstown Symphony Guild, past president of the Youngstown Hearing and Speech Center, a board member of the Henry H. Stambaugh Auditorium Association, past board member of the United Way of Trumbull County, and a graduate of Leadership Mahoning Valley Class of 2000.

A recipient of many awards and honors, Ms. Schwebel Epstein most recently was an initial Hall of Fame inductee of the League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown as well as a recipient of the League’s Community Volunteer and Philanthropist Award.

She has received the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award during the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ National Philanthropy Day event, has been inducted into the Phi Alpha Theta National Historical Society, is a past Athena Award Nominee, a recipient of the B’nai B’rith Guardian of the Menorah and the Federation’s Esther Marks Volunteer Awards, and a recipient of the Zionist Organization of America Citation of Honor.

Ms. Schwebel Epstein is married to Attorney Bruce Epstein.

In addition to the election of a new president, the JCRC board also elected Atty. Neil Schor as president-elect, Rochelle Miller and Rabbi Joseph Schonberger as vice-presidents, and Samie Winick as Secretary.

Yad Vashem

By Jesse McClain
Holocaust Educator

Recently, the Jewish Community Relations Council commemorated the Shoah — both at the Mahoning County Courthouse and at the Jewish Community Center. This year, second and third generation were the featured speakers.

The children of those who lived through the Holocaust — mostly Jewish — are known as second-generation Survivors. Many of these men and women have been trying to make sense of their backgrounds, which have sometimes been obscured.

Evidence shows that the children of Holocaust survivors can be deeply affected — both negatively and positively — by the horrific events their parents experienced. Some survivors did not talk to their children about the Holocaust. These “Second Gens” were often raised in homes of hidden mystery. Yet other survivors talked a great deal to their children about their Holocaust experiences.

In some cases, the talk was too much, too soon, or too often. Studies have shown that Holocaust survivors and their children have a tendency to be task-oriented and hard workers. They also know how to actively cope with and adapt to challenges.

Strong family values are also displayed by many survivors and their children. Still, little research has been done on the effects of the Holocaust on the Third Generation. Publications about the effects of the Holocaust on the families of survivors peaked between 1980 and 1990 and then declined.

Please visit the JCC’s Library and Holocaust Resource Center to browse the collection. Summer hours are M, W, F from 9 - 11 a.m.

Some recent acquisitions
Fiction
Invisible City by Julia Dahl

Nonfiction
The Avengers: A Jewish War Story by Rich Cohen
The Ghetto Swinger: A Berlin Jazz-Legend Remembers by Coco Schumann

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July 2017
The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
YBI and P2G put Youngstown’s technology at the forefront

Youngstown Business Incubator CEO Barb Ewing; Dr. Brett Conner, director of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Center and an associate professor of manufacturing engineering; and Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel shared their experiences from their trip to Israel at a recent “lunch-and-learn.”

In January, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation led an economic development mission to Israel to explore strategic partnerships between universities and companies doing groundbreaking additive manufacturing work in Israel.

At a recent “lunch-and-learn,” YSU president Jim Tressel, Youngstown Business Incubator CEO Barb Ewing, and Dr. Brett Conner, director of YSU’s Advanced Manufacturing Research Center discussed the new directions their time in Israel has permitted.

As President Jim Tressel described the trip, “We went to six business and five universities as well as meeting government officials.”

He explained, “I learned a new meaning for the concept of thinking outside the box.” He said, “To enhance everything we do, we actually have to think outside ourselves.”

Since returning from the trip, YBI is creating a new initiative, the Israel-Youngstown Business Incubator Collaborative, to create market opportunities through enhanced U.S./Israel relationships. The plan for I-YBI is to develop a soft landings program to ensure that Israeli additive manufacturing companies seeking to do business in the region have easy access to the necessary resources to ensure success.

That the Mahoning Valley has become a national hub of additive manufacturing has taken some by surprise. When representatives from one major technology firm was asked to participate in a future conference, the response was skeptical. But after meeting with the local experts, Dr. Conner said, “They responded maybe we won’t show our PowerPoint presentation. Maybe we’ll just talk with you.”

The YSU/YBI will participate in a conference in Haifa next year, where the meeting will be chaired by a 2011 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

Another initiative coming out of the YBI efforts is called the “Barak Junction.” That’s Barak Rabinowitz, formerly of the Youngstown area, who is working as a venture capitalist in Israel. This new asset will create a perfect marriage of capabilities and resources.

The speakers emphasized that the business expansion would not have been possible without the help of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

In addition, the YSU administration and faculty are working on plans for a number of projects with Israeli institutions including a major additive manufacturing academic conference in Youngstown next year with the Technion, known as the MIT of Israel, partnership opportunities for YSU business students at Tel Aviv University, and faculty led study-abroad programs in the areas of criminal justice and nursing.
Thessaloniki museum (Continued from page 20)

The Netanyahus with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (center) and Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades.

Jewish community had perished in concentration camps. Today’s Jewish population there numbers less than 1,000, with three synagogues serving the community.

While the city’s once vibrant Jewish past is a dwindling memory, plans to build the Thessaloniki Holocaust Memorial Museum — expected to be completed in two years — aims to keep that memory alive.

Greece’s Ambassador to Israel Konstantinos Bikas told JNS.org, “[The] Holocaust is one of the worst crimes ever. Its history should, and will, stay alive out of respect for the Jewish lives that perished and so that such unspoken suffering will not be experienced in the future. The Holocaust Memorial Museum of Thessaloniki will enshrine the memory of the Holocaust and will pass it on to future generations.”

At last week’s ceremony, Netanyahu, along with the grown children of a Greek Jewish Holocaust survivor, Moshe Ha-Elion, who lit a torch at this year’s Yom HaShoah memorial ceremony in Israel, unveiled a plaque for the planned Thessaloniki museum.

The Netanyahus were accompanied by Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades and Thessaloniki’s Mayor Yiannis Boutaris.

Tsipras noted the shared history of Greece and Israel and how the museum would safeguard the memory of the Holocaust as well as one of the most dramatic eras in the history of Thessaloniki.

“You cannot build your future unless you know your past,” said Boutaris, as he revealed the commemorative plaque at the site.

In his remarks, Netanyahu touched on Thessaloniki’s recent history in which the Nazi’s almost completely destroyed the “extraordinary and proud Jewish Community.”

He also shared a little-known story about the “heroism of the Greeks,” in “the case of the Island of Zakynthos, where the German commander said, ‘Give me a list of the Jews’ and the bishop and the mayor brought a list of the Jews, two names. They said, ‘This is our Jews [sic]. Take us.’ We honor these two great heroes among the righteous among the nations in [Israel’s] Yad Vashem.”

Netanyahu’s visit to the future museum came as part of a trip to Greece to attend a third trilateral summit between Israeli, Greek and Cypriot leaders, amid burgeoning relations between the Mediterranean allies.

Forest kindergarten (Continued from page 17)

head to toe in dirt, offered a tour of the restroom, a clearing at the edge of the kindergarten’s designated area, and explained how to dig a hole to “do a kaki” and then mark it with a stick.

“You put it here, so no one else goes in the same spot,” she said, giggling.

Meirav Perry, a teacher at a local elementary school, brought her first-grade class to visit Gan Keshet on Tuesday afternoon, as she does every week. She has seen the results of its approach: Two of her daughters have gone through the kindergarten, and her youngest daughter will start in a couple years.

“The kids don’t always love it at first. Like their parents, they think they would prefer to be inside in the air conditioning,” she said. “But look, they are very happy and independent. They know how to play alone. They don’t need people all the time to tell them what to do. They are creative, and they are strong.”

Meltzer, 33, moved to Mitzpe Ramon in 2011. Having previously lived with cave dwellers in southern Spain and in a yurt in a village in northern Israel, he and his wife were looking for a simple way of life close to nature. They and their year-and-a-half-old daughter still sleep in a yurt attached to their house.

Despite having no formal training as an educator, Meltzer was soon hired as a teacher at Gan Keshet. The next school year he took over as the principal and began moving classes outdoors. There was some push back from parents and local officials, especially during the winter months, but he quickly won allies like Donyets and Perry.

By the end of the 2012-13 school year, Meltzer and his allies convinced Israel’s Education Ministry to designate Gan Keshet an “experimental school” and let him move classes entirely outdoors. In 2015, the ministry upgraded Gan Keshet to a “model school,” meaning it would support other schools in adopting its approach.

A ministry spokeswoman said “a lot of local municipalities” were expressing interest in forest kindergartens and that a new experimental school was approved this term in northern Israel. Donyets and Meltzer said several private forest kindergartens opened this school year, and more public pilots were planned for next year.

Meltzer has twice visited forest kindergartens in Germany to get inspiration and guidance. Germany has more than 1,500 such schools, one of which was profiled recently in The New York Times. Forest kindergartens were first developed in Scandinavia and now exist in the United States, Britain, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

As the Times noted, a study by a German doctoral student found that graduates of that country’s forest kindergartens had a “clear advantage” over their peers who complete regular kindergartens, outperforming them in cognitive and physical ability and in creativity and social development.

Forest kindergartens may have an emotional appeal for some Israelis. Living close to the land is a central tenant of Zionism, the country’s founding ideology. But Meltzer said he takes a wider view.

“I never meant to be a teacher. I just knew that I wanted to take people from Western society and connect them to nature,” said Meltzer, who is studying education part-time at a local college.

“Now I see potential to have a big influence on Israel and the world by helping children build a strong foundation, physically and emotionally.”

At 1:30 p.m., with the instructors on the bus back to Beersheba, Meltzer gathered the children for “afternoon circle,” where they ate roasted potatoes and freshly sliced fruit. About a third went home with their parents, and the rest made the 30-minute walk to their schoolhouse in central Mitzpe Ramon, where they stayed until 4. Almost everyone spent the final hours in the backyard, playing in the dirt.

July 2017

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**Guardian of the Menorah**

(continued from page 18)

ers – will always be there. As my dear friend and mentor Joyce Garver Keller of blessed memory always said, we have no permanent enemies, only permanent issues.

So how do we pursue these permanent issues? By building relationships and by always striving to hold the center. When I speak to groups around our region, I often say that I don’t care if you are a Republican who voted against President Trump or a Democrat who voted for him. What I do care about are the issues that the Jewish community cares about and the best ways to pursue our goals.

Some of you may have heard of the concept of intersectionality, what some call one of the greatest community relations challenges of our time. Intersectionality holds that various forms of oppression – racism, sexism, classism, ableism, homophobia, ageism, etc. – constitute a joint system of united oppression, and that in this worldview, the unification of these oppressed groups strengthens them against a dominant power structure.

For example, a nationally known female Muslim activist recently claimed that there is no room in the feminist movement for Zionists. Or certain parts of the black lives matter movement have equated Zionism with racism, shouting chants of "From Ferguson to Palestine!"

These all or nothing approaches are absurd. We are quite capable of opposing racism or sexism and Zionism, all at the same time.

The support of Israel in no way disqualifies us from supporting other aspects of social justice. It is now axiomatic in the Jewish communal relations field that to combat this absurdity, we must establish our own intersectionality with groups on the mainstream left which are not nearly as prone to radical currents on the extreme left.

However, I also submit to you that we also need to make common cause with the mainstream right to ward off challenges to our agenda from the alt-right and radical right. This latter concept is not nearly as well discussed in the field, but I truly believe it is the only way we can continue to build firewalls against anti-Semitism and unwarranted anti-Israel animus.

And most important, it is incumbent among all of us as politically diverse Jews to remember that it is suicidal for us to marginalize each other or to draw too many red lines with other communities. Of course there are constituencies that are too far right or too far left for us to be comfortable with, but I think we should take a cue from David Ben-Gurion who looked at things with a broad view.

We must always fight for our moral values in American political life as though there was no disagreement with our allies on these issues on Israel, and we should fight on Israel with its critics as though there are no gaps in our views on the domestic agenda. In short, hold everyone accountable no matter what on what side of the aisle they sit, and maintain the center.

I am proud of all the work we are doing in our region to continue to build relationships and promote our broad agenda. I am proud of the strong presence our Jewish community has forged in the greater community and am looking forward to our continued growth as conveners of different sectors.

I am proud of the work we recently accomplished in Israel with Youngstown State University and YBI. [See story on page 22.]

I am proud that we are in the early stages of planning an interfaith Christian pastors’ mission to Israel for next year that will bring together mainline and evangelical Christians of multiple stripes, ethnicities and races under a Jewish umbrella.

But most of all, I am proud and honored that I get to wake up every day and go to work to represent all of you. I truly believe I have one of the best jobs in the world where I can pursue my passions and hopefully make a difference. I owe these blessings to all of you.

Again, thank you B’nai Brith from the bottom of my heart for this honor, thank you all for being here tonight, and thank you to everyone in this community for adopting this brash, New York girl as one of their own. G-d bless.