Inside this month’s Jewish Journal

Top right: Ari Kessler (at the piano) and Liz Rubino perform a special song on the occasion of JCC Director Sandy Kessler’s retirement. (See story on p. 8.)

Lower left: A sign in the window of a Kosher bakery in Budapest. Learn about Jewish life in Budapest, Hungary — one of this area’s P2G partners — at the Jewish Hungarian Culture Night on July 14 at the JCC. (See story on p. 4.)

Lower center: Richard Marlin, recipient of this year’s Guardian of the Menorah award from B’nai B’rith Aaron Grossman Lodge #339, with his wife, Ronna. (See story on p. 9.)

Lower right: A new Holocaust documentary film and traveling exhibition about the life and legacy of Henry Kinast premiered on Sunday, June 19. (See story on p. 23)

Can you spell “Sesquicentennial?” Rodef Sholom’s 150th anniversary year kicks off on July 8. (See story on p. 15.)
Jews across America express horror and shock at Orlando attack

**ADL**

By Jonathan A. Greenblatt
Chief Executive officer, ADL

Although details are still emerging, an attack on a prominent Orlando gay club at the start of Pride Month on a night that celebrated the Latino community has all the markers of both an unconscionable hate crime and an act of terrorism on a scale we have not before witnessed in America.

This heinous attack on a nightclub serving the LGBTQ community is yet another reminder of the serious threat posed by the Islamic State terrorist group, which has inspired attacks against Jews in Belgium, journalists in France, civilians in San Bernardino and now LGBTQ men and women in America.

It also is yet another barbaric act of terrorism in a week that has seen brutal bombings across Iraq, an attack on a cafe in Tel Aviv, and now this tragedy. It reminds us that terrorism is a danger to all. We must continue to fight this threat against democracy and pluralism with all of the tools available and by exposing those who perpetrate hateful ideologies of violence and extremism.

We must remember that Americans should not blame all Muslims for the actions of one individual. Whether citizens like the individual suspected of committing this act or war-torn refugees seeking safety, we must remember that we do not define people by their faith. We are deeply concerned that this attack could lead to a backlash against American Muslims. We urge all Americans to not fight hatred with hatred, but rather to come together around our common values of decency and respect.

At this time of sadness and tragedy, we express our full solidarity with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. During this time of year when we celebrate Pride, they should know that they are not alone. As we mourn the victims and extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those lost, we will redouble our resolve to fight against the forces of hatred and extremism that led to this barbaric act of hatred.

ADL’s Florida Regional Office is in contact with the lead investigating agencies and the local LGBTQ community of South Florida to offer support and other resources. Despite the casualties, we applaud the work of law enforcement and salute those officers whose courage and professionalism appears to have saved many lives. The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world’s leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

who values freedom, this event must strengthen our resolve to fight for human rights and dignity in every corner of the globe. We send our heartfelt prayers to the victims and their families.

offer our heartfelt condolences to all of the families who were affected and wish a full recovery to all those injured.”

“We know that the authorities will do everything in their power to establish the motives behind these crimes and spare no effort in bringing to justice all the responsible parties” he stated. “We urge the citizens of the United States to stand together neighbor to neighbor against hate crimes, terrorism and intolerance.”

**Federations**

The Jewish Federations were horrified by the senseless act of violence that occurred in Orlando. An assault on the LGBTQ community and anyone

**JCPA**

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs expresses its outrage at the horrific shootings at the Pulse nightclub whose clientele is the LGBTQ community in Orlando. According to President Obama, this act marks the deadliest shooting in the history of the country.

“This is an act of terrorism and a mass hate crime,” stated David Bernstein, JCPA’s president and CEO. “We

**Rabbinical Assembly**

The Rabbinical Assembly, the international association for Conservative/ Masorti rabbis, released the following statement:

We share our deepest sympathies and prayers with the families of those who lost their lives and were injured in the Orlando shooting. May their memories be a blessing for all who knew them. But prayer alone will not resolve the circumstances that made this tragedy possible and so we also issue a strong call for action.

This shooting rampage targeted the LGBTQ community in the midst of Pride month, a time where the LGBT community comes together to publicly acknowledge and celebrate their identities, their common history, and their struggle for social recognition and equality. The RA has passed multiple resolutions calling on the community to work for full and equal civil rights for gays and lesbians in our national life, deplore violence against gays and lesbians, encourage inclusion of gay and lesbian Jews in our congregations, and increase our awareness of issues facing gay and lesbian Jews. We know that we stand with people of good will of all faiths in continuing this work.

We urge the United States Congress and the president of the United States to take meaningful steps toward ending this horrifying violence in our communities by passing common-sense gun legislation.

As recently as our May 2016 convention, the Rabbinical Assembly issued a resolution encouraging our members to lobby local, state and federal lawmakers to support required background checks on all public and private gun sales, bans on military style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and legislation making gun trafficking a federal crime with severe penalties.

As our Jewish tradition teaches us, “lo ta’amod al dam ré’èikha — do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor (Leviticus 19:16). Our thoughts and prayers go out to all members of the LGBT community, their families, their friends and their loved ones.

**Religious Action Center**

By Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner
Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Washington, D.C., June 12, 2016 The horrific violence in Orlando shakes us to our very core. The staggering loss of life, yet again facilitated by a military-style weapon that has no place on the street, causes us deep pain. We pray for those who were murdered, for healing of body and soul for the injured, and for comfort to the families of all who were present in Pulse nightclub.

We are grateful to law enforcement, the first responders, and all those volunteers who are helping during this crisis.

The fact that such devastation targeted a club popular with the gay community and occurred during Gay Pride month reminds us that despite the strides made toward equality, there is much to be done to address ongoing homophobia that was for too long acceptable in this nation. The attack is also further proof, as if any were needed, of the imperative to end the culture of gun violence that grips the nation.

On this holiday of Shavuot, we engage in all night study and reflection of the words and lessons of Torah. No lesson is more fundamental than that which teaches that the spark of the Divine is present in every individual - gay and straight, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim.

In the face of tragedy, let us come together in a spirit of love and compassion for all and work together to create a nation that rejects violence and instead celebrates the holiness of every human being.

Included on these page and on p. 14, Jewish leaders and organizations express the feelings of the entire Jewish community toward the tragic murders in Orlando, FL.
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On the calendar for July – and beyond

July 8 Kick-Off Rodef 150th Anniversary
July 8-10 Ohev Tzedek Scholar-in-Residence
July 14 Hungarian Culture Night
July 15 El Emeth Klezmer Night
Sept. 8 Inaugural Event
Sept. 19 Lions of Judah

Candle-Lighting Times
July 1  8:40 p.m.
July 8  8:38 p.m.
July 15  8:35 p.m.
July 22  8:30 p.m.
July 29  8:23 p.m.
August 5  8:15 p.m.

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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JJMM Mission Statement

טר_sql: The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —
טר_sql: Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;
טר_sql: Present current local, national and world news of Jewish interest;
טר_sql: 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;
טר_sql: Enrich the cultural interest of individuals and the community through articles, features, reviews and other material of both local and national Jewish content and interest;
טר_sql: Provide a communication tool to enable all members of the Jewish community to express their viewpoints on issues of Jewish importance and interest;
טר_sql: 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 2016 issue.
What differentiates Israel from the rest of the Middle East? That’s a loaded question. For this article’s purpose, the answer is trees. Israel is a green country. Even in the desert there is vegetation and even better, agriculture.

The Jewish National Fund is 116 years old. Since 1901, JNF has sprouted many innovative programs in Israel. (The website, www.jnf.org is full of fascinating information.)

LOTEM, Making Nature Accessible, operates a full nature site located in Emek Hashalom, about an hour’s drive from the airport and 45 minutes south of Akko. It is a perfect first stop upon visitors’ arrival to Israel. This particular JNF site is special because people of all abilities can enjoy nature. Israeli culture is to be outdoors. Hiking is a pastime for school trips and families. Physical handicaps can impair that pleasure and opportunity. With LOTEM, there are no barriers.

Chany Hameiri is the director of LOTEM’s ecological farm. It is her pleasure to be outdoors every day with a new group that otherwise would not be able to learn, experience and enjoy the nature of Israel. Today, these adults with intellectual disabilities, both Arabs and Jews, are from a group home in Afula. They had a really good time at the experiential outing. The adults learned about ancient agriculture in the Land of Israel. They made perfumes from hand-picked herbs from the sensory garden, baked pita bread and learned how to paint with dyes extracted from plants. They also went on a hike on LOTEM’s inclusive trail in the KKL-JNF Nahal HaShofet forest.

There are many groups from our Partnership region of Akko and the Western Galilee that have the wonderful opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy what nature has to offer without barriers. LOTEM is open to everyone, not just people with challenges.

Chany is a face of Israel. Her personal story connects her to you. The Jewish community of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys is connected as well.

Enjoy a taste of Jewish Hungary at the JCC on Thursday, July 14 at 6 p.m., experiencing traditional Hungarian cuisine and engaging in meaningful discussion.

Guest speakers Dr. Vered Glickman, director of the Israeli Cultural Institute in Budapest, and Tomi Buchler will share their experiences as Jews in Hungary, leaders in their community, and their role in enhancing and invigorating Israeli and Jewish culture in their city.

Dr. Vered was born in Tel Aviv. She wrote her Ph.D. in the philosophy of mind in Tel Aviv University and lectured at Tel Aviv University and Haifa University.

After moving with her family to Budapest in 2005, Dr. Vered worked as a supervisor of the Hebrew teaching at the Jewish Agency’s ulpan. In addition to her position as ICI’s director, she is a board member of Global Israeli Leadership.

Tamás (Tomi) Buchler is a 32-year-old Hungarian Jew who has been a leading force in the renaissance of Jewish life throughout Central and Eastern Europe.

At the age of 20, Mr. Buchler became a Birthright counselor, leading 40 Hungarian youths on their first trip to Israel.

Tamás studied Law at ELTE University of Budapest and Jewish Studies at the Rabbinical Seminary. He grew up in Budapest and has spent time in Israel.

His work in the Jewish community includes youth work for various organizations, such as the Israeli Cultural Institute, The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Haver Foundation and the Limmud Conference.

The cost of the event is $15. Reservations should be made to Nancy Sentelik (330) 746-3250 x 108; or NSentelik@JewishYoungstown.org by July 11.

Chany Hameiri prepares herbs, lavender, sage, balm, and anise, for the group behind her.

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Schwartz Judaica Library at the JCC

JCC Library book club meeting

The next meeting of the JCC Library Book Club will be on Thursday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the library. Under discussion — The Devil in Jerusalem by Naomi Ragen. One copy is available at the JCC library and other copies can be obtained through the public libraries, Search Ohio, and also on kindle.

Those with questions or who would like to join may call Mary Lou Henneman at 330-746-3251 and leave a message.

New Books at the JCC Library

Protecting Paige by Deby Eisenberg

Orphaned and alone after losing her memory, Paige discovers her mother’s diary and now is on the search to learn who she is through its pages.

The Devil in Jerusalem by Naomi Ragen

When an unspeakable crime occurs, it takes Jerusalem detective Bina Tzeder to discover the person or persons responsible. Ragen keeps her readers riveted through many twists and turns of the plot.

Featured book:


One of the most sincere ways of honoring someone is to continue his work. This task has been accomplished in a compilation of 13 views on the Holocaust by writers from around the world.

Especially noteworthy are the writings of Rochelle Vegh Miller, co-chair of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's Holocaust Commemoration and Education Task Force, and Dr. Helene Sinnreich, Clayman Family Professor of Judaic and Holocaust Studies. Director, Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University.

The library expresses its thanks to Nancy Friedman, for donating the book. It is now available for JCC members to borrow and to remember the impact Dr. Saul Friedman made on the local Jewish community, and also on Holocaust research.

Frank Center emphasizes mutual respect

NEW YORK — The Anne Frank Center USA has been renamed the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, and has named civil rights leader Steven Goldstein to be its new executive director.

With Goldstein’s hiring, the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect not only adopts a new name, but also a wider mission. Until now, the organization has focused largely on the history of Anne Frank and the Holocaust, with forays into addressing contemporary prejudice and discrimination.

Now the organization, reflecting the “Mutual Respect” in its new name, will significantly broaden its work on contemporary issues to become a national leader in exposing and fighting hate.

Otto Frank (of blessed memory), Anne’s father, inspired the organization’s expanded name and mission. He founded the organization in the United States in 1959 to “build a world based on equal rights and mutual respect.”

New Director Steven Goldstein, achieved national renown as the longtime leader of Garden State Equality, New Jersey’s statewide organization for LGBT equality. From the time he founded Garden State Equality in 2004, the organization amassed 150,000 members and won a record-breaking 216 new civil rights laws at every level in the state.

In an article covering Goldstein’s leadership, The Harvard Law and Policy Review credited him with building a “model organization” in the United States for achieving social justice.

When New Jersey won marriage equality, Goldstein became an associate professor of law and political science at Rutgers University in Newark. In 2015, Steve Carell played Goldstein in the motion picture “Freeheld,” chronicling one of Garden State Equality’s legendary battles for justice. The movie was based on the 2007 documentary “Freeheld,” featuring the real Steven Goldstein, that won the Oscar® for Best Short Documentary.

In addition to Goldstein, the organization’s new leadership team includes new Board Chair Peter Rapaport and a new deputy director, staff veteran Rebecca Faulkner. They, along with the rest of the board and staff, are committed to organizational growth in both public programming and national reach. At the same time, they vow to strengthen the organization’s work to commemorate Anne Frank and the Holocaust.

“As we work to make the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect a national powerhouse in fighting the hate that exists in our world today,” Goldstein said, “we will teach the stories of the tragic past, including Anne Frank’s. That’s how we’ll make the Holocaust more relevant to young people in every generation ahead.”

Located at 44 Park Place, New York, NY 10007, the Center is open Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. It is closed Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holidays.

Harold Davis new president of Oakland Center for the Arts

“There is a new life for the Oakland Center for the Arts,” says its new president Harold Davis. “The new Oakland will no longer be housed in its old location in downtown Youngstown, but will be performing at various venues across the Valley, with our first summer season to be performed at The Jewish Community Center, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown.”

In addition to President and Treasurer Harold Davis, the Oakland board will comprise Brendan Byers, who will serve as vice president and lead the artistic vision, and Kristina Terlecki as secretary.

Having served as president in the early ‘90s when the Oakland first moved into old Elks building on Boardman St., Mr. Davis is a long-time supporter of the Oakland, “We had a nice run in that location,” he says, “I am really proud to have been a part of that transformation.”
$20 million gift to help revitalize U.S. Holocaust museum

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — An exhibit over 20 years old against an iPhone: Docents at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum are increasingly noting the battle with hand-held devices to keep the interest of young people.

Now a $20 million gift to help revitalize the Washington, D.C., museum will aim to assist the docents while focusing on the challenges posed to democracies by rapid changes in technology.

Allan and Shelley Holt announced their grant for the Washington, D.C., museum on Monday in honor of Allan Holt’s parents, who are Holocaust survivors and about to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Holt, an investment manager at the Carlyle Group, an influential Washington consulting outfit, is also vice chairman of the museum’s governing board.

The gift, one of the largest in the museum’s history, will go toward a $540 million campaign aimed at revitalizing the museum, the museum said in a release.

In an interview, the museum’s director, Sara Bloomfield, and chief program officer, Sarah Ogilvie, outlined areas where the money will help realign the museum’s educational mission with the 21st century through a physical refurbishing and programmatic changes.

One emphasis is on new technologies and how they can be exploited for propaganda in an age when political messages spread rapidly through social media and other means, they told JTA.

“The new technology of the 1930s was the radio,” Ogilvie said. “The Nazis tried to make sure every German family had one. We will be talking about new technologies and how young people were targets for the Nazis.”

A central message of the museum since its 1993 opening — that democracies are more vulnerable than their citizens believe them to be — will become more pronounced, Bloomfield said.

“It’s so important for an audience to see the failure of democratic institutions,” she said.

“That lesson is in the exhibition, but we can make it more explicit,” Bloomfield said, saying it was a critical message at a time of racially charged political rhetoric in the United States and abroad. “What we read about in the paper every day makes this history ever more relevant and more of a cautionary tale.”

The changes and refurbishing, which will take place over five to seven years, also will address how audiences have been shaped by technology. Docents, among them Holocaust survivors, have reported in recent years that they have to compete with multiple distractions, including the hand-held devices.

“Some of them have expressed concern about keeping the attention of young people; they watch the distractions that can happen,” Ogilvie said.

The museum may open avenues to interact with the exhibit through the devices now preoccupying the young visitors.

“You may be able to interact with a Holocaust survivor on your phone instead of texting,” she said.

Ogilvie said attention spans have become shorter, another factor needing addressing.

“If you look back at TV shows from 1989,” when the museum designed some of its video presentations, “pacing seems incredibly slow,” she said.

Another “nuts and bolts” change, Ogilvie said, would be to the “Tower of Faces,” a central structure featuring photographs of victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Some of them have faded, and the museum plans to return to the original negatives and digitize them.

Updates also would incorporate information made available since the museum’s opening. Access to Russian archives post-Soviet collapse has revealed much more about the “Holocaust by bullets,” the mass murders carried out by the Nazis in Soviet areas.

Bloomfield said Holt has been involved in the strategic planning.

His father is 96 and his mother is 93.

“This gift is an expression of our family’s gratitude to this remarkable country, and most especially it honors my parents, all of my grandparents who were killed, and my mother’s two sisters who survived with her,” Holt said in a statement released by the museum.

A significant role for Israel at U.N.

NEW YORK – The World Jewish Congress (WJC) on Tuesday welcomed the election of Israel’s UN Ambassador Danny Danon to the chair the United Nations Sixth Committee, which deals with legal issues and terrorism, amongst other things. It was the first time Israel was elected for the presidency of a permanent UN committee. Ahead of the secret ballot of all UN member states, the WJC had sent letters to the UN ambassadors of 64 countries, urging them to support Israel’s candidacy.

World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder called the vote in the UN General Assembly “a significant victory for Israel and a glimmer of hope.”

Two weeks ago, Lauder spoke at a conference at the United Nations in New York where he scolded the world body for constantly singling out Israel.

WJC CEO Robert Singer said: “Yesterday’s vote shows that things can be done to improve Israel’s standing at the UN. It is critical that we continue to work with countries to help make the United Nations a fairer and more effective organization. I congratulate Ambassador Danny Danon on this historic achievement and on his election. I know he will discharge this duty with competence.”

Israel was nominated for Sixth Committee presidency by the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) of UN member states, which includes European and North American countries.

The WJC sent letters to the permanent representatives of the following UN member states: Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, India, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Nicaragua, Namibia, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, the Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zambia.


Photo/Wikimedia Commons
Era of ‘quiet Jew’ is over

JERUSALEM — The Ingeborg Center for Jerusalem Studies of Israel’s Bar-Ilan University has honored World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder with the prestigious Guardian of Zion Award for his efforts in the perpetuation and strengthening of Jerusalem.

In his acceptance speech, Lauder outlined the challenges facing the Jewish world today and spoke about his vision for contending with contemporary anti-Semitism.

“Over the last 20 years, and for the first time since the Holocaust, anti-Semitism is acceptable again,” Lauder said. “Unlike the anti-Semitism of the past, today it comes not just from the Far-Right, but increasingly it comes from the Far-Left. And the new target for this age-old hatred is not the ‘International Jew,’ as Henry Ford called us. Today, it is the Jewish state of Israel, which is constantly vilified throughout the media, on the internet, at the United Nations, and on almost every college campus.”

Lauder went on to say, “Let’s make one thing crystal-clear right now. When someone says they are not anti-Jewish, they are only anti-Israel, that is a lie. When you hold the only Jewish nation to a different standard than any other country, when you make up lies about the only Jewish nation, its past and its present, and when you want the only Jewish nation on earth to disappear, that makes you an anti-Semite. Pure and simple.”

Lauder said that for Jews today, “our destiny is in our own hands.”

The World Jewish Congress had come a long way since its founding in 1936, Lauder said, from the days when it had to turn to the world for help. But now, he pointed out, “the era of the quiet Jew is over.”

Lauder said the WJC was working to engage young Jewish leaders, including the flagship WJC-Jewish Diplomatic Corps program, a group of more than 200 young professionals who assist the WJC in its diplomatic and outreach endeavors as emissaries in their respected countries around the world. “I intend to make our young people, proud of their heritage again. I want them to have the same pride that we had when we were younger.”

He ended his speech with a plea: “This is the job before us now. We have to help our children and our grandchildren dust off their hearts, we have to help them re-discover that Jewish flame inside them. This isn’t just important for Jews, it’s important for everyone, Jews and gentiles, because for over 5,000 years, that flame has been lighting the entire world.”

Ronald S. Lauder has served as the president of the World Jewish Congress, which represents Jewish communities in more than 100 countries worldwide, since 2007. In addition, to serving as chairman of the Jewish National Fund, he has served as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as well as additional boards of various Jewish organizations.

Lauder was appointed United States ambassador to Austria by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, after serving as deputy assistant secretary of Defense for European and NATO policy. Upon his return from Vienna, he established the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, which supports Jewish schools, summer camps and community centers throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The foundation has educated thousands of Jewish children in a region that was devoid of Jewish scholarship and has helped build thriving Jewish communities throughout this area.

The Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies was established at Bar-Ilan University in 1995 by US Jewish community leaders Ingeborg Hanna and Ira Leon Rennert as an expression of their heartfelt commitment to the preservation and advancement of Jerusalem’s unique heritage.

Integrating studies on the history, archaeology, geography, demography, economy and sociology of Jerusalem, the Rennert Center has become the foremost academic center in the international academic community studying aspects of Jerusalem’s past and present.

This is the 20th year the Rennert Center is conferring the Guardian of Zion Award. Last year’s award was bestowed upon former U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman. Additional recipients have included Jonathan Sacks, James S. Snyder, Dore Gold, Malcolm Hoenlein, Caroline Glick, Norman Podhoretz, Daniel Pipes, William Safire, Arthur Cohn, Charles Krauthammer, Cynthia Ozick, A.M. Rosenthal, Herman Wouk and Elie Wiesel.
Honoring Sandy Kessler

And now it’s time to say goodbye (or L’hitraot)

It is hard to believe that I’ll be leaving my post as the Executive Director of the JCC after the 10+ years that I’ve been here, but it is time to move on. I’m incredibly proud of the many accomplishments achieved over this time, all of which were possible because of the many wonderful staff members I’ve worked with over the years and the Jewish Community members who supported my vision. Since many of you reading this have experienced much of what was done, I’ll just list a few things that I think remain really impactful.

When I came to this position it was hard to tell by walking through the doors that this was a Jewish institution. As we began the still ongoing process of upgrading and remodeling virtually every area of this building we made sure that the pride of being a Jewish Center shone through. It wasn't enough, of course, to simply make the physical space feel right so we focused our attention on adding some profound ways that folks (both Jewish and not) could engage with Jewish life and thought. A special thanks to Darlene Muller for being so crucial to making all of these things happen.

Concept nights – In an attempt to recount the narrative of (mainly) the non-Ashkenazi Jewish world we began a series that exposed to attendees the feeling, smells, foods, music and tales of Jewish life in Morocco, India, Ethiopia, Mexico and many more countries.

Lunch & Learns – recognizing that a large percentage of the JCC membership was not Jewish, we started exploring varied topics to share at free lunch programs that covered topics from Israeli sports to Jewish Arts, the Art of Jewish cooking to the IDF and more.

The Melton Institute Adult Learning – bringing a high quality adult learning program to the J allowed a number of people to really expand their knowledge about the broad range of Jewish thought, history and ethics.

Jewish Community Center trips – bringing a bus full of adults to Philadelphia, New York, Toronto and soon Chicago created a wonderful way for people to learn and socialize together building long term friendships.

Lectures – having world class scholars like Dr. Adolpho Roitman, Curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Israel, come to the JCC to speak to the community enlightened so many people about so many important topics.

I have always believed that the JCC needed to be a prominent player in the greater community. Through the years we have been proud partners with YSU bringing Dana School of Music performances to our J-Cafes, YSU staff to the J for theater training and performances with our camp kids and teens, and working with me on the original concept for our fabulous Art Gallery. We have done many programs with the local hospitals and the Youngstown Symphony as well. The collaboration that I’m most proud of, though, has been a concerted effort to support the local synagogues with their community programming, both financially and otherwise.

The Jewish Community Center is really meant to be all things to all peoples and that’s what we have tried so hard to accomplish. From our 6-week-olds in our area’s best early childhood programs to our teens, young adults, and many seniors, we offer the finest in support and programming that I know of in this area. With the incredible financial and human resources available to our small Jewish Community I believe the future is bright. May the JCC go from strength to strength. Thank you all for your help and support.

B’Shalom
Sandy Kessler

At the celebration

The JCC’s multi-purpose room was packed with well-wishers not only from the Jewish community but also with others whose lives Sandy Kessler had touched.

Of the many speakers who paid tribute to Sandy, Harold Davis, who has been the most recent JCC president offered a special message to the audience, much of which is excerpted here.

The JCC’s thanks —

On behalf of the executive board and all members of the current JCC Board, as well as all the past members of the board, and me, I would like to express our thanks for your work over the past 10 1/2 years. For diligently making sure the board was prepared for meetings, keeping us attuned to all the happenings of the JCC, for always following up on all board needs and concerns and attending more meetings than ever imagined.

You had your own style and vision of the JCC in which the goal was always very simple: Improving the lives of all the Jews and non-Jews of this community; spiritually, intellectually and physically. All one has to do is look to a calendar listing the programs at the Center for (Continued on p. 23)
Richard Marlin honored for service to the Jewish community

When Richard Marlin was honored with the B’nai B’rith “Guardian of the Menorah” last month, he admitted that when he was asked by Alan Mirkin, a past recipient of the award, he was “speechless.”

Others present who had received the award in past years also described their emotions when they received the “call.” Father George Balasko, one of four gentiles honored with the Guardian, three of whom were present, said, “It doesn’t really hit you until afterward that you've been recognized for your dedication to the Jewish community, to help the Jews be the best Jews they can be. Father Balasko, now retired as the pastor of St. Anne Parish, has led Jewish Christian studies for 45 years.

Harry Meschel, who just turned 92, served as the president of the Ohio State Senate and chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party. He said, “This was one of the most important awards I have ever received. It is extremely significant because it represents the roots our community and what its about.”

Florence Harshman, another past recipient, said she was thrilled to be sitting with Sen. Meschel because he had presented the award not only to her but also to her husband Abe Harshman, of blessed memory.

For Mr. Marlin, achieving the Guardian award, was not for the “fame and the honors.” He said, “You serve the community because that is what you do. Volunteerism is in the family.”

He continued, “My brothers and father were all presidents of their synagogues.”

Rick and Ronna Marlin have most recently served as co-presidents of Temple El Emeth.

“As we encourage our children and grandchildren to be active in BBYO, he said, we are helping them create a network of lifelong commitments, enabling them to be the Jewish leaders of tomorrow,” he said.

The Guardian of the Menorah Tribute is presented to outstanding members of our community who have demonstrated, through service and commitment, their devotion to the causes of youth and the Jewish and general community.

The general chairs of the event were Suzyn Schwebel Epstein and Bruce Epstein. The honorary chairs were Arthur and Phyllis Friedman, Alan and Lori Mirkin, Attty. James and Roberta Pazol, Gerald and Jeannie Peskin, Paul and Dorothy Schwebel, and Bruce and Carol Sherman.
Upholding our American and Jewish values
by Rabbi Saul Oresky, Ohev Tzedek – Shaarei Torah

The juxtaposition of holidays in July and August provides us the opportunity to consider those values that we hold dearest and to think about what we can do to uphold them.

On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, the ultimate celebration of the establishment of our nation, first by separating from Great Britain, and second, by defending our right to that separation and asserting our independence.

Our continued existence was no sure thing early on; a betting man would not have wagered on our persistence into the 21st Century. And yet, here we remain, having weathered not only the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, in which our very existence was again jeopardized, but a devastating Civil War, which challenged our status as a single republic.

We became a world player in later wars, dominating in two World Wars until we are seen as one of, if not the sole, great power on Earth.

How did we get this far? We have succeeded; our laws now provide more freedom and more opportunity for a greater number of Americans than ever before, as equality continues its progress towards guaranteeing equal rights for all Americans.

Now, however, I fear we have begun to recede, and that lessening of our power and resolve is largely of our own doing. We would do well to heed the warnings provided by our particular history as the Jewish people, for this two-month period also marks the saddest day on the Jewish calendar, Tisha B’Av, the ninth of the month of Av. It begins this year after Shabbat on August 13. According to tradition, on that day, both holy temples were destroyed (the first temple, built by Solomon, and destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, and the second, begun by the returnees from Babylonia and improved upon until its destruction by the Romans in 70 CE).

The geopolitical reasons for both calamities are not hard to understand, but trying to reconcile these tragedies religiously is more difficult. If the Temple was the place where we worshipped G-d, why would G-d allow them to be destroyed? Aside from the issue of what we consider G-d to be and how G-d operates, we need to analyze our part in the destruction. The rabbis say the Second Temple fell because of sinat chinam, baseless hatred. The divisiveness of First Century Judea and its monumental stresses had turned us into a people at each others’ throats, some supporting the Romans, others rebelling against them, and some fleeing to the desert to live a monastic existence.

We Americans, I fear, are beginning to succumb to sinat chinam. Our political divisiveness is now at fever pitch, threatening the very unity of our nation. We are no longer broken along the Civil War color lines of the Blue and the Gray. We are now split between being Red states and Blue states, with the divisions between them rancorous and hateful. Social issues, such as access to abortion, recognition of gay and transgender rights, and protection of the fundamental separation of church and state threaten to split us apart now as slavery, economic, and states’ rights issues once did.

The debate on these is no longer constructive and well-mannered, with reasoned arguments having fallen victim to the ignorance and depravity of talk radio and its vicious TV counterparts.

We, the Jewish people, alone cannot cure these ills, but we can contribute to their solution by doing what we have always done best: teaching and model-
ing the best that our tradition has to offer in terms of basic morality, focusing on moral leadership and positive civil discourse, and calling out and protesting injustice wherever we find it. In this election year, which presents the starkest contrast between candidates that has perhaps ever been seen, we must roll up our sleeves and join in the work of protecting our country. Only in that way can we say that we have lived according to our most cherished values and not shirked our responsibility towards our country and towards our particular Jewish people and civilization.

Nehemia Gordon, a Biblical scholar and a translator of the Dead Sea Scrolls, will be the scholar-in-residence at Ohev Tzedek – Shaarei Torah during the weekend of July 9-10.

Mr. Gordon, son of an Orthodox rabbi is one of the 50,000 Karaite Jews in the world. Their beliefs profess that each person should read the Torah and develop his or her own ideas of how to live as a good Jew rather than to follow the halacha (Jewish Law) in the Talmud and in later rabbinic works.

According to a report in The New York Times, "The schism is said to have originated among the Jews of Baghdad about 1,200 years ago. Some trace the origins further back to the early sects of the Second Temple period, like the Sadducees."

A native of Chicago, Mr. Gordon has made his home in Jerusalem, Israel since 1993. He holds a Master’s degree in Biblical studies and a Bachelor’s degree in archaeology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

A prominent figure in the Karaite Jewish community, Gordon has written two popular books on the Hebrew origins of Christianity and is active in interfaith dialogue.

His website, nehemiaswall.com/ provides links to his various internet blogs as well as to his published works. Among the site’s goals is “Uncovering ancient Hebrew sources of faith.”

He will be delivering the sermon at Shabbat services on July 9, and joining the Torah study following the service. Services begin at 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday, Gordon will be lecturing at 10:30 a.m. on the topic of “The Dead Sea Scrolls as viewed through the eyes of a Karaite Jew.” A light brunch will be provided.

Both events will take place at the Temple, 5245 Glenwood Avenue in Boardman.

For reservations, call the Temple office at 330-758-2321. The service is free, and the Sunday event will have a $10.00 fee to help cover costs. Reservations are due by July 6.

Lithuanian mayor dismantles building made from Jewish headstones

(JTA) – The municipality of Vilnius in Lithuania began dismantling a Soviet-era structure made from Jewish headstones.

On June 22, Mayor Remigijus Šimašius removed the first stone from the structure housing an electricity and heating generator on Olandų Street, his office said in a statement.

The generator was built by the Soviet authorities of Lithuania between 1965 and 1968, when it was part of the Soviet Union. The headstones had been removed from a Jewish cemetery.

"After 26 years as an independent country it is now the time to remove these stones, which are a clear mark of disrespect to our Jewish community," Šimašius said. "The stones will be removed from the generator and moved to a memorial, which will be built on..." (Continued on p. 22)
Sara Wolkoff, 95, passed away with her family by her side on June 17, 2016, at Heritage Manor in Youngstown.

Sara was born Nov. 13, 1920, in Youngstown, the youngest child of Rebecca (Cohn) and Harry Harskowitz.

She was a 1938 graduate of East High School where she was in the National Honor Society. Following graduation, Sara worked at Isaly's and Automatic Sprinkler in Youngstown.


Sara was a member of the Beth Israel Temple Center in Warren, Beth Israel Sisterhood and the Warren Chapter of Hadassah, as well as Temple El Emeth Sisterhood. She enjoyed gardening, reading and baking, especially her chocolate cake, which was a family favorite.

Her most cherished times were those spent with her family. She was a loving daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and enjoyed going to her grandchildren’s little league games, basketball games, ice hockey games and dance recitals.

She leaves her daughter and son-in-law, Elyse and Harry Silverman of Liberty; her son, Howard of Cincinnati; and six grandchildren, Phillip (Lauri) Silverman, and Jonathan Silverman, all of Liberty, Devra Silverman of Savannah, Ga., and Michael (Stefani) Wolkoff, Melanie (Jeff) Blumenthal, and Blair (Mickey) Kamm, all of Cincinnati. She also leaves twin great-granddaughters, Addison and Cameron Silverman of Liberty; great-grandsons Jacob Blumenthal and Julian Wolkoff of Cincinnati; nieces Lenore Ackerman and Phyllis Perlman of Liberty, and Diane Engelhart of Silver Spring, Md. and many other nieces and nephews; as well as her best friend at Heritage Manor, Catherine Medovich.

Sara was predeceased by her brother, Louis (Minnie) Harskowitz; sisters Bess (Bernie) Chawenson and Pauline (Al) Nelson; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Milton and Lilyan Wolkoff and Dr. Jerry and Gail Wolkoff.

The family would like to thank the staff of Levy Gardens Assisted Living in Youngstown where Sara lived for two and a half years, Dr. Bruce Willner, and especially Gary Weiss, Cristal Vincent, and the nurses, aides and staff at Heritage Manor in Youngstown, for their loving care over the last four and a half years. Special thanks to Crossroads Hospice for their excellent care of Sara during the past six weeks.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Temple El Emeth or Heritage Manor in Youngstown.

Funeral services were held Sunday, June 19, 2016, at 11 a.m. with burial following at Beth Israel Cemetery.

The Jewish Labor Committee – on Orlando

The Jewish Labor Committee condemns the mass shooting in Orlando, FL, which targeted the LGBT community. We send our condolences to the families of those who were killed, and our wishes for a full recovery to those injured.

We stand in solidarity with the LGBT people who were the direct targets of this terrorist attack, and the larger communities that they represent, sadly, by this most recent act of terrorist violence. For this attack was not solely aimed at those who were in that club on that night, but by extension a much larger target.

This was not just an attack on the LGBT communities of Orlando, but on freedom itself, on the basic principles of cultural openness, diversity and tolerance. Indeed, our way of life.

But standing with the victims of this latest outrage is not enough. These attacks have to be themselves attacked on many fronts:

In the United States, serious gun control laws to restrict access to automatic weapons must be enacted on the federal and state level, and more serious penalties against those who own illegally-secured weapons, and use weapons in the commission of a crime, must be enacted. The power of the gun lobby must be challenged and curtailed. Too many times, easy access to weapons has led to them being in the hands of people with religious, political, racist or personal grudges who are taking them out against innocent victims.

Homophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia must be all be challenged wherever they rear their ugly heads, and we call on leaders in our communities and organizations to speak out clearly and consistently on this.

Internationally, Islamist extremism, with religious and political components, provides inspiration to as well as support for terrorist acts such as that in Orlando. The full weight of the free world must be brought to bear to break its hold in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere. At the same time, we recognize and remind others that radical Islamism is an extreme minority movement within the Muslim world, and does not represent the mainstream of Islam. We cannot allow the struggle against ISIS, Al Qaeda and other similar movements to devolve into or in any way legitimize Islamophobia.

It is time for Americans of every background to reject intolerance, and to come together and to cherish diversity, tolerance, and mutual respect as members of one community.

The Jewish Labor Committee, an independent secular organization, is the voice of the Jewish community in the labor movement and the voice of the labor movement in the Jewish community. Whether through its national office in New York or local offices and lay-led groups across the United States, the JLC enables the Jewish community and the trade union movement to work together on important issues of shared interest and concern, in pursuit of our shared commitment to economic and social justice.
El Emeth – July

Jewish Christian Bible Study with Pastor Juan Rivera and Rabbi Joseph Schonberger
Tuesday, July 5, 6:30 p.m.
New Life Church in Poland, Ohio.
This program will alternate monthly between El Emeth and New Life Church.

Annual Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, July 12, 7 p.m.
Committee annual reports will take place as well as the Installation of new officers. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

Indoor/Outdoor Picnic
Sunday, July 31
Come for Minyan at 5:45 p.m. with the picnic following at 6 p.m. Traditional picnic foods will be served and guests can choose to eat outdoors on our patio, or inside. Vegetarian options will be available. No charge for members; associate and non-members are $15. Entertainment too! R.S.V.P. to Temple by July 20.

Services every Shabbat morning at 9:30 a.m. Daily Minyan at 5:45 p.m. including Saturday. Friday morning Minyans at 7 a.m.

Outdoor Klezmer Shabbat Service
Friday, July 15. El Emeth’s annual Klezmer musical service will take place at the home of Sam and Terry Roth, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Klezmer musicians Lori Cahan-Simon, Steven Greenman, and Walt Mahovlich will join Rabbi Schonberger in leading us in a spirited Shabbat evening service. A light supper will follow.
Reservations are requested to the Temple office by July 8.

Remembering the war years

I just read an email titled “Children of the ’30s or ’40s “The Last Ones.” Interesting title, I didn’t quite understand what they were getting at until I read further. Now this is geared to us old folks but you younger ones can enjoy also, I do believe.

“Born in the 1930s and early ’40s, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the ‘last ones.’ We were born toward the end of the depression and during the dark time when the war in Europe was escalating and we were being drawn into it reluctantly.

We remember Pearl Harbor, and wonder why more attention isn’t paid to December 7, 1941, the “Date which will live in infamy” as President Franklin D. Roosevelt said.

I know I was seven and in second grade. I know that my parents listened to the radio and read the newspapers intently for all the latest news.

In those days at the movies, we watched newsreels of the war between showing the films. That is how we kept up on what was happening on the war front. If there was any information about the Holocaust, I never heard my family speak of it.

I remember that my dad, Sam Bonow, who was too young for World War I and too old for World War II, joined the Civil Defense and volunteered in our neighborhood. There were times when we were not permitted to have any light showing out of our windows, and Dad would canvas the neighborhood in his tan coveralls, with a helmet, a whistle, and his gun strapped to his side. He walked the neighborhood to see if anyone had light showing out their windows. We just thought it was exciting, not sure what Mom thought.

I know now, that he had two guns, one a Spanish gun from the first World War, but I can’t remember the other one which was also a revolver.

When he died, my mother donated both guns to the Arms Museum, because she didn’t want them in the house.
He also did something like that in the early ’70s when he had a citizens band radio, and he and Marshall would help with parades, etc.

More of that topic some other time.

Getting back to the war days, I also vaguely remember the ration books for everything from sugar to shows to stoves. I still remember going out to lunch in downtown Johnstown and using the books for something, but may- be that was for shopping. I remember taking money to school; I think it was a dime to purchase stamps to fill up a book to buy war bonds. Anyone else remember that?

Then we used to peel the silver off the gum wrappers and make a ball of silver to donate to the war effort. I believe that people donated all kinds of metals that were recycled to use to build guns, planes and tanks. At least that is what we were told. Anything and everything for the war effort.

I also remember the signs with Uncle Sam with his finger on his mouth to show no talking with the slogan “Loose lips sink ships.” As you can see I probably could go on for a while and I will get back to this article some other time. Cause, I do believe I have to earn my keep as publicity chairman somehow.

Sisterhood is gearing up for the new year this month. I am sure the program vice presidents are busy checking out dates for meetings and trying to put together new and interesting programs. I know that Debbi and Paula will be meeting to confer about the direction of Sisterhood for this coming year. Sisterhood may be a little quiet but she never sleeps.

Also don’t forget to send in for your Leagrams and also if you have any celebrations, let the Leagram Chair have the necessary information. Don’t forget to patronize Sisterhood’s funds to help boost our treasury; Children’s Nachas, Flower Fund, Leagram Books, Mitzvah Fund and Torah Fund. Until we meet again, soon. Shalom.
Celebrating 150 years of Temple Rodef Sholom

Celebration Kick-off
Friday, July 8, 6 p.m.
Shabbat Service in the Sanctuary
With Guest Speaker Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl
Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth-El, San Antonio, TX
Sermon Topic: “The amazing transformation of American Reform Judaism”
With guest musician Todd Herzog,
Cantor, Singer, and Songwriter
Dinner follows in Strouss Hall
The evening concludes with a concert by Todd Herzog.

There is no charge for members but a $10 charge for non-members.
Reservations (with accompanying check) are required by Wednesday, July 5 to the Temple office.

Special guests to highlight Rodef’s 150th Anniversary kick-off

Co-chairs Hilari Lipkin and Elliot Legow call it the “Sesqui Zone.” Rodef Sholom’s Sesquicentennial — the 150th anniversary of the synagogue’s founding, which kicks off on July 8, with a special service and special guests

Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl became Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth-El, in San Antonio, Texas, in 2002, after serving for 26 years as its Senior Rabbi.

Previously, he was a Chaplain in the United States Army and the Rabbi of Temple B’nai Israel (The Henry Cohen Memorial) in Galveston, Texas.

A native of Sharon, Pennsylvania, he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1961. He was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Cincinnati in 1967.

He earned a Doctor of Hebrew Letters degree in 1975 from HUC-JIR, and two honorary doctorates including degree in 1992, including one from Oblate School of Theology, a Roman Catholic graduate school in San Antonio.

For six years, he was editor of the Journal of Reform Judaism, now the CCAR Journal, the official quarterly publication of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

During the summer of 2003, he was the Theologian-in-Residence at Chautauqua Institution, in New York state. Subsequently, he has also been a lecturer and a staff member of its Department of Religion each summer.

He is also the author of Making the Timeless Timely: Thoughts and Reflections of a Contemporary Reform Rabbi. His second book is titled Boundaries, Not Barriers: Some Uniquely Jewish Perspectives on Life.

Todd Herzog is an award-winning singer and the founder of the Desert Gathering Jewish Music Fest, now in its fourth year.

In addition to being a cantorial soloist at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, AZ, Todd Herzog is also the author of Making the Timeless Timely: Thoughts and Reflections of a Contemporary Reform Rabbi. His second book is titled Boundaries, Not Barriers: Some Uniquely Jewish Perspectives on Life.

His song “You And I” reached number two on the Billboard Smooth Jazz chart, and he has worked with top songwriters and performers, including Burt Bacharach and Dave Koz. His children’s album, “Everyday Blessings,” was chosen by PJ Library to be distributed to 7,500 families across the country.

In describing his work, Mr. Herzog says, “I provide music for Shabbat services and community events. I also have five albums of original acoustic, spiritual pop music. My goal is to bring communities together through concerts, services and artist-in-residences which raise people’s awareness and appreciation of one another and of the arts.”

He received a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Vocal Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1994.
Friday, August 12, 6 p.m.
Dr. Roger Berkowitz, son of Dr. Sidney Berkowitz, beloved Rabbi of Rodef Sholom from 1936-1983, will speak on “The Legacy of Rabbi Sidney M. Berkowitz.”

This presentation will review the remarkable career of Sidney M. Berkowitz, Rabbi of Congregation Rodef Sholom from 1947 until 1982.

His public accomplishments were legendary, mainly based upon some extraordinary human traits. One hopes this discussion will bring back memories to those who knew him and will introduce others to one of this Congregation’s greatest spiritual and community leaders.

An abbreviated Shabbat service will precede the lecture.

Roger M. Berkowitz was born in Denver, Colorado, and was brought to Youngstown by his parents Rabbi Sidney and Pauline Berkowitz in 1946 at the age of two. Educated in Youngstown public schools (Harding, Hayes and Rayen), he then studied at Western Reserve University, followed by a master’s degree and Ph.D. in the history of art from the University of Michigan.

Roger was a member of the curatorial staff of the Toledo Museum of Art, serving later as director for the last five years of his 30-year museum tenure.

Upon retirement, he and his wife Rhoda, a retired professor of law, moved to Pittsboro, North Carolina, where they have lived for the past 12 years. They have been traveling extensively, while Roger also serves as a trustee of the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

All are cordially invited to attend. An Oneg will follow the presentation.

There is no charge for the event, however, an R.S.V.P. is required by calling the Temple at (330) 744-5001 or email rodefsholom@sbcglobal.net by Tuesday, August 9, at 4 p.m.

Social Action Committee
Volunteers Needed
Second Harvest Food Bank
Wednesday, August 3, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
2805 Salt Springs Road, Youngstown
Please contact the Temple office at (330) 744-5001 to volunteer your time.

Outdoor Shabbat Service
Friday, August 5, 6 p.m.
Wick Park
Speaker: Gail Saunders-Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, Beeghly College of Education, YSU.

Dr. Saunders-Smith will speak to us about literacy and the roles it plays in social justice and how it might combat poverty and racism.

A pot-luck picnic will follow in Wick Park Pavilion. Bring an item based on first letter of last name:
Letter A - D – your choice of entree
Letter E - H – your choice of salad
Letter I - M – your choice of dessert
Letter N - Z – your choice of side dish
R.S.V.P. to the Temple office at (330) 744-5001 no later than Monday, August 1.

Save the Dates
Sunday, September 11 at 4:00 P.M.
Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 P.M.
Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 P.M.
Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00 P.M.
Details to follow
Kinky Boots

Back by popular demand, the smash-hit “Kinky Boots,” returns to Playhouse Square for one week only. Winner of six Tony® Awards including Best Musical, this inspirational story follows a struggling shoe factory owner who works to turn his business around with help from Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Together, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation, and tip for bus driver. Dinner on your own.

Date: Sunday, August 28, 2016 | Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 2:30 p.m. | Return: 10:30 p.m.
$75/Member $85/Non Member

Steel Magnolias

At Truvy’s beauty shop, the women are all sassy and brass. Through a cloud of hairspray and over the buzz of blow dryers, six southern spitfires gather each week to gossip and support each other through thick and thin. But those bonds are about to be tested when M’Lynn and her daughter Shelby face a life-changing event. Infused with heart and humor, “Steel Magnolias” is a hilarious story of love, loss, and enduring friendship. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation, and tip for bus driver. Dinner on your own.

Date: Sunday, August 21 | Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 11:00 a.m. | Return: 7:30 p.m.
$75/Member $85/Non Member

Sophie’s Choice

Meryl Streep received an Academy Award for her portrayal of Sophie Zawisowska in this penetrating drama set in 1947 post-World War II Brooklyn. Kevin Kline plays her all-consuming lover, Nathan. The story revolves around Sophie’s struggle as a Polish-Catholic immigrant in the United States who had survived a Nazi concentration camp. The lover’s drama unfolds through the observation of a friend and would-be writer, Stingo. As the trio grows closer, Stingo discovers the hidden truths that they each harbor, resulting in a narrative that is both captivating and moving. Price includes light lunch and movie.

Date: Thursday, July 28
Time: Noon-2:00 p.m. | Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$5/Member $7/Non Member | $10 after July 26

The Queen

Winner of the Academy Award for Best Actress, Helen Mirren gives a spellbinding performance in “The Queen”, the provocative story behind one of the most public tragedies of our time—the sudden death of Princess Diana. In the wake of Diana’s death, the very private and tradition-bound Queen Elizabeth finds herself in conflict with the slickly modern and image-conscious Tony Blair. “The Queen” takes you inside the private chambers of the Royal Family and the British government for a captivating look at a vulnerable human being in her darkest hour, as a nation grieving for its People’s Princess waits to see what its leaders will do. Price includes light lunch and movie.

Date: Thursday, August 25
Time: Noon-2:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$5/Member $7/Non Member | $10 after August 23

Sip and Paint

“Your are a sip away from a Masterpiece!” Once you walk in the door the party will begin. An easel, paint, canvas, aprons, snacks, wine and an instructor will be provided. No experience is required.

Date: Monday, August 29
Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$30/Member $35/Non Member

For more information, contact: Darlene Muller 330-746-3250 Ext. 106 or Dmuller@jccyoungstown.org.

For more on Youth Programming, contact Emily Collins 330-746-3250 Ext. 152 or Ecollins@jccyoungstown.org.

Camp JCC

There is still time to register for Camp JCC! Our fun-filled summer camp is now underway and there are still spots available for JCC Day Camp and several Specialty Camps. Register now to take part in the valley’s best Summer Camp including Specialty Camps like Magic Camp, and Newscaster Camp.

Go to jccyoungstown.org for details.

Join the fun at Camp JCC!

Freshly baked Challah bread for Shabbat at Camp JCC!!
**SHLICHIM**

For more on Shlichim programming, contact Gon Erez: 330-746-3250 ext. 195 or gerez@jewishyoungstown.org

**Free event: Living Room Lecture**

This is a great opportunity to learn more about Israel. Gon and Shay, our Israeli Shlichim will come to your home and deliver a lecture on a variety of Israeli topics. You provide the space, Gon and Shay will bring their wealth of knowledge about Israel.

Minimum participants: 4 Adults

**A Taste of Israel — An in-home cooking lesson**

Want to learn how to make traditional Israeli food in your own home? Gon and Shay, our Israeli Shlichim will teach you how to make a delicious Israeli meal in your own kitchen. They will provide all the ingredients needed and even wash the dishes!

Cost: $15 per person
Minimum participants: 4 Adults

To schedule your cooking lesson or lecture contact: Gon Erez 330.746.3250 ext. 159 or gerez@jewishyoungstown.org

**LIZ RUBINO**

**STUDIOS AT THE JCC**

For more information on the Studio offerings contact: Liz Rubino 330-746-3250 ext. 159 or lrubino@jccyoungstown.org

**Drama Therapy (Ages 5-Adult)**

Drama therapy is an active, experiential approach to facilitating change. Through storytelling, purposeful improvisation, and performance, participants are invited to rehearse desired behaviors, practice being in relationship, expand and find flexibility between life roles, and perform the change they wish to be and see in the world.

55-minute sessions
$55/Member $65/Non Member

**Jr. Voice Lessons (Ages 5-8)**

Introduction to voice for youth is taught by qualified LRS teaching apprentices. Liz Rubino is available for an additional fee upon request.

30-minute sessions.
$20/Member $30/Non Member

**Jewish Community Center**

**FITNESS**

For more information on Fitness and Personal Training, contact Keith Harry 330-746-3250 ext. 182 or kharry@jccyoungstown.org.

**Personal Training for Cancer Survivors**

The JCC offers Personal Training for women who have battled any kind of cancer. Training will include strengthening of the affected areas through a variety of resistance and movement exercises. Our nationally certified personal training staff will create a program based on individual needs and goals.

We can’t wait to hear from you!

$20/Member $30/Non Member

**GROUP EXERCISE**

For more on Group Fitness, contact Shelia Cornell, groupx@jccyoungstown.org or 330-746-3250 ext. 184

**New Class!**

**Swing Ballroom Dancing-with Lynda McPhail**

Singles and couples welcome

Date: Every Friday from July 8-August 21
Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Location: JCC Group Exercise Room
Cost: $60/Member $75/Non Member
Register and pre-pay at the Bursar’s Office 330-746-3250 ext. 195

**Classes we Love!**

**Zumba!**

Dance to an upbeat mix of Salsa, Merengue, Mambo, Hip Hop, Reggaeton, and much more. This class is a party and a huge calorie-burner all in one.

Date: Tues/Thurs
Time: 5:30-6:25 p.m.

**Cardio Low**

This low-impact fitness class will challenge your cardiovascular system and strengthen your muscles without putting stress on your joints.

Date: Mon/Wed
Time: 9:00-9:55 a.m.

**AQUATICS**

For more information on Aquatics, contact Caroline McDermott, 330-746-3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jccyoungstown.org

**Learn-to-Swim**

Classes are taught by trained Learn-to-Swim Instructors. The JCC Aquatics department offers swim lessons throughout the year in private and small group settings.

**Learn-to-Swim ages 3 & up**

The deadline to register is the 25th of the previous month. (July 25 for August classes)

Classes are closed when we reach 12 participants. Once lessons reach their maximum each month, a waitlist for additional classes will be taken. Please register early.

$25/Member $40 Non Member | Min: 3, Max 4-6 (depending on level)

**Private Swim Lessons**

Private swim lessons provide the greatest flexibility among lesson options. The one-on-one attention provided through these lessons creates a personalized setting for learning. Private lessons are great for swimmers of any age from the rookie swimmer trying to learn the basics to the seasoned swimmer looking to improve their skills. Private lessons are also great for adults who want to learn-to-swim or even triathletes looking to improve their skills.

1:1 student/teacher ratio
4 lessons @ 30 minutes
$99/Member | $110/Non Member

**P.A.L.S. – Persons with Autism who Love to Swim**

**Private Swim Lessons**

Private swim lessons provide the greatest flexibility among lesson options. The one-on-one attention provided through these lessons creates a personalized setting for learning. Private lessons are great for swimmers of any age from the rookie swimmer trying to learn the basics to the seasoned swimmer looking to improve their skills. Private lessons are also great for adults who want to learn-to-swim or even triathletes looking to improve their skills.

1:1 student/teacher ratio
4 lessons @ 30 minutes
$99/Member | $110/Non Member

**P.A.L.S. – Persons with Autism who Love to Swim**

Private Swim Lessons

The JCC is proud to offer free swim lessons that are especially geared towards persons on the autism spectrum.

Our instructors have gone through special training in order ensure they are more than capable of teaching children with autism. Instructors will be using advanced techniques to connect with and aid autistic children during lessons.

Those wishing to enroll in the JCC P.A.L.S. program must apply to be on the waiting list by visiting our website at www.jccyoungstown.org and finding the PALS program under the aquatics tab.

**Family Swim**

Once each quarter we will have a family swim free for those who have a family member on the autism spectrum.
The ninth day of the month of Av is a day of fasting and national mourning in memory of the destruction of Jerusalem and the two temples and is set in Jewish tradition as a memorial day for the double tragedy occurred, oddly enough, on the same date.

The first Temple was destroyed and burned by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, on the Ninth of Av in 586 BCE and the Second Temple was destroyed and set on fire by the Roman general Titus, on the Ninth of Av in 70 CE.

The Talmud teaches us that the First Temple was destroyed because of incest, idolatry and bloodshed, while the Second Temple was destroyed because of baseless hatred. Sages have gone even further and said that baseless hatred outweighed those three terrible sins.

A long time has passed since then, but it seems as if the lesson hasn't been learned. In recent months in Israel we've seen an escalation in terror acts against Israelis. Life has always been hard to handle in that little piece of land, but for a lot of people it has begun to feel unbearable. The main reason, as many will tell, isn't the terror by itself nor the lack of security. The main reason for frustration in Israeli society is the internal baseless hatred, which once again threatens to destroy us from the inside.

Two terror attacks occurred both in Tel Aviv and Orlando in mid-June. In Tel Aviv, two armed Palestinians entered a restaurant and opened fire in all directions- killing four innocent Israelis and injuring 16. In Orlando, an American-born citizen opened fire and killed 49 innocent people and injured 53. A lot of people say that the reality in Israel is “finally striking American in the face,” as the term “Lone Wolf assailant” and its complexity is seared into the consciousness of the American people.

As an Israeli who lives here in America, I’m exposed to the reactions (to the terror attacks) on the news and social media in both places. While here in the United States, the discussions revolved around the issues of gun control and the ways to handle the Muslim Community, In Israel, which is “much more experienced” in this “daily routine” — we've experienced (once again) a great portion of domestic hatred that these horrific actions cause.

What kind of domestic hatred am I referring to? Not between Jews and Arabs (we had that for years), but among Jews against themselves.

Only a few minutes after the shooting in Tel Aviv, when the wounded were put into ambulances, the social media was boosted with comments of Israeli right-wing extremist that expressed their joy that this shooting attack occurred in Tel Aviv “where all the lefties live.”

Those weren’t Palestinians celebrating their successful attack (although many Palestinians were celebrating in Gaza and Hebron), those were Jewish-Israelis who were shamelessly glad about their own people being murdered, just because they don’t share their political point of view.

This isn’t the first time that we have experienced baseless hatred in Israeli society. Just a few weeks ago, a right-wing protest took place with banners saying: “a good leftie is a dead leftie.” But that’s just one example. Unfortunately, there are many more. It seems as if the bar is at its lowest point right now, and in my opinion, it is much more dangerous than any terror group that seeks our destruction.

If this is truly the time for America to learn the about the reality in Israel, if in the aftermath, the United States will learn the complexity of our lives, and what measures must be taken to fight terror, then I can only hope that this won't cause a rise in the baseless hatred here as well.

The real challenge for all of us is not just the fight against terror, it’s the struggle for the image of Western society. If we let hate control this fight, than they’ve already won.
Sunday May 15, 2016 Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood had our Annual Donor Brunch & Fashion show. It was fabulous! I want to again thank everyone who made this such a wonderful event with her hard work and dedication!!!

Rites, Rituals & Ruach

What excitement and an honor I had attending two WRJ camps. The first WRJ Central District Retreat (Kalah) GUCI (Goldman Union Camp Institute) was in Zionsville, Indiana. The second one was Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) which took place in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

As an adult going to camp for the first time, I had that beautiful feeling one gets when you arrive somewhere and you are so warmly welcomed by friends who you haven’t seen in some time. What an unbelievable experience! While at camp, I had the opportunity to learn about leadership and learning to lead.

Learning and leadership are connected and the perfect place to accomplish both was by attending the WRJ Assembly, District Central Convention and these two WRJ camps. I will be sharing my experiences with the entire Sisterhood. All of this new found knowledge will strengthen the role of all women in our Jewish Community.

Eat, pray, love. While someone wrote a book by this name prior to my camp participation, those weekends at camp became the most wonderful and memorable Shabbats — filled with plentiful food, meaningful prayer, and an abundance of love.

When I can motivate and inspire other members to be more involved, we women together are creating an amazing Sisterhood. Inspiration and creativity can implement new approaches and ideas, which can result in new projects.

I have had many opportunities to hear different perspectives, strategies and ideas that will help me communicate better with the committees that our Sisterhood is involved with.

Being an WRJ executive board member, a large global network, provides me the chance to make contributions, give support, and learn from others. It was nice to meet with women from all over the United States and other countries. We are united by common challenges.

It is always amazing how the members of the WRJ organization, who are in charge of these camp events, can coordinate 150 to 200 women very quickly into teams to accomplish the agenda. I have learned, regardless of size or location, each Sisterhood and congregation all face the same fears and create the same successes.

I cannot overstate how powerful and moving it was to be in a room full of other WRJ women. I will never forget this great learning experience that I will share to empower our Sisterhood.

“Words from the heart go to the heart.” Talmud

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next event!

With love and Sisterhood,
Your Sisterhood President,
Sally Blau

Donor committee members

Because space in the June Journal was limited, the names of all those who had worked so hard on the Donor Luncheon could not be included.

They are as follows: Sally Blau, Nancy Burnett, Laurel Chevlen, Jodie Damioli, Jeanne Fibus, Melissa Bateman-Hively, Roslyn Hixson, Dar Hosta James, Ellen Zlotnick-Lamb, Lisa Levy, Sandy Mallen, Darlene Muller, Kandy Rawl, Norma Rothman, Helen Sacherman, Abigail Scharf, Samie Winick, Helene Zlotnick.
Save the date —

Outstanding Jewish speakers to highlight 2016 Inaugural Event

When the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation kicks off its Inaugural Event on behalf of the 2016 Combined Jewish Appeal on September 8, outstanding speakers will headline this year’s program to be held for the first time at the DeYor Center.

**Dr. Will Recant** is the Assistant Executive Vice-President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee-International Development Program. Among his responsibilities is the development and coordination of projects relating to the Rescue, Relief, and Renewal of Jewish communities worldwide.

Before joining JDC, Dr. Recant served as the executive director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, where he established the Congressional Caucus for Ethiopian Jews and advocated on behalf of the Ethiopian Jewry movement. The end result of his efforts was Operation Solomon.

Once the airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel was complete, AAEJ closed its doors, and Dr. Recant was the natural choice to represent JDC in Washington, DC. During his tenure there, Cuba’s government began the process of revising its constitution, paving the way for JDC to secure a license to initiate community development and renewal within the country’s Jewish communities.

Subsequently he was named the JDC desk director for Latin America, playing a key role in the international effort to shore up the Argentinian Jewish community during that country’s economic crisis. As Desk Director for Europe, he was instrumental in developing Jewish renewal programs in the former Soviet bloc countries that eventually entered the sphere of Western Europe, including Hungary and the Baltic States.

Dr. Recant was a catalyst in forming twinning programs between North American Jewish Federations and communities in the Baltics, where the Jewish communities have long suffered from economic deprivation. There, the JDC’s work focuses mainly on social service programs, employment assistance, and support for the elderly poor.

He holds both a Master’s Degree and Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University. His doctoral dissertation focused on the difference between Soviet Jews who made aliyah to Israel and those who emigrated to North America and Europe.

**Alla Magas**, 30, was born in Poltava, Ukraine, and until the age of 13 did not know she had any connection to the Jewish people.

When this news came, she plunged into Jewish community life and hasn’t left it since.

A member of the Jewish youth club, later a madricha, and then a student of the Jewish University in Moscow, Alla determinedly set on her Jewish journey and every day learned something new about her people, tradition and culture – everything she was deprived of as a child.

Having returned from her studies in Moscow “Mahon” to her native town of Poltava in 2005, Alla became the leader of the Progressive Judaism movement there. In her position, Alla devoted herself to developing youth and volunteer programs in her home community.

In 2006, she completed JDC’s Met-suda Jewish Young Leadership program, which she says changed her life and gave it a new direction. Soon after this, Alla moved to Kharkov — a city with a Jewish community of 40,000 — to head the Jewish Youth Association there.

In this position, she developed youth leadership, volunteerism and taught Jewish tradition, and she also became one of the initiators of the Teen Movement in the Limmud FSU (originally the “Former Soviet Union.”

Alla developed youth activities in Ukraine, and took Ukrainian teens to BBJO conferences. Last year at the BBYO symposium, Alla was awarded the David Bitker Unsung Hero International Advisor of the Year Award.

Today, Alla Magas heads the Active Jewish Teens network in the FSU with over 1,200 participants in 40 cities.

Look for Inaugural Event invitations to be coming in the mail and for more information in the August Jewish Journal.

Sen. Brown leads bipartisan call to honor Rabbi Heschel

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) is leading a bipartisan group of senators in urging President Obama to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, his leadership on interfaith dialogue, his theological scholarship, and his role as a public intellectual.

A refugee from Hitler’s Europe, Rabbi Heschel escaped Poland a few weeks before the Nazi invasion and came to the United States on a visa secured for him by Julian Morgenstern, the former president of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Heschel saw the teachings of the Hebrew prophets as a call for social action in the United States. This call inspired his many activist works, including joining Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the third march on Selma and serving as a consultant to the Second Vatican Council as part of the Church’s effort to repair the relationships between Jews and Catholics.

“After fleeing persecution, Rabbi Heschel took it upon himself to courageously speak out for social justice, civil rights, and tolerance for people of all races and religions,” Brown said.

“His uncompromising social activism continues to serve as a model for us today, and awarding Rabbi Heschel the Presidential Medal of Freedom is a fitting honor for his important legacy.”

“Thank you to Senator Sherrod Brown and his colleagues for leading the effort to honor my father, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel,” said Susan-nah Heschel, daughter Rabbi Heschel and the Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. “My father would have been deeply moved to be honored by the country that saved his life. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is an extraordinary honor to him and also a great tribute to the vitality of Jewish life in our country.”

“The heroic role of President Morgenstern and Hebrew Union College in rescuing Jewish scholars from Nazi persecution and certain death during the Holocaust is a source of inspiration today,” said Rabbi Aaron Panken, Ph.D., Hebrew Union College President. “Rabbi Heschel’s enduring legacy challenges us all to work together to eradicate all forms of injustice, intolerance, and inhumanity.”

The letter was also signed by U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Al Franken (D-MN), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Gary Peters (D-MI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Bob Casey (D-PA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Jeff Merkley (D), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).
Henry Kinast’s “survivor’s story” – a traveling exhibit and film – shown for the first time at JCC

When Henry Kinast was separated from his family at the age of 12 and thrown into forced labor in a Nazi factory, he could have had no idea not only that he would survive — along with his father and brother — but that another four generations of Kinasts, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, would witness the unveiling of a new exhibit featuring his story and the premiere of a film, “Henry Kinast — from Ruin to redemption: A Survivor’ Story.”

But it wasn’t just family who packed the Jewish Community Center to celebrate the occasion. From a soon-to-be Kinast great-grandchild to centenarian Sister Jerome Corcoran, 100 years of witnesses fulfilled the significance of keeping Holocaust education for generations to come.

To begin the program, the more than 250 attendees were welcomed by Rabbi Joseph Schonberger and Rochelle Vegh Miller, both children of survivors and co-chairs of the Jewish Community Relations Council Holocaust Education and Commemoration Task Force.

Greetings were offered by The Honorable Scott Riedmann, consul general of the U.S. Consulate in Leipzig, Germany.

The area served by this consulate includes Buchenwald where more than 70 years ago, Mr. Kinast was imprisoned. Consul Riedmann, said, “Although it is a small world, the world is not flat. We’re all interconnected. What one does reflects on everybody.

He added, “the best defense is learning from the past.

In explaining the value of Holocaust education, Jesse McClain, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation’s specialist, reminded the audience that "The Holocaust is bigger than a Jewish issue. It’s a human issue. It’s important to know what humans can do to each other," he said.

By making this program available to all private and public schools, thousands of students will be able to learn the horrifying story of man’s inhumanity to man, Mr. McClain said.

Both the film and the traveling exhibit were written by Dr. Helene Sinnreich, director of the Canter for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University. Her extensive research in Poland, has helped create her wealth of knowledge.

Larry Painter, the JCC’s graphic design director, designed the exhibit (picted on page 1)

The film was produced by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and ScreenPlay, Inc.

The audience rose to give a standing ovation to Carmen Vecchione of Boardman and James Griffith of New Castle who were members of the U.S. Army unit that liberated Buchenwald.

Today, Henry Kinast lives happily with his wife, Gisela, enjoying frequent visits from members of his extended family.

Sandy Kessler (continued from p. 8)

this past year to understand the impact you have made. The programs have kept the people of this community informed of cultures around the world, the lives of Israelis, concerns of aging members and many other topics. Based on the successful attendances at these programs, it is easy to judge the quality of these programs and how well you have touched the passions of our community. Many of these programs have involved the Israeli Shlichim which you have been so careful in recruiting, making sure that they fit into our community and then steering them into a direction to create their own programs which have been so well received.

Many of your long-term visions were not met with open arms. But you kept to your vision. Honestly, what has impressed me most has been your temperament to those who have disagreed with your management style, some very vocally. You have always managed to keep your cool and tried to understand the nature of their criticism. This temperament is a tribute to your parents and your upbringing which of course the Davis family witnessed up close throughout our lives at Ohev Tzedek.

In conclusion, at times like this all one can say is thank you for all your efforts and wish you nothing but the best for the next segment of your life which from where I stand looks to be a brilliant future.

And today we look back at yet another blessing. For the past 10 years you held a position doing something that you have had a life-long passion; helping Jews and non-Jews in your community. Your efforts have made a difference. Our community is better because of your leadership. You now get to live the rest of your life knowing that. How cool is that?

Sandy, Kol ha kavod
Job Well Done
Thank you and Best Wishes.

Harold Davis
JCC President
Choosing a bathing suit to complement one’s body type can be a daunting experience — especially for those seeking more modesty than what’s found on most department store racks. But the swimwear fit and style experts at HydroChic have designed the perfect swimwear options that can fit and flatter any woman’s frame.

HydroChic is a line of modest swimwear for real bodies, that’s getting noticed around the world. From top fashion magazines to Mayim Bialik to a 15 year-old who recently started a campaign on change.org pleading retailers to offer more modest fashions, the topic of modest fashion is hot.

Co-founded by Daniella Teutsch and Sara Wolf, and launched in May, 2008, the idea of a new swimsuit line came to them one day at the Jersey Shore as they watched women of all ages slather themselves with sunscreen and don sloppy men’s T-shirts over their traditional bathing suits to protect their skin from sun damage.

That’s when it struck them that women could find swim fashions in styles that draw attention to their best features, balancing proportions for the most flattering fit.

Today, HydroChic is celebrating its seventh year as a leader in the modest swimwear category. The company offers a wide variety of coverage styles from sleeveless to long-sleeve swim dresses, skorts, skirts, shorts, and leggings in fashion-forward colors. The company also offers coordinating pieces from the collection, so a woman can easily transition from swim to the gym.

Now, there are options for women who want to look chic at the beach or pool, without feeling embarrassed about body flaws, or to simply protect themselves from sun damage.

According to most women, they’d rather visit the dentist than try on bathing suits. But online purchases allow shop-at-home options.

The swimwear comes in chlorine proof and ultra-chlorine-resistant fabrics, that are offered in certified UPF 50+ sun protection, in missy and plus sizes.

Thus, sun-sensitive ladies can catch some rays, without looking or feeling like a boiled lobster afterwards. Your swimsuit can provide protection while being stylish too.

More shapely women can forget the plus-size swimwear of old: shapeless, dowdy, inevitably black. Today’s suits for full-figured women are made to flatter in stylish cuts and high-octane colors and prints. As for the basic black suit? It’s still out there, in designs that are sleek and chic.

Choosing a swimsuit in harmony with one’s body type can make a dramatic difference. Shoppers who know their type can look. Determining one’s body type is relatively easy: all that’s required is a measuring tape. In just a few steps, women can get a precise sense of the way they are proportioned.

HydroChic is available at select stores throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Israel, and online at www.hydrochic.com. Prices range from $29.50 to $90.

The company has recently introduced a line of modest swimwear especially for girls who themselves or their parents are looking for less-revealing beachwear.