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Musings with Mary Lou

Do You Remember?

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Do you forget words? Do you forget where you put things? Do you ever walk into a room and forget why you were there in the first place? Well, welcome to the crowd, you are definitely not alone.

You could have a couple reactions to this phenomenon, depending on your age. For instance, “I am so dumb,” or the favorite, “I'm getting old!” Now, neither of those thoughts is very complimentary to yourself, so forget them. As we get older, our brains become so overloaded that stored information gets in the way of our mouths. As far as being dumb, we are actually too smart for our own good. We are probably thinking deep thoughts and therefore blurred out the other information.

Not remembering names of people is at the top of the list, for me and many others. For instance, to bring back a fond memory, whenever my husband Alvin and I were out walking, maybe in downtown Youngstown, we would meet someone from his youth. I always knew if they would stop to chat I would say hello and then sort of slowly walk away because I didn’t want to embarrass him because he certainly would not remember their names. That ever happen to you?

It is so embarrassing when you meet someone you know and want them to meet your husband, and you look them square in the eye and become so flustered you can’t remember your husband's name. Oy. It shouldn’t happen to you.

Does this happen to you? In a conversation with someone, you start to talk about this great restaurant, raving about how wonderful it was and for the life of you, you can’t remember the name of the restaurant, or you try to get around this elusive name by giving the location, what you ate, all in the hopes your friend will remember the name. Nine times out of ten they won’t remember either.

Then you say to yourself, I'm losing it. So what is “it”? Just remember, you have lost nothing – your thought process is too full to let the words out.

Then the other example of forgetting: You are sitting in the living room, nice and cozy, and you remember you have to go fix something in the other room. So you get up, put your book down, and walk to the other room, scratch your head and say, “Now, why did I come in here?” Sometimes it helps to count to 10 slowly, and if that doesn’t work, go back to the chair and sit down. After you get comfortable, you will remember and have to get back up. Sheesh.

Our memories play so many tricks on us that we can't begin to fathom how it works. Our brains are filled with so many thoughts it’s a wonder we don’t get them mixed up more and more. I try and keep the good thoughts in the front, but now and then something else worms its way in and it gets harder and harder to move them out. Our memories are very important to us and if, every once in a while, we forget something or a name, the important thing is we do remember at the end and we will keep those happy thoughts with us always. Believe me, even when I give someone a piece of my mind, there is more there just waiting to surface. So, anyway, even if you can’t find the words, you still have more on your mind and brain to bring out another day. Just laugh when your mind plays tricks on you. Laughter is the best medicine no matter what.

Now, where did I put my cell phone this time?

Liptalk: Thank You For Your Support

A Message from Andy Lipkin

Federation Executive Vice-President

The last couple of months have been emotional for me. As many of you know, I had heart surgery in March. Just learning I needed surgery was emotional, but the timing was also upsetting. My surgery was scheduled for two days after my daughter’s wedding.

But during this very stressful time in my life, my family was there for me. My wife Hilari took time off from her job, my daughter Rachel and my new son-in-law Scott postponed their honeymoon, and my son Sean spent two weeks with us. Their never-ending support means so much to me, and demonstrates the true meaning of family.

My Jewish community family was also there for me. I was overwhelmed by the text messages, emails, get well cards, and phone calls. Members of the community even provided two weeks’ worth of meals for us.

So, I want to say thank you. I'm grateful every day for my family and my Jewish community family. Your support means the world to me. It helped me get through a very tough time in my life.

And that’s what we do in our local Jewish community. We're there for each other. And Federation and its agencies are here to help through your donations to the Annual Campaign.

For example, recently, Jewish Family Services delivered 25 Passover baskets to families and individuals in need; the Jewish Community Relations Council’s annual Yom Hashoah commemorations honored survivors in two moving ceremonies; Heritage Manor and Levy Gardens both hosted Passover Seders for residents/tenants and their families; and Federation’s security upgrades are ensuring all are safe on our 18-acre campus.

But it doesn’t stop there. We’re continuously striving to make the Federation and its agencies better and to ensure our offerings serve the needs of our local Jewish community.

Levy Gardens, thanks to a generous donation, has 32 new custom-made dining room chairs, ensuring a comfortable dining experience for tenants. At Heritage Manor, a dedicated adult day services director was recently hired to focus her attention solely on the 15 to 20 program participants each week. A new program, Music and Memory, is also in the works at Heritage Manor. It enables those struggling with Alzheimer’s, dementia, and other cognitive and physical challenges to reconnect with the world through music-triggered memories. Community volunteers are being recruited to help with this program. The JFS offices and Heritage Manor’s offices and lobby are undergoing renovations to better serve their staff, residents, and clients. Also, a new security door is being installed at Heritage Manor to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. Commercials for both Levy Gardens and Heritage Manor are being aired on WKBN to educate the community about what they offer.

JCRC held a newly-created Lox and Legislators breakfast legislative reception on May 13. All local, state, and federal legislators and their staff were invited. We made positive connections with them, and they learned more about what Federation and its agencies offer. The JCRC’s advocacy efforts have kicked into high gear, both on the state and federal levels. At the state level, Ohio Jewish Communities is assisting with the attempt to find funding for a new vehicle for local senior transportation. Efforts to secure funding for community security needs at the state and federal levels continues to be a high priority.

The Jewish Community Center is gearing up for a busy summer – the Logan Campus opened May 25 and summer camp starts June 3. A new community pavilion, complete with a kitchenette, restrooms, water fountains, and picnic tables is being built, as are outdoor competitive-grade pickleball courts. Our Early Learning Center will soon include a new preschool room for educating our youngest learners. And the JCC is again partnering with Youngstown City School District/City of YOU to train lifeguards for the Northside pool - helping to keep the only public pool in Youngstown open - and Logan Campus.

I know our Jewish community will continue to support one another, and the Federation and its agencies will always work to better help you do that. If you have a suggestion as to how the Federation can better serve the community, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Best wishes for a joyous summer.
National Jewish Civil Rights Mission to the South to Kick off Local Criminal Justice Reform Initiative

By Bonnie Deutsch Burdman
Federation Director of Community Relations/Government Affairs

“I am a man.”

These words were commonly found on signs carried by African-American protesters during the civil rights era sit-ins and marches. I saw a photo of a young man carrying such a sign while visiting the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Ala. during a national Jewish community civil rights mission to the south. And then the light bulb went on.

Words matter, and the promotion of hatred and bigotry is often rooted in the dehumanization of the victim. Only a member of a marginalized community would need to carry such a sign. Yes, this was history, but the modern day parallels are palpable.

Last month, I was privileged to attend a national Jewish community civil rights mission to Atlanta and through Alabama, sponsored by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), as part of its efforts to re-engage our community in current day civil rights efforts. While it is easy to describe the sites that I saw — including, among others, the new National Human and Civil Rights Museum in Atlanta, the “lynching” memorial and the Rosa Parks museum in Montgomery, the site of the “Bloody Sunday” attacks against peaceful protesters on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham where four little girls died when their church was firebombed — what we learned and felt is of much greater significance.

The national Jewish community’s engagement in the civil rights movement is well known. Jews were prominent figures in the freedom rides of 1961, the famous march on Washington in 1963, and the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. Of the thousands of white activists who headed south, nearly half were Jewish, and the overwhelming majority of civil rights lawyers were Jewish. Many, including leading national rabbis, were arrested, and two young Jewish men from New York, along with their African American coworker; were brutally murdered by the KKK while engaging in voter registration efforts. We can, and should be proud of this history.

But we cannot necessarily get “credit” for the past when considering the civil rights issues of today. It is a new day and it is time to forge new history. We need to work together as a Jewish community, in partnership with other like-minded groups, to combat all forms of modern day injustices.

Despite significant progress in advancing equality for all, racism and inequality in the United States persist, particularly in the criminal justice system. JCPA has launched a national Jewish criminal justice network to help Jewish Community Relations Councils take on criminal justice reform at the state and local levels, and our local JCRC is now exploring how we can similarly engage. During the Mission, I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and victories of the Civil Rights movement, and grappled with how we can expand our impact and provide a significant Jewish voice to critical issues of today like voting rights and criminal justice reform.

As we face the alarming increase in anti-Semitism and racism, this work is too important to ignore. We cannot be silent. We must live true to our Jewish values to ensure that no one, especially those in marginalized communities, will ever again feel the need to hold signs and publicly affirm their personhood.

During his last recorded sermon two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King stated that he would want to be remembered not for his honors, but for his commitment to love and serve humanity. Let’s join together to live up to this most powerful message.
El Emeth Sisterhood held its annual Sisterhood Shabbat in May. A congregational Shabbat dinner was held Friday evening, May 17, following evening services. Following dinner, Fran Hildebrandt, president of the Central Great Lakes Region, gave an update on the region. Saturday morning, May 18, Sisterhood members conducted the morning service with more than 30 members and their families participating. Margie Miller, international president of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, was the guest speaker. A kiddush luncheon followed the service. Pictured from left to right are Ronna Marlin, co-chair of Sisterhood Shabbat for Conservative Judaism, was the guest speaker. A kiddush luncheon followed the service.

President’s Message

By Neil Yutkin
Co-President

Yom Hashoah was remembered last month. With last year seeing the passing of our last survivor from the Mahoning Valley, I was reminded of a comment Elie Wiesel made at a speech he gave at Kent State when asked who will bear witness when the last survivor dies. His response was those who heard the survivors would then be the witnesses.

Unfortunately, despite efforts to continue to honor those who where murdered during the Holocaust, the people who heard the survivors speak are also beginning to age, and our younger generation is not being exposed to the events that bear witness to the Holocaust.

At least, it seems to be that way. When the annual Yom Hashoah commemoration was held at the Jewish Community Center last month, there were fewer people than normal and, more importantly, almost none that were under 30.

When I was growing up, this was not the case. We, the teens, were encouraged to attend these programs by our parents and were provided with exposure to the Holocaust in schools. The education is still being done today, but the programming events are not being attended by the teens or those in their twenties.

This is amazing considering the rise in anti-Semitism around the world including in the United States. With people being shot in synagogues, churches, and mosques, and hate crimes in general becoming more common, the fact that anti-Semitism is still the most common hate crime category boggles the mind.

It would seem apparent that we should be more proactive in encouraging younger-generation folks to pass on what happened to our ancestors in the past and how these precedents are now becoming the reality of today.

When the shooting at Tree of Life happened, the community briefly was shocked. We reacted to it and made efforts to show support to that community, but then when Poway happened, the response was diminished. Was it because we were so far from the location? Or was it because not so many people died?


The notable comment by historians also applies to the current situation: “Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it.”

We are becoming in danger of forgetting what a byline of the Jewish faith has long been, “Lest we forget!” Our religion has survived by remembering our past, and we seem to be forgetting that.
Dear Friends, San Diego, Charlotte, Denver, and...

The unspeakable horror of terrorist gun violence continues unabated in our country. It is a modern plague that seems to have no end in sight.

On May 3, Rodef Sholom sponsored a special Solidarity Shabbat where we hosted an inter/intra-faith service with area temples and churches, nearly one week after the synagogue shooting in Poway, Calif. Dr. Mark Perlman spoke movingly about his visit to the Tree of Life synagogue on April 27, six months to the day after the tragedy in Pittsburgh, and merely hours before the second terrorist attack on a synagogue in all of American Jewish history.

We parked the car in the Squirrel Hill business district and walked a good mile or two to the synagogue. To our utter amazement, almost every shop and store we passed along the way had a sign in the window with the message “No Place for Hate,” “Stronger Together,” or a poster with multicolored Stars of David and the inscription “Stronger Than Hate,” which has become the symbol of the tragedy. As we turned off Forbes onto Shady Avenue, we noticed many of the stately homes also had similar signs of support. As we walked, it was hard to imagine the violence that shattered the peace in this quiet, serene, tranquil neighborhood which has been home to so many Jews for over a century. Upon reaching the synagogue, it was a shock to see police barricades and fencing cordoning off the entrance to the building. Doorways were boarded up and yellow tape lined the perimeter of the area with the words “Crime Scene - Do Not Enter.”

It was an emotionally gut-wrenching experience. Tears welled up inside my wife and me as we saw the names of the 11 victims on large placards taped up on the glass entrance to the building. How could one deranged, sick human being end, change, alter, and disrupt the lives of so many good people as well as an entire community? It was truly heartbreaking. We said the Kaddish and prayed for a world free from the violence, the hate, and the terror that have come to be so commonplace today, almost a daily feature on the evening news.

Amid all this sadness we found some hopeful rays of light as we gazed upon uplifting and inspiring artwork, floral wreaths, messages of love and support, and other tributes in memory of the 11 slain temple members. Particularly moving was a mural done by students at the Pittsburgh Hillel Academy using the well-known verse from Leviticus 19:18 — “Love your fellow as yourself.”

If only every person could heed these words. But it’s not so easy. Love is a feeling that cannot be commanded. I prefer the ancient Talmudic sage Hillel’s version of this passage, the obverse of the Golden Rule — “What is hateful unto you do not do to your fellow.”

In other words, if one cannot love his fellow, he should at the very least do nothing to him that he would not want done to himself. Short of outright love, dispensed unto and shown towards all people, the world could live quite well with Hillel’s wisdom. If only any would-be terrorists could see through the hate in their hearts to realize that all human beings were created in G-d’s image, and that deep down we are all the same.

May this vision of peace come to be realized soon and in our day.
The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation awarded a $5,000 grant to Beatitude House for the expansion of its Immigrant Outreach Program.

The Immigrant Outreach Program assists non-native English speakers with English as a second language classes and outreach such as food distribution, transportation, enrichment activities, and camp. The program also provides after-school tutoring. These services are currently offered at Beatitude House’s North Glenellen Avenue location and will soon be expanding into Campbell.

“Campbell has many families moving into the city from Puerto Rico due to the hurricanes last year. Our expansion will help these families feel welcomed in their new community,” said Sr. Norma Raupple, Beatitude House immigrant outreach program coordinator.

This program helps individuals acclimate to the United States’ culture, allowing them the opportunity to become contributing members of our community.

“We are grateful for the Thomases Family Endowment’s continued support,” said Teresa Boyce, Beatitude House co-director.

The Immigrant Outreach Program expansion into Campbell is expected to be complete by fall 2019.

Currently, Beatitude House provides housing for 47 families. Beatitude House also offers language and education support to immigrants through its Immigrant Outreach program, as well as mentoring and financial aid to low-income students seeking post-secondary education through the Ursuline Sister Scholars Program. To date, Beatitude House has served more than 7,000 women and children. To learn more, visit www.beatitudehouse.com.

The winners of the JCRC’s student Holocaust writing and multimedia contest were recognized at the 26th Annual Community Holocaust Commemoration event held in the Rotunda of the Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown. Also included were remarks by Austintown Middle School teacher Michelle Best on the importance of introducing Holocaust-based themes and lessons in the classroom and a memorial candle lighting ceremony to honor the six million who perished.

The deadline to apply for a Sam Kooperman Endowment for study in Israel is June 30.

The award is for youth and young adults living in the Mahoning and Shenango Valley region, though consideration may be made for an applicant whose family resides in the region, but is not guaranteed.

Sam has a love for the Jewish community and, especially, its teens and young adults with whom he began his social service career. As a tribute and honor to Sam, the Federation board of directors established the Sam Kooperman Endowment. The fund provides scholarships for experiential programming that allow Jewish young adults to study in Israel.

There is competition for these funds and no expectation should be made as to full coverage of program fees from the Endowment. An application is available at jewishyoungstown.org/EndowmentApps. For more information, contact Lisa Long at llong@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3250 ext. 175.
Alexis Fishman Wows in ‘Club Gelbe Stern’

By Neil Yutkin

Nearly one hundred people came to the Cabaret, my friends, on Thursday, May 16. The featured performer for the event held at the Jewish Community Center, Erika Stern, (portrayed by Alexis Fishman) took the audience back to the 1930’s reenacting a Jewish chanteuse performing her last show before she was banned by the Nazis because of her religion.

Fishman portrayed Erika as a hardened cabaret entertainer coming to grips with the reality of Hitler’s, and the Nazi Party’s, complete destruction of the civility of Germany. Keeping things authentic she sang actual songs of the era, and her characterization of Stern was near perfect.

Fishman not only had a perfect voice for a chanteuse, but also emoted well enough to make the audience truly understand what feelings she was experiencing in this highly emotional last performance.

Supplementing this performance, realism was added by a transformation of the multipurpose room into a thirties-era Cabaret with dim lighting, art deco adornments and centerpieces, and even the perfect cigarette girl (Jennifer McNeil) wandering the audience handing out (candy) cigarettes and (bubblegum) cigars. Further enhancing the evening was the German-style meal provided by Art Einzig.

The combination of the above provided the attendees with a glimpse into what that era might have been like, while at the same time not overdoing it. It was mainly Fishman’s abilities to project the feelings that she would have experienced that absorbed the audience and drew them back into history without the sometimes-overblown drama that makes plays seem staged.

If she brings another one-woman show to Youngstown, I highly recommend it.

Keynote Speaker Reflects on Oct. 27 Tree of Life Shooting

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh received a huge outpouring of support from Holocaust educators all over the world following the Oct. 27 Tree of Life shooting, said Dr. Lauren Apter Bairnsfather, director.

She shared her experiences of that day and what has followed at the annual Shoah Memorial Ceremony on May 5.

The center also saw an increasing interest in Holocaust education, she said.

So, on Nov. 5, she spoke at an assembly of 1,200 high school students.

“And that set the tone for how we started to respond,” she said. “We started to talk a lot more about anti-Semitism than we had. And we talked about anti-Semitism in the context of the Holocaust.”

The center has hosted about 25 field trips since the Oct. 27 shooting, and Bairnsfather has spoken to a variety of groups. They are planning programs with churches, area schools, and the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh.

“We have a critical need now to address anti-Semitism,” she said. “We have many opportunities at the Holocaust Center. Many of them have come about because of the shooting. We didn’t want these opportunities, but we’re not going to let them slip away. I do see the connection between anti-Semitism and other forms of racism and bigotry, but anti-Semitism is in its own category and I want to be clear about that.”

The program also included a presentation by Dr. Jacob Labendz, the Youngstown State University Clayman Assistant Professor of Judaic and Holocaust Studies, about a Slovak Holocaust exhibition at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor; a candle lighting ceremony; and participation by children and grandchildren of Survivors.
YSU Students Experience Israel on Spring Break Trip

By Elise Skolnick

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation helped fund a spring break trip to Israel for Youngstown State University students. The 10-day trip included nursing, social work, and criminal justice students, as well as professors.

The nursing and social work students were able to experience the Western Galilee Medical Center and Hadassah Hospital while the criminology students visited Akko prison and the Israeli National Police Training Academy.

"I thought that our criminal justice majors at YSU could learn a lot by studying Israel's criminal justice system," said Patricia Wagner, associate professor in the criminal justice and forensic science department. "Israelis face some of the greatest security challenges of any nation, yet they have arguably the best security systems in the world. Their police, courts, and corrections systems are effective and well run. It is an ideal country for a study abroad because it is a modern democracy yet there are so many contrasts to the U.S."

Dr. Mary Shortreed, assistant professor in the nursing department, said, "We met with people from many departments [at Galilee Medical Center and Hadassah Hospital] who were all so gracious with their time they spent with us. It was a wonderful experience for the students to interact with healthcare workers from another country."

Students were able to interact with the staff at the hospitals, she said, and learn how they're trying to minimize a current nursing shortage.

"Their lives are changed forever by learning about the culture and meeting many of the people of Israel," she said.

Taylor Tofil, a nursing student, had heard "Israel changes people's lives," and decided she should go.

"While I was in Israel I got to learn so much," she said. "First, and foremost, I got to learn about all the different cultures that make up Israel. We see so much in the news about Israel that depicts them in such a negative light, but everyone there is so kind and passionate about everything they do. The people of Israel live a lot more simply than people in America do, so it was very refreshing to see that. I started to learn so much about the history of Israel, as well as the conflicts, and all the religious history. Being in Israel opened my cultural sensitivity, which in turn will make me a better nurse."

They were able to tour each unit at the Western Galilee Medical Center and learn more about the way the medical world operates in Israel. They also learned about their universal health care.

"Overall, my experience in Israel was life changing," Tofil said.

Dr. Sherri Harper Woods, assistant professor in the social work department, was enlightened by the diversity and acceptance she saw within the professional world in Israel.

"I am grateful to the Jewish Federation for the life changing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity they provided to students and faculty," she said. "Israel is a beautiful place, physically and socially. I learned how to be a person serving another person and to put aside my values and beliefs for the benefit of others. Every professional I encountered during my brief stay demonstrated servant leadership."

The group also visited various historical and religious sites, including the Sea of Galilee, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Dead Sea, the Garden of Gethsemane, Yad Vashem, and the Old City.

YSU nursing, social work, and criminal justice students visited Israel over spring break. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Mary Shortreed.)

Kent State Students and Professors Visit Poland for Spring Break

By Chaya Kessler

Director, Kent State University Jewish Studies Program

A group of Kent State students recently returned from the fifth annual spring break study abroad trip to Poland. This year’s group was the largest to date, with 25 students from different majors and backgrounds plus five adult guest students. This was also the first time that five KSU students from the Trumbull campus joined the trip, as did four students from the Florence program. This was made possible through the generous support of donors and the Trumbull campus administration.

For all, this was the first time to Poland, and for many, this was the first experience abroad and first encounter with a Jewish community as well as the Jewish struggle of survival after the Holocaust. It is gratifying to note that many students chose Poland as their first study abroad experience knowing this is always an emotionally challenging trip. Many of the students were only able to participate because of the ongoing generous support of the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and other donors who support this program because of the overwhelming, life changing effect it has on the participants. Upon returning the students wrote personal thank you notes that have been delivered to the donors.

For me, it’s always a thrill to see all the sites again through the eyes of the young students and to hope that they will learn about the past and be able to connect to their own humanity. "You have to bring your heart and soul to this experience," I always tell the students before leaving.

"Open your heart and let it all sink in." The students were asked to keep a journal and prepare a final presentation. Here are excerpts from a few of the journal entries:

"It is so strange to be the outsider in a country... I am the one who doesn't speak the language and wonders what the signs mean."

"Each life has value - the individual, their pain, their story, their experiences."

"This trip has deepened my passion to help those who cannot help themselves."

The students shared their final projects and described the impact that the trip had on them at the Polish lunch, hosted by the dean of arts and sciences, where they showed their creativity and heart, which made me very proud indeed.
Levy Gardens Scores High on Family Satisfaction Survey

Levy Gardens Assisted Living recently received its Family Satisfaction Survey results from the Ohio Department of Aging. The facility had an overall satisfaction score of 91.76 percent, which is much higher than the statewide average of 85.2 percent.

The Residential Care Facility Family Satisfaction Survey was conducted in 2018. The Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University gathered data by mail which reflects the care as reported by residents’ family members, friends, and guardians.

"At Levy Gardens, we put our tenants first and do our best to provide them with what they need and want to live a happy healthy life and this survey is a reflection of that,” said Sara Miller, director. “Long term care nursing is not only caring for our tenants, but their families as well, and our staff does a great job of addressing families’ concerns and desires for their loved ones.”

ADS Participants Enjoyed Indoor Gardening

Adult Day Services participants potted plants in May. Eventually, they will be moved to an outdoor garden. Pictured are Christina Volpe (back) and Shirley Thomas.

Animals Tracks Visits Heritage Manor

As part of National Skilled Nursing Week, Chenoa Scott, of Animal Tracks, brought a variety of animals for the residents to see and touch, including Madagascar hissing cockroaches, a walking stick bug, a red-footed tortoise, and a flying gecko. Here Elliott Weinberg pets a ball python.

Heritage Manor Hosts Carnival

A carnival was part of Heritage Manor’s National Skilled Nursing Week activities. Pictured is Erwin Schwartz playing one of the many games at the event.

Volunteers Sought for Intergenerational Project

The Early Learning Center at the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Services are teaming up for an intergenerational volunteer project.

Older adults are invited to volunteer in the ELC once a week. They can share their knowledge or experience on a specific topic, play with the children, or read books to them.

“It's kind of open to the volunteers,” said Shay Erez, outreach coordinator for Jewish Family Services.

It will give the volunteers a way to connect back to the community, she said, and the children will benefit from the attention of a variety of individuals.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Erez at serez@jewishyoungstown.org, 330.746.7929 ext. 199 or 330.550.5995.

Life Story Project Will Help Older Adults Tell Their Story

An AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer will be working with Shay Erez, Jewish Family Services outreach coordinator, on a Life Story project beginning June 3.

Liz Lehman will work with members of the community over age 70 to create books that tell their life story. She will interview them about their life, asking about their family, childhood, and more.

The interviews, along with photos, will be turned into a book. The person interviewed will receive a copy, as will their family.

The process is helpful for people struggling with dementia, Alzheimer’s, depression, and more, said Erez. Researchers have found telling one’s life story to be therapeutic, she added.

“It can improve your life and it also can connect seniors to their kids,” she said.

The goal of the project is to create 10 books.
Akiva Academy Student Artwork Displayed on Area Buses

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation sponsored two buses that featured designs by Akiva students that reflect the Jewish ethical obligations of tikkun olum and tzedakah. Timbre, a non-profit organization devoted to supporting music and art education in local schools and communities, also sponsored a bus. Akiva student artwork was featured on that bus, as well. Students with winning artwork are Fallon Blackshire, Jaylen Cade, O’Mari Garner, Fiona McCormick, Jensen McKelvey, Taniya Phillips, Naomi Sargent, Selah Sargent, Cameron Silverman, Tomiyah Smith, My-Kayla Stewart, Trey Stewart, Sam Traficant, Mila Waskin, Mara Vargo, and Rhaleigh Zalac.

Joy Wiener Elder

Services were in Its Memorial Chapel, El Emeth Granada Cemetery, for Joy Wiener Elder, 87, formerly of Youngstown, who passed away Saturday, May 11, at her home in Deerfield, Ill. Joy was a beloved wife of the late Leonard Spiegel and the late James Elder.

She was a loving mother of Beth (the late Paul) Okun, Charles (Leslie) Elder, and Bruce (Rona) Elder; stepmother of Jonathan Spiegel, Rebecca (David) Grossman, and Robert (Mira) Spiegel; proud grandmother of Sandy (Tim) Lacy, Jeffrey Okun (Jessica Wilson), Jacob Elder (Emily Seynaeve), Isaiah Elder, Joshua Elder, Noah Elder, and Eli Elder; step-grandmother of Alexis Spiegel, Alyssa Spiegel, Rhiana Ruddy, Caralyn Grossman, Zoe Spiegel, and Aaron Spiegel; and cherished great-grandmother of Fletcher Lacy and Melarene Lacy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Association of Jewish Libraries, P.O. Box 1118, Teaneck, N.J. 07666, www.jewishlibraries.org; the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, P.O. BOX 1852, Highland Park, Ill. 60035, www.ushmm.org; or the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Arrangements were handled by The Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.

Norman Benjamin Goldberg

Norman B. Goldberg, loving partner, brother, uncle, and friend, accomplished attorney and entrepreneur; fierce civil rights advocate, and generous philanthropist, died peacefully in the company of loved ones in Los Angeles on March 16, 2019, at the age of 87, after a long illness.

Born in Youngstown, Norman served as a U.S. Army cryptographer during the Korean War, and then entered The Ohio State University and graduated from Ohio Northern University’s law school. He practiced law in Youngstown, founding Goldberg and Jones, one of the first racially integrated law partnerships in the city, before moving to Los Angeles in 1969. There he helped his brother, Irving, establish and lead Standard Planning Corporation, a national insurance marketing organization.

He cared deeply about public affairs and was a generous contributor to many liberal causes and Jewish organizations. Norman was a member of Temple Judea in Tarzana, Calif.

Norman had a zest for life, was very close to his brothers, Irving, Meyer, and Joe, and could always be counted on in a crisis. Over the years he became a beloved uncle and great-uncle to his brothers’ many offspring.

In 2012, Norman met Debbie Flesch, the love of his life, and they quickly became engaged. Debbie brought Norman children and grandchildren, and he relished being called “Grandpa” for the first time. Norman and Debbie created a home together and were inseparable until his passing.

A memorial service was held to celebrate Norman’s life at Mount Sinai Hollywood Hills. Donations in Norman’s memory can be made to the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles.
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation

By Richard Marlin, President

The mission of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is to sustain and enrich the quality of life for the Jewish people regionally, in Israel and worldwide. We are guided by the values of Tzedakah (righteousness), Klal Yisrael (the responsibility of each Jew for another), Dor l'Dor (the continuity of the Jewish people), and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). That mission guides us in everything we do at the Federation. All of our agencies work diligently every day to serve the Jewish community and the broader community with these goals in mind. In the pages that follow, you will see the breadth and depth of what we’re doing through the remarkable work of our various agencies.

While doing this important work, we are always mindful of being good stewards of our resources. Recently, we undertook a structural reorganization that created the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation to protect the donor and investment assets held by the Federation.

To fully execute our mission, we see the need to not only maintain our infrastructure, but to improve it. To that end, we’ve made improvements throughout the campus. We have also invested heavily in security for our community. The Security Department now ensures the safety of the entire Federation campus during all hours of operation, as well as providing support and training for area synagogues. We continue to look for improvements we can make to better serve the community.

I’d also like to thank our lay leadership who spend countless hours on boards and committees ensuring we’re able to fulfill our mission, and to our entire staff who, under the leadership of Andy Lipkin, help make the vision and mission of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its agencies come to life.

Human Services Advisory Board

By Mark Rubin, President

Heritage Manor

It was a busy year at Heritage Manor. In 2018, we provided 1,713 activities for residents to do throughout the year. We celebrated holidays: Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur. These services were well attended. We also added activities, such as our first Car Show with a special appearance by Elvis. Some residents also enjoyed going to a Scrappers’ baseball game. Our Veterans met on a bi-monthly basis with the local chapter of DAV, a nonprofit that provides support for veterans.

In 2018 we applied for, and were awarded, a $31,000 grant from the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS) for the Music & Memory program, which will be instituted in 2019. This program will be beneficial for residents suffering from Alzheimer’s and Dementia. We remained a five-star rated facility and our staffing levels of nurses and STNAs remained above all other nursing homes in our area. We provided care to a total of 176 residents with 140 admissions and 132 discharges in 2018. Our reputation for providing quality care has continued to be our focus.

Mostly recently, we completed the replacement of windows in each resident’s room and began plans to remodel Heritage Manor’s lobby and administration offices and the JFS offices. We are looking forward to a great year in 2019.

Levy Gardens

The tenants and staff of Levy Gardens enjoyed a busy and fun-filled year. We continue to strive to keep our senior population active and engaged with the community. Tenants participated in the annual Mitzvah Day by helping volunteers make blankets that were then delivered to Making Kids Count. We held a Carnival in our parking lot with the residents of Heritage Manor and Adult Day Services, complete with a magician, clowns, and a food truck. We went on many cultural and life enriching outings to places like the DeYor Performing Arts Center, monthly visits to Bites and Bits of History at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center, and various programs offered at the JCC. Program Coordinator, Ronna Marlin, does a wonderful job of finding quality in-house programs, as well. She has arranged for a massage therapist to visit weekly, art classes, librarian visits, discussion groups, and musical entertainment. Levy Gardens participated in the Area Agency on Aging’s wellness program. Weekly, the tenants took part in an interactive class taught by an RN where they discussed various health-related concerns.

Levy Gardens’ dining room underwent a complete transformation, enhancing the tenants’ dining experience. New custom-made cabinets were installed, and new flooring, dining furniture, window treatments, and sleek appliances have replaced the old. The tenants and their families have enjoyed a beautiful and elegant space to enjoy a meal.

At Levy Gardens, we are continually striving to provide the best for our tenants. We love to see them happy and engaged and enjoying their Golden Years in a safe and caring environment.

Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services continues to serve our community as we make improvements in our current programming along with the creation of new programs in 2019. Our established services include individual counseling, in-home Passport counseling, home delivered meals through Area Agency on Aging for eligible individuals, “Our Gang” events, a service coordinator at Heritage Apartments, an adult protective services program, an outreach worker, delivering Jewish holiday gift baskets to those in need, providing quality care to residents at Heritage Manor through our social worker, financial assistance to those in need, and more.

We broadened our scope of services through new collaboration. A recent example of this is JFS partnering with the Jewish Community Center to offer a monthly support group to caregivers and individuals with Parkinson’s Disease through the Delay the Disease program. This program is sponsored by the Thomas Family Endowment Fund and Mercy Health. Also, JFS will explore new collaborations with Youngstown State University’s Gerontology Department, expanding counseling services to individuals and families who are on Medicaid through a local community mental health agency called Homes For Kids, and potentially entering into the “Network of Caring” with the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board. Over the recent winter months JFS and Akiva Academy held our initial Winter Clothing Drive for children in need attending Youngstown City Schools. We look forward to continuing our current partnerships and the creation of new ones as we readily adapt to our community needs.

Our mission at JFS, along with our staff’s desire, is to assist both the Jewish and greater community in all aspects of their lives. As we continue to broaden services, and as our strategic planning process evolves at JFS, our staff remains compassionate and dedicated to all those we serve.

Adult Day Services

The number of participants in Adult Day Services (ADS) continued to increase in 2018. A variety of activities, including outings, were offered. In addition, an ADS director, whose sole purpose is to focus on improving our program and providing meaningful care to our clients, was hired.

Our ADS accepts individuals on Passport waiver, Veterans, and private pay. This program provides socialization and medical care, and allows participants to remain independent and in the community for as long as possible. Students from Ursuline and community volunteers help make this program a success.
Jewish Community Relations Council

By Suzyn Schwebel Epstein, President

Over the past year, the Jewish community has faced numerous challenges, but the JCRC, our community’s leading public affairs agency, continues to meet these concerns head on in order to ensure the continued safety, leadership, continuity, and communal impact in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys, statewide, nationally, and around the world.

Combating Anti-Semitism

The horrific massacre of 11 Jews at prayer at a Shabbat service at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, an event virtually in our community’s backyard, illustrates the alarming increase in anti-Semitic activity throughout the world. Within the first 12-24 hours of the event, the JCRC responded to numerous local media inquiries, engaged in outreach to the Pittsburgh JCRC, took part in national consultations, and fielded a myriad of calls, texts, emails, and other messages from a wide range of community leaders. The JCRC also was the primary architect of a large, interfaith community vigil in memory of the victims, at which some 600 people were in attendance, representing multiple faiths, ethnicities, and political persuasions.

Israel Advocacy

The continued support for a strong U.S./Israel relationship is one of the JCRC’s primary objectives. It advocates for this relationship at the Federal and State levels, particularly when anti-Israel rhetoric rises to the level of anti-Semitism, serves as the Federation’s voice for Israel in the greater community, and provides the Jewish community with the needed tools and information to become strong Israel advocates. The JCRC sponsored numerous lectures and programs for the community, including a local visit by Ambassador Dani Dayan, Consul General at the Israeli Consulate in New York. The work between YBI, Youngstown State University, and Israeli companies continues to expand, and plans are now underway for the JCRC to assume a leadership role in a major international academic conference co-sponsored by YSU and the Technion in Israel, to be held next year in Youngstown. And, the JCRC continues to mobilize on many fronts to fight back against the assault on Israel’s legitimacy by the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) movement.

Public Official Outreach

A key to successful community relations work is maintaining close relationships with community leaders that have a direct bearing on the work of all area Jewish agencies and institutions, particularly those who shape policies in Washington, Columbus, and Harrisburg. Whether we advocate for legislation that protects Medicare or Medicaid funding, for our community’s security needs, policies on behalf of Israel, or laws in favor of greater freedoms, the JCRC is always on the front lines, working diligently to develop strong, ongoing relationships with public officials at all levels of government. Earlier this month, the JCRC sponsored its first, legislative outreach breakfast, “Lox and Legislators,” a successful event which was very well received.

Holocaust Commemoration

The JCRC is the Federation’s lead agency in the planning of annual Holocaust memorial programs, and supports remembrance activities throughout the Valley and the state. Remembrance not only obligates us to memorialize those who were lost during the Shoah, but also reminds us of the fragility of democracy and the need to protect freedom, promote human dignity, and confront hate wherever it occurs. This year’s Holocaust commemoration programs attracted record attendance, with particular emphasis on elevating the engagement of second and third generations as sadly, there are no local Survivors left who are willing and able to bear personal witness to their personal stories.

Intergroup/Interfaith Relations

The JCRC is the Jewish community’s representative at numerous interfaith and intergroup organizations and coalitions that work for the betterment of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys. The JCRC’s Social Action Committee continues to empower local Jewish community members to engage in important social action and social justice projects such as the annual community Mitzvah Day.

Jewish Community Center Advisory Board

By Alan Mirkin, President

It was with great pleasure that I returned to a leadership position as president of the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown Board in 2018. Over the past several years, the organization has experienced a renaissance of innovation, investment, and impact as we endeavor to meet our mission with excellence. In 2018, we were proud to receive national recognition for our achievements from the JCC Association of North America, including the Zahav Award for Aquatic Accessibility and the Kol HaKavod Award for Beyachad Initiative.

The JCC was also named to the 2018 Ohio School Board Association Business Honor Roll for our partnership with Liberty Local School District.

2018 saw a number of changes to the JCC staff, as we continue to build a strong, dynamic team to serve the needs of our community. The Fitness and Aquatics Departments were combined under a new health & wellness director who oversees all daily operations and staff, an executive assistant joined the team to lend support to the Administrative Department, and the Security Department has been staffed to full capacity, now ensuring the safety of the entire Federation campus during all hours of operation.

Our Early Learning Center also welcomed a new full-time director and administrator. They are focused on making our early childhood program the best in the area. Thanks to a grant from the Thomases Family Endowment, we are now offering enrichment programming in the arts and sciences by partnering with SMARTS, OH WOW! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children’s Center for Science & Technology and the Youngstown State University Dana School of Music. We added one-on-one swim lessons for ages six months to three years, in addition to our preschool group lessons, all included with ELIC tuition.

A number of significant improvements were made to our facility in 2018. We built a brand-new, developmentally-appropriate playground for our youngest learners ages six months to three years, remodeled and expanded the health clubs, improved our dated gymnasium with new lighting and crash pads, constructed a brand new welcome area with a new front desk and updated security features, and created a functional fitness space that added nearly

Continued on next page
In June of 2018, the JCC hosted our inaugural Dash & Splash, a 5K fun run/walk that engaged over 125 participants, including many JCC members and families who ran and walked from our Main Campus on Gypsy Lane to our Logan Campus in Liberty, where over 200 people enjoyed the outdoor pool and a "bash" with free food and live music. The event engaged dozens of community partners as sponsors, volunteers, and participants, in addition to raising $25,000 in race admission and sponsorship dollars. We are thrilled with the success of this event, which we now intend to do on an annual basis.

We continue to develop and leverage mutually beneficial community partnerships by building upon strengths, addressing needs, and creating shared values, goals, and outcomes. In 2018, we were able to help save the last remaining public pool in Youngstown by training students from local school districts to become lifeguards; we provided 2,958 free swim lessons to 511 children through the SwimSafe 500 program and 280 free swim lessons to people with disabilities through the PALS+ program; we helped to revitalize the abandoned Liberty High School gymnasium.

We are proud to be such a long-standing institution that remains vibrant and relevant to our community. As we invest in a strong staff, impactful programs, and innovative partnerships, we will no doubt continue to see our organization grow and thrive. Thank you very much for your support of the JCC.

Harold Davis Honored at Annual Meeting

Harold Davis didn’t plan to be president of the Jewish Community Center Advisory Board - he said he’d be treasurer if they never made him president. Fast forward a couple of years and Davis became president at a time of great change in the JCC.

“It was a revitalization of the entire Jewish Community Center,” he said. “It has a new life.”

During his three-year tenure, membership also increased and the Logan Campus was acquired.

“I like to think that my term has been successful,” he said.

Davis was in leadership at a time the JCC changed more than at any other time in its history, said Andrew Lipkin, Federation executive vice-president.

“The amount of construction projects, renovations, and capital improvements, as well as programmatic changes, that took place under his leadership is greater than any other time,” he said.

Davis was born and raised in Youngstown, and the JCC was a big part of his life growing up. He attended both preschool and camp at the JCC. His three children attended Akiva Academy and participated in youth programming, including day camp, at the JCC.

Prior to his term as president, Davis was treasurer of the advisory board for two years. He also served as vice president of the Federation board. He served on the board of Ohev Tzedek. He is a past president of the local chapter of B’nai Brith and past regional B’nai Brith president. He is a recipient of the Annual Brotherhood Award given by B’nai Brith, Masons, and Knights of Columbus. He served on the curriculum and accreditation committees of the YSU Williamson School of Business, where he received the Alumni of the Year Award. He has been involved with Alaanza and is currently president of the Oakland Center for the Arts.

He wasn’t a stranger to volunteering before that, however. He was president of AZA as a teen, with Sam Roth and Bruce Sherman as advisors.

“Bruce Sherman has been my advisor since I was about 13 years old,” he said. “I gotta listen to what he has to say.”

And when Sherman called and said he needed to volunteer, Davis agreed.

“He said I owe,” he added. “But he was right. AZA was probably some of the greatest times of my life. Some of the friends I have today are because of AZA.”

Davis and his wife Marilyn spend part of the year in Florida and part in Youngstown. They have three children: Max, Rachael, and Abbie. All three followed in their father’s footsteps and were president of the local AZA and BBG chapters.

Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation

By Richard Marlin, President

Thanks to the commitment of those who have so generously included the Federation in their financial and estate planning, today we have the resources to serve and adapt to the needs of our community. These donors’ foresight and the careful stewardship provided by the board and staff over the years have created a safety net for our community that will last for generations to come.

Recently, the Federation underwent a structural reorganization. One of the main reasons was to protect the donor and investment assets held by the Federation. This reorganization resulted in the creation of the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation. The Foundation is a separate organization with its own governing board. The Foundation invests and manages all legacy funds listed in this section and works to ensure that the funds are being used per the donor’s stated intent. The Foundation also assists the Federation and its agencies in finding the right funds, outside of campaign allocations, grants, etc. to fulfill current and future needs as determined by the Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board. The Foundation is also tasked with considering terms and management of donations that have yet to come.

The Foundation now holds approximately 80 percent of the Federation’s financial assets. It is important to note that our donors work with the Foundation staff and board members to design and manage their gifts. The majority of our donors have made legal agreements with the Federation asking us to manage their funds for generations to come for the Federation and our community, and also the greater Youngstown community, our country, and, in many cases, Israel. In fact, of the funds that the Foundation currently manages, 73 percent are donor directed. These funds are not our money to spend, but rather our money to steward and manage in a trusted partnership with our donors and their families.

Since the Federation’s creation, donors have given of their time, talent and treasure. The addition of the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation gives these donors a new level of confidence, ensuring the assets they’ve trusted us with are protected from outside threats. The continuation and vitality of our Jewish community is so important. Those who have planned a legacy gift with the Foundation are an inspiration to community members and donors for generations to come. The Foundation is now here to make sure we do right by those donors who have entrusted us with so much.
Tribute Paid to Alan Kretzer

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation saw many changes during Alan Kretzer’s tenure as president of the board of directors.

“We had a lot of issues that had to be addressed,” he said.

Among them were security issues.

“Things like that were one of the priorities that came around long before the tragedy in Pittsburgh,” he said. “But all of us knew that those dangers were out there and that we weren’t doing enough in the community and we needed to, and I think we were pretty successful.”

There was also a lot of turnover in leadership positions.

“We’ve got a large number of new people,” he said. “I think we were tremendously fortunate to be able to fill those positions with such high quality people.”

During Kretzer’s term, there were more changes in Federation and its agencies than at any other time during its history, said Andrew Lipkin, executive vice-president.

“During his tenure, we pretty much shaped where we’re going to be going over the next five, 10, 15 years, and that’s a good thing,” he said.

It was a good challenge, Kretzer noted.

“I just think we accomplished a decent amount of things,” he said. “We really did change the face of the Federation, but I hope it was all for the better and I think it was.”

Kretzer said volunteering is important to him.

“I think it’s everybody’s duty to try to make the effort of leaving this place a little bit better,” he said. “If you have the ability and time and opportunity, everybody ought to be doing things.”

Kretzer was also chair of the JCRC for five years and president of the Congregation Rodef Sholom board. He’s past president of the Mahoning County Bar Association, the Mahoning County Corrections Association, and the Mahoning County Law Library. He also served as president and legal counsel for the Western Reserve Transit Authority. He is a past recipient of the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award. He and his wife June live in Canfield.

Gerald and Jennie Peskin Honored with Marks Volunteer Service Award

This year’s recipients of the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award are Gerald and Jeannie Peskin.

The Marks Award is given in honor of Esther Marks, who lived her life with a Jewish heart and with passion. She understood tzedakah, justice, and righteousness. Her family created this award to encourage others to follow in her footsteps, and to honor those who have done so.

The Peskins, who are longtime Federation volunteers, are happy to have been chosen for this award.

“Esther was a family friend and kind of a mentor for both of us,” Jeannie said.

Esther told them she felt it was important for people to be involved in both the Jewish and general communities, Jeannie remembers.

“Both of our families were active in their Jewish communities,” Gerry added. “They really set the precedent.”

Jeannie finds it satisfying to help others and enjoys trying to make things better: Gerry does, as well.

“I always try to give back to the community,” he said.

A volunteering highlight for Jeannie was leading the Youngstown Delegation March on Washington for Soviet Jewry. Gerry particularly enjoyed helping create Akiva Academy.

“That was a lot of work, quite rewarding,” he said.

The couple have taken on many roles, including leadership positions and many projects, said Andrew Lipkin, Federation executive vice-president.

“There are very few couples in this community that care more about this Jewish community than Jeannie and Gerry,” he said.

Among other roles, Gerry has served on the Federation board of directors as well as the boards of Jewish Education and Altshuler Akiva Academy and was part of the leadership group that created Akiva. He was president of the Heritage Manor board during the planning and building of Levy Gardens. Gerry has served several terms on the Ohev Tzedek board of directors. His secular volunteer work includes involvement with the United Way, Ohev Tzedek School, and the JCRC board of directors.

Harshman Award Presented to Wendy Weiss

Wendy Weiss is this year’s recipient of the Abe Harshman leadership award. This award is given each year at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation annual meeting to an individual who has shown leadership and service to the Federation and/or its affiliated agencies.

“Wendy is an extremely bright person who has been involved in a number of Jewish organizations,” said Andrew Lipkin, Federation executive vice-president. “But her involvement over the last several years with the Federation is why we’re honoring her.”

She has been very involved with the strategic planning task force and the governance committee.

“Giving back is important to her.

“It’s important for me to make a difference,” she said. “And I really want to build this value in my kids,” she added. “It’s important to be responsible and active citizens to improve life for us and people around us.”

Weiss, a CPA, finds these roles particularly suited to her skill set.

Weiss also volunteers with other organizations including Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Playhouse Partners, Ballet Western Reserve, Canfield High School Swim and Dive Boosters, OSCPAs Oil & Gas Conference Committee, and the American Cancer Society’s Cattle Barron’s Ball.

She’s “honored” to be receiving the award.

“It’s nice to be recognized for participating,” she said. “But I feel like I’m just doing my fair share.”

She and her husband, Stephen, have three children: Adam, Morgan, and Ben.
Vy Rosenthal Hoang graduated with honors from Ursuline High School. She attended Akiva Academy for eighth grade. She was a member of National Honor Society, a writer and co-editor for the school newspaper, a Scholastic Art Gold Key Award winner, and an Ohio History Day state qualifier. She was a varsity tennis player, earning four letters, and team co-captain. She advanced to the OHSAA State Tennis Tournament in doubles in 2018 and was named the Vindicator’s 2018 Girls Tennis Player of the Year. Senior year she took several classes at YSU, interned in a biology lab at KSU, was in the Teen Volunteer program at Summa Hospital in Akron, participated in the Health Success program at Baldwin Wallace University, and volunteered at Heritage Manor. In the summer she will work at One Health Ohio on a community health research project and at the Jewish Community Center as a lifeguard. She plans to take a gap year to work, volunteer, and travel before attending Mount Holyoke College. She is grateful to the Jewish Federation for the opportunities she received and relationships she developed through Akiva, her teen trip to Israel, the JCC LEAD program, and Heritage Manor.

She is the older sister of Van Rosenthal Hoang, daughter of Lisa Rosenthal and Binh Hoang, granddaughter of Pat Rosenthal and Jim Converse, and Richard and Connie Rosenthal, all of Youngstown, and Cuc Tran and the late Ngoc Hoang of Vietnam.

Meryl Faye Schor graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She will pursue a master’s degree in psychology, also at Indiana University.

She is the daughter of Neil Schor and Harriet Lemberger-Schor.

Shai Erez graduated from Youngstown State University with a Master of Social Work degree.

She is currently the outreach coordinator for Jewish Family Services. She and her husband Gon have two children, Nuria and Gali.

Hunter Thomas graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science in Education. He has been working at the Jewish Community Center for six years and hopes to further his career within the Jewish community.

Rachel Lipkin and Scott Gleitman were married March 23, 2019 in Youngstown. Rachel is the daughter of Andy and Hilari Lipkin. Scott is the son of Alyse and Gary Gleitman. The couple lives in Pittsburgh.
PERFORMING ARTS

JCC School of Music

This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! To register call the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

JCC School of Dance

Five Week Session II: Tuesday, June 25 - Monday, July 29
Adult Drop-In Classes: May 11, 18, June 8, July 13, & 27

Pricing

30 Min Class: $34/Member; $45/Non Member per session for 1st class, $30/Member; $40/Non Member per session for 2nd class
45 Min Class: $42/Member; $55/Non Member per session for 1st class, $38/Member; $50/Non Member per session for 2nd class, $34/Member; $45/Non Member per session for 3rd class
90 Min Class: $75/Member; $100/Non Member per session
Adult Drop-Ins: $15 per person

Adult Dance Program (Ages 18+)

Adult Tap I
A 45 minute class designed for adults to stay fit and active while learning how to create rhythms with their feet. Class exercises improve balance, hip mobility, and stamina. Class is taught at a Beginner to Intermediate level.
Summer Session I & II: Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Adult Ballet I
A 45 minute class designed for adults to stay fit and active while having fun in a relaxed atmosphere. Class exercises improve strength, posture, and balance. Class is taught at a Beginner level.
Summer Session I & II: Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult Tap II
A 45 minute class for adults to explore the percussive dance style known as tap. Dancers gain listening skills & develop rhythm while moving to the beat & creating music with their feet. Class is taught at an Intermediate level.
Summer Session I & II: Wednesdays 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Adult Ballet II
A 45 minute class introduces the basic principles of ballet like body positions & movements. Improves posture & balance, & challenges students to remember patterns. Class is taught at an Intermediate level.
Summer Session I & II: Wednesdays 7:45 - 8:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Class
Various guest teachers lead a 90 minute Intermediate to Advanced level dance class the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, focusing on a different genre of dance ranging from hip-hop, contemporary, tap, modern, lyrical, and more.

Summer Session I: Saturdays 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. June 8
Session II: Saturdays 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. July 13 & 27

Parent & Me Program (Ages 4 mo-4 years)

Bitty Babies (4 months to pre-walking)
A 30 minute class for babies 4 months to pre-walking that introduces gross motor skills to babies with the interaction of a caregiver. Build loving relationships through sensory related play including song, dance, tummy time, and baby massage.
Summer Session I & II: Saturdays 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Music & Movement (18-36 months)
A 45 minute class for 18-36 month olds that focuses on parent led activities that build coordination, listening skills, and social awareness, learning based play with a variety of props and musical styles keep the tots active.
Summer Session I & II: Saturdays 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Dance Discovery (Ages 3-4)
A 45 minute class for 3 year olds that challenges children to use their minds and bodies to move to a variety of song styles. Props help stimulate creativity as we explore space, levels, and shapes. Parents do not participate in this class.
Session I & II: Thursdays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Creative Movement Program (Ages 4-6)

Creative Movement Tumbling Fun I (Ages 4-6)
A 45 minute combined level Creative Movement class that teaches the beginning principles of jazz dance and tumbling in a safe and controlled environment. The fun includes somersaults, backbend variations, and stretching.
Summer Session I & II: Wednesdays 4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Mini Program (Ages 6-7)

Mini Baton (Ages 6-7)
A 30 minute class that introduces hand and eye coordination through learning how to handle and twirl a baton. Students learn basic patterns, marching, and tosses while working hard and having fun.
Summer Session I & II: Tuesdays 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Mini Acro/Jazz (Ages 6-7)
A 30 minute class that teaches the beginning principles of jazz dance and tumbling in a safe and controlled environment. The fun includes stretching, backbends, and movements to develop coordination of gross motor skills.
Summer Session I & II: Tuesdays 5:00- 5:30 p.m.

Dance Curriculum Program (Ages 7-16)

Tap I & II (Ages 7-16)
A 45 minute class that teaches the percussive dance style of tap. Dancers gain listening skills and develop rhythm while moving to the beat and creating music with their feet. Variations of basic tap steps are learned and practiced.

Summer Tap I Session I & II: Thursdays 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.
Summer Tap II Session I & II: Mondays 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Jazz I & II (Ages 7-16)
A 45 minute class that teaches the art of classic jazz dancing focusing on body lines, coordination, proper technique, and flexibility. This class aids in the development of spatial and kinesthetic awareness.
Summer Jazz I Session I & II: Thursdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Summer Jazz II Session I & II: Mondays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Ballet I & II (Ages 7-16)
A 45 minute class that emphasizes the basic principles of ballet like body positions and movements. Introduces balance skills and challenges students to remember patterns and choreography.
Summer Ballet I Session I & II: Thursdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Summer Ballet II Session I & II: Mondays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

Acro (Ages 7-13)
A 45 minute class that introduces students to basic tumbling and acrobatic stretches and exercises. Students will improve flexibility as well as upper body strength and coordination in a safe and controlled classroom setting.
Summer Session I & II: Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Baton I & II (Ages 7-13)
A 45 minute class designed to introduce the art of baton twirling to beginner level students. Develop hand/eye coordination by learning to twirl and toss a baton. Students will also learn marching and cadencing, as well as patterns and choreography.
Summer Baton I Session I & II: Tuesdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Summer Baton II Session I & II: Mondays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Hip Hop Training Program (12 and up)

Apprentice Level (Ages 12 and up)
A 90 minute class for new hip hop dancers that want to develop better technique and cleaner moves. Basic popping, locking, gliding, and choreography will be taught at a Beginner to Intermediate level.
Summer Session II: Fridays 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Pre-Professional Level
A 90 minute class designed for serious students that are interested in honing their hip hop dance skills. Vigorous training in various styles of urban dance including popping, locking, tutting, krumping, and basic breaking. Students will present choreography at the end of the session. Class is taught at an Advanced level.
Summer Session II: Fridays 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Private Lesson Availability (Any Age)
Lessons can be scheduled with any JCC School of Dance
Private Lesson Availability (Any Age)

Summer Session I: Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Summer Session II: Fridays 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Summer Tap I & II: Thursdays 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.
Summer Tap II Session I & II: Mondays 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

Jazz I & II (Ages 7-16)
A 45 minute class that teaches the art of classic jazz dancing focusing on body lines, coordination, proper technique, and flexibility. This class aids in the development of spatial and kinesthetic awareness.
Summer Jazz I Session I & II: Thursdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Summer Jazz II Session I & II: Mondays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Ballet I & II (Ages 7-16)
A 45 minute class that emphasizes the basic principles of ballet like body positions and movements. Introduces balance skills and challenges students to remember patterns and choreography.
Summer Ballet I Session I & II: Thursdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Summer Ballet II Session I & II: Mondays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.

Acro (Ages 7-13)
A 45 minute class that introduces students to basic tumbling and acrobatic stretches and exercises. Students will improve flexibility as well as upper body strength and coordination in a safe and controlled classroom setting.
Summer Session I & II: Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

Baton I & II (Ages 7-13)
A 45 minute class designed to introduce the art of baton twirling to beginner level students. Develop hand/eye coordination by learning to twirl and toss a baton. Students will also learn marching and cadencing, as well as patterns and choreography.
Summer Baton I Session I & II: Tuesdays 6:15 - 7:00 p.m.
Summer Baton II Session I & II: Mondays 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Hip Hop Training Program (12 and up)

Apprentice Level (Ages 12 and up)
A 90 minute class for new hip hop dancers that want to develop better technique and cleaner moves. Basic popping, locking, gliding, and choreography will be taught at a Beginner to Intermediate level.
Summer Session II: Fridays 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Pre-Professional Level
A 90 minute class designed for serious students that are interested in honing their hip hop dance skills. Vigorous training in various styles of urban dance including popping, locking, tutting, krumping, and basic breaking. Students will present choreography at the end of the session. Class is taught at an Advanced level.
Summer Session II: Fridays 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Private Lesson Availability (Any Age)
Lessons can be scheduled with any JCC School of Dance
Private Lesson Availability (Any Age)
NEW Free Family Membership to the JCC!
Full time students are eligible for a free family membership to the Jewish Community Center beginning in June! Some exclusions apply.

New Infant & Toddler Private Swim Lessons
One-on-one swim lessons with children six months to three years to encourage children to become comfortable in the water from a young age.

New Enrichment Programming with Community Partners
Students will engage in a wide variety of enrichment offerings in art, music, and science programs brought to us by SMARTS, YSU Dana School of Music, and OH WOW! Science Center.

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!
Personal Training Benefits:
• personalized safe and effective fitness programs
• achievement of goals in a short time period
• improved muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility
To register call: 330.746.3250 ext. 182

For more information on fitness programs, contact Shelia Cornell at 330.746.3250 ext. 182 or scornell@jewishyoungstown.org.

Reach Your Goals With InBody
Are you at a standstill with your workouts, or looking for some help creating a fitness plan that achieves your personal goals? Then a personal trainer is right for you! No matter where you are in your fitness journey, our certified trainers will work with you one-on-one to build a program designed just for you! Each program uses our new InBody 570, a full body composition analysis to breakdown your body’s fat & lean mass composition, water retention, & more!
First scan is FREE to all members!
Monthly Unlimited Scans: $15/mo (Also includes 15 minutes with Personal Trainer 1x/mo)
Member: $25/test | Non Member: $35/test

Open Gym Youth Basketball
Children ages five and up can join us for kid-friendly basketball time in our gym. Bring your own ball, or borrow one of ours.
Date: Fridays
Time: 4:00–5:30 p.m.

NEW! Swim/Bike/Run Triathlon Club
Always wanted to participate in a Triathlon? The JCC and Crew Racing, LLC can help you do it! Join the JCC Swim/Bike/Run Triathlon Club and we will help you train for your first race. Open to all ages and abilities, we have coaches who will offer weekly interval training to help you prepare for your first triathlon in a supportive group setting. At the end of the training, participants will compete together in the Gilford Sprint Triathlon on Saturday, August 17. Space is limited!
Dates: Mondays: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. June 24 - August 17
Swim training at JCC pool Wednesdays: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Bike/Run training at various locations
$150/Member | $250/Non Member
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Mamanet Summer Tournament
Ladies join us for one day of friendly competition! Create your own team (minimum six) or sign up as a free agent.
Tournament cost includes four scheduled practices, team shirt, and trophies for the top three teams.

**Date:** Sunday, June 30  
**Cost:** $20/player  
**Time:** Games start at 9:00 a.m.  
**Championship Game is 6:00 p.m.**  
**Location:** YSU Stambaugh Gymnasium  
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**Wellness Lunch & Learn: My DNA Cancer Testing**  
Andrea Trgovich, Area Coordinator, National Lab Services Co. will discuss how genetic testing can help identify certain health risks. She’ll also talk about genetic mutations and how they may increase a person’s risk of developing cancer.  

**Date:** Friday, June 21  
**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Adult Lounge  
Register by Wednesday, June 19 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**Barre Lean**  
Strengthen your muscles, improve your core strength and posture and give your body a lean and toned look. You will use your own body weight for resistance to focus on the thigh and seat muscles.  

**Date:** Tuesdays & Thursdays  
**Time:** 10:00 - 10:55 a.m.

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**AQUATICS**

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrystal at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

Learn to Swim and You & Me Baby lessons run as sessions on a monthly basis. The last day to register for the current month is the Friday before the second week. It will not be prorated. After that date, all registrations will be for the following month. This is to ensure the safety of all participants.

To enroll in private or group swim lessons visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

**Group Lessons**  
Registration is now required for Learn to Swim lessons prior to each monthly session.

**You & Me Baby**  
This is a monthly class where parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float and improve their water skills. Recommended ages: 6 - 36 months. Swim pants or swim diapers are required.

**Date:** Saturdays  
**Time:** 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

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**SwimSafe 500**  
This program provides free swim safety lessons for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Scholarships are provided by The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and The Redwoods Group.

To apply visit jccyoungstown.org/swimsafe500.

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**Lifeguarding Classes and Recertifications**  
After successfully completing this two-day class you will be certified by the American Red Cross in lifeguarding, first aid and AED.  

**Date:** Saturday & Sunday, June 8 & 9  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** $187/Member | $250/Non Member  
Lifeguard recertifications and CPR classes are also available upon request.  

**Date:** Monday & Tuesday, June 10 & 11  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** $100/Member | $133/Non Member

Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

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**LOGAN CAMPUS**

For more information about our Logan Campus contact Laura Weymer at 330.746.3250 ext. 299 or lweymer@jewishyoungstown.org

**Outdoor Tennis**  
Youth Tennis Team (Ages 10-18) Join the Youth Tennis Team at our Logan Campus and compete in the Youngstown Tennis League. Practice begins June 10.

**Date:** Mondays & Wednesdays  
**Time:** 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
$100/Member for one child  
$150/Member with multiple children  
$150/Non Member

**Youth Tennis Beginners Clinic** - Begins June 10  
**Date:** Mondays (Ages 8-10)  
**Date:** Wednesdays (Ages 11-18)  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Free for Youth Tennis Team

**Footwork Clinic - Begins July 15**  
**Date:** Mondays & Wednesdays Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
$50/Member | $67/Non Member

**Adult Beginner Clinics - Begins June 7**  
**Date:** Fridays  
**Time:** 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
$100/Member | $133/Non Member
Men's Open Play Tennis - Begins June 10
Date: Mondays
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free/Member: $10/Non Member

Women's Open Play Tennis - Begins June 6
Date: Thursdays
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free/Member: $10/Non Member

Mixed Doubles Night - Begins June 5
Date: Wednesdays
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Free/Member: $10/Non Member

Register for tennis online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar's Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Swim Lessons
Beginner Group Lessons
Date: Tuesdays or Thursdays
Time: 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
$30/Member | $40 Non Member

Swim Team Tutors
1:1 student/coach ratio
Four 30-Minute Lessons
$82/Member | $110/Non Member
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar's Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Logan Open House
Date: Sunday, June 23
Time: 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Bring your friends and family to the JCC Logan Campus for food and games plus experience all the incredible programs our JCC has to offer! All are welcome!

S'more Saturday Nights
Join us rain or shine every Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. around the firepit to make delicious s'mores!

Jewish Community Center of Youngstown
Dash and Splash 5k and Family Fun Run/Walk
Sunday, July 21 | 9:00 a.m.
You don't have to take part in the 5k to join us for the after bash! We'll have free food and drinks at our Logan Campus beginning at 10:30 a.m. Kids can enjoy a bounce house and games. There will also be entertainment for the entire family including a DJ.
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar's Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Family Late Night Movie & Swim: A Dog's Way Home (Rated PG)
Date: Saturday, June 22
Time: 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.
Free/Member: $5/Non Member
Registration required online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar's Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

CAMP JCC
For more information on Camp, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

Registration Now Open!
Camp JCC provides a safe, fun environment for campers to build lifelong friendships through unforgettable adventures and quality care. Our traditional day camp is full of fun activities including arts and crafts, baking, kickball, dance, music, soccer, free swim, certified swim lessons, and so much more! Specialty camps are either one or two weeks, and provide campers with experiences focused on specific areas of interest. These camps include: Horseback riding, 3D Printing, YSU Playmakers, Mad Science, and new Snapology Lego camp and Crayola Imagine Arts Academy World of Design. Our Advanced Specialty Camps are also either one or two weeks, and are specifically designed to inspire our middle school age campers with more diverse and challenging experiences. These camps include: Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino and Backpacking Wilderness Camp.
Our Camp JCC team is committed to giving your child an unforgettable summer and we look forward to making your family part of the Camp JCC Family!
Register online at jccyoungstown.org
An initial deposit of $75 is required at registration and will go towards the cost of your camp fees.

Horseback Riding Camp
June 10 - June 14 | July 22 - July 26
Ages 7 - 14
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Snapology's Amusement Park Engineers
June 24 - June 28
Ages 6 - 14
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Playmakers Theater Program with YSU
July 1 - July 12
Ages 6 - 14
$225/Member | $300/Non Member

3D Printing Camp
July 8 - July 12
Ages 8 - 14
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Mad Science - Eureka!
July 15 - July 19
Ages 7 - 13
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Crayola® Imagine Arts Academy World of Design
July 15 - July 19
Ages 7 - 13
$197/Member | $265/Non Member

Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino: Mary Poppins Jr.
June 10 - June 21
Ages 10-14
$300/Member | $400/Non Member

Backpacking Wilderness Camp
July 15 - July 19
Ages 10 - 14
$220/Member | $295/Non Member

CULTURAL ARTS

JCC Israeli Scholar Series
Teaching Hebrew to Israeli Arab Students
Hebrew teacher Mirit Sharon will share her inspiring story about teaching the Hebrew language to Bedouin students in southern Israel. Sharon has a Masters in Education Management and Leadership from Tel-Aviv University and teaches Hebrew as a second language in the U.S. This event is free and open to all. A light lunch will be served.
Date: Friday, June 7
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room

JCC Journeys: Explore Pittsburgh
Join us on a walking day trip to explore Pittsburgh. We will visit the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and continue with a boat tour and lunch.

Date: Sunday, June 16
Depart JCC: 8:00 a.m
Return: 4:00 p.m (approximately)
$55/Member | $70/Non Member
Register by Monday, June 3 at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

June 2019 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine 19
**FEDERATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council  
330.746.3250 ext. 195  
bursar@jewishyoungstown.org

**Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry**
The CHUM Food Pantry aims to feed families in Liberty Township that are in need of extra assistance. Since first starting in 2016, the pantry now feeds over 70+ families. Volunteers will help distribute food and make guests feel welcome during their visit.  
**Dates:** June 7, July 15, August 2  
**Time:** 9:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

**Diaper Packing with Making Kids Count**
The Making Kids Count Diaper Bank Volunteers re-pack diapers in quantities of 25 diapers per size with saran wrap and labels. This ensures that more people are able to receive a pack of diapers and that the diapers are being distributed as more of an “emergency” supply. Volunteers wrap 10,000 diapers into 400 packs a month!  
**Date:** June 14, July 12, August 9  
**Times:** 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 7178 West Blvd, Ste E  
**Youngstown, Ohio 44512**

**RENTALS**

For more information or to book a rental contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

**Multi-Purpose Room**
Equipped with an overhead motorized projection theater screen, state-of-the-art audio visual system, movable module stage, and commercial kitchen. Catering packages are available for up to 250 guests.

**Meeting Rooms**
Our small conference room seats up to eight guests, while our boardroom seats 35 and is equipped with a built-in projector and screen.

**Gymnasium**
Our full-size gymnasium is equipped with six regulation height basketball hoops, bleacher seating and a dividing curtain.

**Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room**
This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. Great for parties, meetings, retreats or educational seminars. The open room feel offers multiple room configurations. In-house catering is available

**Adult Lounge**
Accommodates 50 guests. An in-house kosher caterer is available.

**Specialty Parties**

**Pool Party**
Enjoy swim time in our full-size indoor heated pool.

**All Star Celebration**
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium then enjoy time in our party room.

**Glow & Dance Hip-Hop Party**
Enjoy your next celebration with glow accessories and a mini hip-hop lesson.

**Ninja Games Celebration**
Tackle our ninja obstacle course and participate in coordination activities.

**Noah's Park Party**
Play the day away at Noah's Park or our new Infant and Toddler playground.

**Prince & Princess Royal Bash**
Don your crowns and tiaras and take a mini ballet lesson.

**Superhero Celebration**
Dress up and participate in superhero activities in our secret lair.

**Under the Sea Splish Splash Mermaid Bash**
Experience swimming and storytelling in our pool with the JCC mermaid.

**All parties include time in our party room. Custom invitations are available!**

**Logan Campus Rentals**

**Pool Bash**
You and your party guests can swim in our full-size heated pool and enjoy time celebrating at our on-site pavilion. Guests can also play basketball, volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard or bocce on our spacious grounds. Maximum party size is 50. Lifeguards will staff the pool at all times.

**Pavilion**
The JCC Logan Pavilion is a large, covered, outdoor pavilion a short walk from our pool. Round tables outfit the pavilion and you can decorate to suit your theme. Swim in our heated pool or play basketball, volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard, or bocce on our spacious grounds. Invited guests who are non members must pay the price of admission. Maximum capacity is 50.

**SENIOR OUTREACH**

If you or someone you know is over 60 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact Senior Outreach Coordinator Shai Erez at 330.550.5995 or serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

**THE THOMASES FAMILY ENDOWMENT OF THE YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION ART GALLERY**

To learn more visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the gallery curator, Heather Seno, at hseno@jewishyoungstown.org

**Current Exhibit**

**Sandy's Scrapbook**
**Exhibit Dates:** May 13 - July 1

**Upcoming Exhibit:**

**Power of the Protest**
This unique exhibit from the National Museum for American Jewish History in Philadelphia will display The Movement to Free Soviet Jews. This is one of the most successful human rights movements in history and shows that voices raised in protest can lead to remarkable achievements.

**Exhibit Dates:** August 19 - September 29  
**Opening Reception:**  
Thursday, August 22  
**Time:** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
To learn more visit jccyoungstown.org or contact the gallery curator, Heather Seno, at hseno@jewishyoungstown.org

**Logan Open House**
**Date:** Sunday, June 23  
**Time:** 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Bring your friends and family to the JCC Logan Campus for food and games plus experience all the incredible programs our JCC has to offer! All are welcome!
Players Needed for Upcoming Mamanet Tournament

The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown will hold an International Mamanet Tournament Sunday, June 30 at Youngstown State University’s Stambaugh Gymnasium.

“Mamanet is a fun, social sports league for mothers that started in Israel over a decade ago and has been growing phenomenally around the world,” said Laura Weymer, JCC health & wellness director. “An October 2018 visit from Ofra Abramovich, founder of Mamanet, sparked interest in Mamanet here in Youngstown.”

The tournament will engage teams at the local level, regionally through relationships with several of the top JCCs in the Midwest and internationally by bringing a team of women from Israel to compete in the one-day event. The JCC is working with its partnership region in the Western Galilee of Israel.

The tournament cost is $20 per person and includes lunch, T-shirt, and at least two games in the tournament. “If you’ve never played Mamanet, the sport is very easy to learn and our Mamanet players are very welcoming and encouraging to players of all ages and skill levels,” Weymer said.

Those interested in learning the game are welcome to try it for free from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at the Liberty Youth Recreation Center (LYRIC), 317 Churchill Hubbard Road, Youngstown.

“Since Abramovich’s visit, the weekly open gym sessions have engaged more than 50 women in learning a new sport, building new relationships, and engaging in friendly competition and positive physical activity,” Weymer said. “Recently, our dedicated group of Mamanet players traveled to Columbus to learn from their more established Mamanet league and challenge them in competition.”

For more information, contact Weymer at lweymer@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3250 ext. 299.

Joy Elder: A Legacy of Education and Leadership

By Bonnie Deutsch Burdman

When faced with the loss of a community leader, an opportunity arises to remember fondly the special legacy of accomplishments that continue to live on. This is particularly true with the recent passing of Joy Elder (see tribute page 10).

I have been privileged to know and learn from so many extraordinary people. One of the best is Joy Elder who, throughout her life, exhibited a passion for learning and for Holocaust education and commemoration.

As an expression of her love for Jewish books and the community, Joy created and provided more than 30 years of volunteer service to the JCC library. And for many years, she worked closely with Dr. Saul Friedman, of blessed memory, assisting him with his research and with his communications with Survivors. Because of Joy, the library now also serves as a Holocaust resource center, and the JCRC’s mandate to promote Holocaust education is stronger than ever.

For her incredible work, Joy received the prestigious YSU Janusz Korczak award for significant contributions to education and understanding, and well as the Federation’s Itts and Marx awards for service and leadership. These honors were well deserved.

Joy taught this community about the importance of life-long learning and about the need to honor Jewish traditions. During remarks she made when she became a late-in-life Bat Mitzvah, Joy humbly noted that she was “grateful for this second chance, this opportunity to discover unexplored resources within myself that will make me not only a better Jew, but one always ready for the next challenge.”

What an incredible lesson. Like many, I will miss Joy Elder. May her memory always be for a blessing.

MAMANET SUMMER TOURNAMENT

Ladies, join us for one day of friendly competition! Create your own team (minimum six) or sign up as a free agent. Tournament cost includes four scheduled practices, team shirt, and trophies for the top three teams.

DATE: Sunday, June 30
TIME: Games start at 9:00 a.m. | Championship Game is 6:00 p.m.
LOCATION: YSU Stambaugh Gymnasium
COST: $20/player

Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office 330.746.3250 ext. 195

ISRAELI SCHOLAR SERIES

Teaching Hebrew to Israeli Arab Students

Hebrew teacher Mirit Sharon will share her inspiring story about teaching the Hebrew language to Bedouin students in southern Israel.

Date: Friday, June 7
Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room

This event is free and open to all. A light lunch will be served.

Register by Monday, June 3 at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.246.3250 ext. 195
Eric Fingerhut Leaves Hillel to Head Jewish Federations of North America

By Ed Carroll

CLEVELAND (Cleveland Jewish News via JTA) — Eric Fingerhut is leaving his position as president and CEO of Hillel International to take the same posts at the Jewish Federations of North America.

Fingerhut, who served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives representing Ohio in 1993 and 1994, will succeed Jerry Silverman. The Times of Israel reported in April 2018 that Silverman, who assumed the JFNA leadership in 2009, planned to step down at the end of his contract this September.

Jared Isaacson, executive director of the Cleveland Hillel Foundation, confirmed Fingerhut was leaving Hillel for JFNA.

"He has significantly helped raise the profile of Hillel, making it possible for so many campuses and individual and local Hillel organizations to increase Jewish education, leadership, and engagement opportunities for so many students and professionals," Isaacson said in a statement.

JFNA represents 147 Jewish federations and over 300 "network communities," who collectively distribute more than $2 billion annually through annual fundraising campaigns, planned giving, and endowment programs, according to JFNA. The money supports local social services and Jewish educational needs, as well as social service and immigration needs in Israel and other Jewish communities around the world.

"For more than half a decade, the Jewish world has watched as Eric spearheaded transformational change at Hillel," said chair of the JFNA Board of Trustees, Mark Wilf, in a statement. "With a clear vision for the future of Jewish life on college campuses and universities, he took a 90-year-old organization and made it new again. We believe he can bring the same energy and imagination to Federation. He’s the right leader at the right time."

Fingerhut’s start date is Aug. 6, 2019.

Fingerhut had been president and CEO of the umbrella group of campus Jewish organizations since August 2013. He replaced Wayne Firestone, who left Hillel in April 2013. From 2011 until he joined Hillel, Fingerhut worked as vice president of education and STEM learning at Battelle, a Columbus, Ohio-based independent research and development organization.


In a statement provided by JFNA, Fingerhut spoke of growing up in Cleveland and noted his mother was a receptionist at the Cleveland Jewish News for 30 years.

“I didn’t realize it at the time, but my early life was shaped by Federation,” he said. “I went to preschool at the JCC. I vividly remember carrying signs in the walkathons standing up for Israel during the 1967 and 1973 wars. Never did I imagine that nearly a half century later; I would have the opportunity to lead a movement that has impacted my life and so many others. It has a rich history, and I believe it can have an even more impactful future. I am excited to take on that challenge.”

Portman, Peters Introduce Legislation to Increase Security Resources for Faith-Based Institutions and Nonprofit Organizations

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senators Rob Portman (ROH) and Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced bipartisan legislation – the Protecting Faith-Based and Nonprofit Organizations From Terrorism Act (S. 1539) – to authorize $75 million annually for fiscal years 2020 to 2024 for the Department of Homeland Security’s Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides grants to nonprofits and faith-based organizations to help secure their facilities against a potential terrorist attack.

Of the $75 million total, $50 million will be available for nonprofits located within high-risk urban areas, and the remaining $25 million will be available for organizations that fall outside of those areas. Under the legislation, funding may be used for target-hardening activities, training for personnel, and any other appropriate activity, as defined by the FEMA Administrator.

“Ensuring that synagogues, religious and cultural institutions, and nonprofit organizations have the resources and training they need to secure their facilities is one way Congress can help address this unnecessary violence that has tragically become more and more common,” Portman said. “As I’ve said many times, there is no place for hatred or bigotry of any kind toward our fellow citizens. The threats and attacks we’ve seen across our country are attacks on our values and this bipartisan bill will help protect faith and cultural based institutions in Ohio and across our country.”

Peters said, “Places of worship should be a safe haven, where people can practice their religion without fear of being attacked. Tragically, the rise in the number of violent attacks at synagogues, mosques and churches across the country has shattered that expectation. We must do more to address these insidious threats, and stand up to the hatred and bigotry that drives them. This bipartisan legislation will help ensure that houses of worship, cultural institutions, and nonprofit organizations in Michigan and across the country can enhance their security and continue serving our communities.”

Tastes of the Faiths Festival Held

The synagogues worked together for this year’s Taste of the Faiths Festival. The annual event hosted by the Mahoning Valley Association of Churches included food, beverages, and musical entertainment. Pictured from left to right are Sally Blau, Paula Ferguson, and Shari Della Penna, who made three kinds of kugel for the event.

Available for weddings, graduation parties, and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

Full service catering for brunches and dinners. Kosher and non-kosher

Authorized caterer for the DD Davis Center, the Jewish Community Center; Stambaugh Auditorium; Tyler Historical Center; Temples El Emeth, Ohev Tzedek, and Rodef Sholom.

3135 Belmont Avenue, Liberty Township • 330-759-7889
Explore Jewish Culture Through Partnership2Gether Opportunity

Partnership2Gether Western Galilee Central Area Consortium is offering "Learn2Gether Jewish Learning Program - Connecting Through An Interactive Limmud." This program allows adult learners to connect, study, and get to know friends from the U.S., the Western Galilee and Budapest. Learn2Gether is an opportunity to explore the beauty of Jewish culture through rich, modern, and traditional Jewish texts. This year, the Learn2Gether theme is Jewish Cycle.

The seven sessions are composed of four group learning, fixed video conference sessions and three chavruta learning sessions. Participants will be paired with a chavruta partner from the Western Galilee or Budapest for three chavruta Limmud sessions between October 2019 and April 2020. They will receive a chavruta work sheet and will set up these chavruta sessions at their own convenience, using their preferred connecting app. An optional face-to-face get together at the June 2020 Partnership Summit in Budapest will also be offered.

Registration is required by Sept. 1. To register, email Avital Ben Dror at avitalbe@jafi.org. For more information, contact Gon Erez at gerez@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3250 ext. 159.

Save the Dates!

September 16
September 22
September 24
September 26
October 3
October 13
Deadline Approaching for Holocaust Education Workshop

The Ohio Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education (OCHGE) and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage - The Museum of Diversity and Tolerance will present a Holocaust workshop for educators, lawyers, students, and community members. The workshop, "How and Why Did the Holocaust Occur, and What Do We Do About It Today?" will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, June 24 at the Maltz Museum, 2929 Richmond Rd., Beachwood, Ohio. The deadline to register is June 10.

The day-long workshop features keynote Professor Kenneth Ledford from Case Western Reserve University on "The Role and Rule of Law in Nazi Germany." It also features a tour of the Maltz Museum Holocaust Collection with Maltz educators. The workshop includes presentations by Professor Mark Cole from Cleveland State University and Professor Brad Beach from Walsh University. Clevelander Roman Frayman will share a survivor testimony.

The $30 registration fee includes workshop materials, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks (dietary laws observed). For more information, or to register, visit ochege.org/events. If registering by mail, make check for $30 payable to OCHGE and mail to Sarah L. Weiss, executive director, OCHGE, Holocaust & Humanity Center, 1301 Western Ave, Suite 2101, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203.

Alan Samuels - Vice President of the Aaron Grossman B’nai B’rith Lodge #339 invites you to our

ANNUAL
B’nai B’rith Family Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019
AT 3:00 P.M.
BUHL PARK SHELTER #1
GPS ADDRESS:
715 HAZEN ROAD
HERMITAGE, PA 16148

Open to the
Youngstown Area Jewish Community
Bring Your Family

Meet our members and make new friends!
FREE Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Drinks starting at 4:00 p.m.
Bring a covered dish, appetizer or dessert.
Please let Alan know what you will be bringing when you RSVP

RSVP Required:
Alan Samuels
Home 724.658.8223 or Cell 724.730.3909
email bootman55@aol.com

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT STARTING AT 6:00 P.M.
THE DORALS
Oldies & Motown