Above: The public presentation and book launch A History of Jewish Youngstown and the Steel Valley takes place on Monday, May 22, from 5 - 7 p.m. at The Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center. Read more about the book and its author on page 22.

Above Right: Sophie Alper reads her award-winning poem “My New Life” at the Holocaust Memorial Ceremony held in the Mahoning County Courthouse on April 25. Read more on page 4.

Left: The JCC’s Logan Campus opens on May 27. Read more on page 6.
The 3 cancers Jews need to worry about most — and how to reduce the risks

By Niv Elis

NEW YORK — As if Jews don’t have enough to worry about.

Geopolitical threats to the Jewish people may wax and wane, but there’s another lethal danger particular to the Jewish people that shows no signs of disappearing anytime soon: cancer.

Specifically, Jews are at elevated risk for three types of the disease: melanoma, breast cancer and ovarian cancer. The perils are particularly acute for Jewish women.

The higher prevalence of these illnesses isn’t spread evenly among all Jews. The genetic mutations that result in higher incidence of cancer are concentrated among Ashkenazim — Jews of European descent.

“Ashkenazim are a more homogeneous population from a genetic point of view, whereas the Sephardim are much more diverse,” said Dr. Ephrat Levy-Lahad, director of the Medical Genetics Institute at Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

But there is some hope. Susceptible populations can take certain precautions to reduce their risks. Recent medical advances have made early detection easier, significantly lowering the fatality rates from some cancers. Cheaper genetic testing is making it much easier for researchers to discover the risk factors associated with certain cancers. And scientists are working on new approaches to fight these pernicious diseases – especially in Israel, where Ashkenazi Jews make up a larger proportion of the population than in any other country.

Understanding risk factors and learning about preventative measures are key to improving cancer survival rates. Here’s what you need to know.

Melanoma

Melanoma is the deadliest type of skin cancer, representing some 80 percent of skin cancer deaths, and U.S. melanoma rates are on the rise. It’s also one of the most common forms of cancer in younger people, especially among women.

Just a decade ago, Israel had the second-highest rate of skin cancer in the world, behind Australia. One reason is that Israel has a lot of sun. Some credit better education about the dangers of sun exposure for helping reduce Israel’s per capita skin cancer rate, now 18th in the world.

But the sun isn’t the whole story. Jews in Israel have a higher incidence of melanoma than the country’s Arab, non-Jewish citizens.

What makes Jews more likely to get skin cancer than others?

It’s a combination of genetics and behavior, according to Dr. Harriet Kluger, a cancer researcher at Yale University. On the genetics side, Ashkenazi Jews — who comprise about half of Israel’s Jewish population — are significantly more likely to have the BRCA-2 genetic mutation that some studies have linked to higher rates of melanoma.

The other factor, Israel’s abundant sunshine, exacerbates the problems for sun-sensitive Jews of European origin. That’s why Arabs and Israeli Orthodox Jews, whose more conservative dress leaves less skin exposed than does typical secular attire, have a lower incidence of the cancer.

“There are epidemiological studies from Israel showing that secular Jews have more melanoma than Orthodox Jews,” Dr. Kluger said.

So what’s to be done?

“Other than staying out of the sun, people should get their skin screened once a year,” Dr. Kluger said. “In Australia, getting your skin screened is part of the culture, like getting your teeth cleaned in America.”

You can spot worrisome moles on your own using an alphabetic mnemonic device for letters A-F: See a mole that’s Asymmetrical, Border irregularities, dark or multiple Color, has a large Diameter, is Evolving (e.g. changing), or is just plain Funny looking. Light-skinned people and redheads should be most vigilant, as well as those who live in sunny locales like California, Florida or the Rocky Mountain states.

If you insist on being in the sun, sunscreen can help mitigate the risk, but only up to a point.

“It decreases the chances of getting melanoma, but it doesn’t eliminate the chances,” Dr. Kluger warned.

As with other cancers, early detection can dramatically increase survival rates.

In the meantime, scientists in Israel – a world leader in melanoma research – hold high hopes for immunotherapy, which corral the body’s immune mechanisms to attack or disable cancer. At Bar-Ilan University, Dr. Cyrille Cohen is using a research grant from the Israel Cancer Research Fund to implant human melanoma cells in mice to study whether human white blood cells can be genetically modified to act as a “switch” that turns on the human immune system’s cancer-fighting properties.

Breast cancer

Breast cancer is already more common in developed, Western countries than elsewhere — likely because wom
What’s in this month’s Jewish Journal?

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And much, much more

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

Publisher: Andrew L. Lipkin
Editor: Patricia R. Kelvin, Ph.D., APR
Advertising Director: Phyllis Friedman
Office: Kathy Schell

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To contact the JJMM:
Phone 330-746-3250
Fax 330-746-7926
Email journal@JewishYoungstown.org
Mail: 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504-1314

JJMM Mission Statement

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

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

Dec. 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Jan. 2017 issue.
Commemorating the Shoah

There was standing room only in the rotunda of the Mahoning County Courthouse, as members of the judiciary; county officials; students and their families and teachers, joined members of the community and representatives of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation commemorated the Holocaust, recognizing Survivors and Rescuers.

The Annual Community Holocaust Commemoration at the Courthouse featured a presentation by Jesse McClain, the Jewish Federation’s Holocaust educational specialist, on the transformation of the JCC library into the new “JCC Judaic and Holocaust Resource Center.” The community program will also feature the recognition of the winners of the JCRC’s annual student Holocaust writing contest, the presentation of a proclamation by Youngstown Mayor John McNally, as well as a memorial candlelighting ceremony to honor the six million who perished.

Yom Hashoah is an internationally recognized day set aside for remembering all victims of the Holocaust and for reminding society of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference reign. This year’s local theme, “The Power of Words in the Holocaust,” explores how in any campaign of genocide, words are among the most powerful weapons. The theme also addresses the fact that racial hatred has repeatedly resurfaced in the decades since the Holocaust, and sadly, is still prominent today.

Students in schools throughout the area were asked to write essays and poems on the Holocaust theme, and the winners and runners-up were honored at the ceremony.

(Continued on page 16)
At the Annual Meeting of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation on May 15, 2017, the voting membership* will be asked to vote to amend and restate the Articles of Incorporation of the Federation and to approve the "2017 Amended and Restated Constitution of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation."

This continues the process that changes the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation from one charitable organization into separate operating organizations. The new structure will create a Parent, Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board with control over two separate but connected organizations: one being the "Youngstown Area Jewish Federation," the operating organization encompassing the JCC, JCRC and Human Services agencies of Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens and Jewish Family Services; and the other being the "Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation" which will hold the endowments and reserves to benefit the family of corporate entities.

The diagram below shows that although separate legal entities, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Foundation are controlled by the parent "Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board."

The Jewish community created a legacy to be preserved and protected. This legal separation protects the endowments in the Foundation from future potential claims.

The Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board will be the large community board elected by the voting members. The boards of the "Foundation" and "Federation" as well as the advisory board of each agency will be appointed by the new "Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board."

While a corporate restructure is a major undertaking, the actual work of our agencies will continue unchanged. The Federation and its agencies will work to uphold the same mission and provide excellent social services, cultural programming, and projects. Financial support through the Annual Campaign and Endowments will fund operations as it has for the past 87 years.

As the complexity of business and economic development evolves, the Federation evolves for the long term benefit of the Jewish community.

*The current Constitution of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation defines a "Voting Member" of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation as an individual of the Jewish faith who resides in the region covered by the Federation who is 18 years of age or older and who has contributed to the Combined Jewish Appeal of the Federation during the previous year's Campaign.

For more information about the corporate restructure, documents for review, or the Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, May 15, 2017, please contact the Federation office at 330-746-3250.
Moishe House celebrates 100th home opening April 21 in Atlanta

ATLANTA, April 19 – Moishe House will be celebrating its 100th home for 20-something Jews to build their own community in Atlanta this month. The largest organization in the world serving post-college Jewish young adults recently celebrated its first decade of re-defining millennial Jewish life.

Moishe House Atlanta – Buckhead will create a hub for young Jewish life in Atlanta and will be home to three dynamic residents – Amy Abelson, 28; Cassidy Artz, 25; and Matthew Spruchman, 25 – who are eager to build and create their own grassroots community by hosting at least 60 programs annually reaching more than 300 unique participants over the next year.

The residents celebrated the opening of this 100th Moishe House by hosting a Shabbat dinner with their local community members.

“We are thrilled to be opening our 100th Moishe House,” said David Cygielman, founder and CEO of Moishe House. “This historic milestone shows just how empowered young adults have changed the face of post-college Jewish life over the last 10 years. But even more important than this number are the hundreds of residents – and tens of thousands of participants – whose Jewish lives have been enriched by opening their homes and creating their own innovative programming.

“Every Moishe House is an opportunity for passionate young adults to create frequent Jewish experiences for themselves and their peers.”

Each Moishe House is an open, welcoming home, created and facilitated by a group of three to five carefully selected leaders, known as residents.

In Atlanta, these young adults will host five to six meaningful Jewish programs a month for their peers. In the process, the Moishe House residents join an international network of young Jewish leaders in cities from Auckland, New Zealand, to the Williamsburg area in Brooklyn, NY.

About Moishe House:

The center of Moishe House’s approach is an open, welcoming home, created and facilitated by a group of three to five carefully selected leaders, known as residents. These young adults, between the ages of 22 and 30, plan and implement 60+ programs a year for their peers. In 2016, our young adult leaders engaged 50,000+ unique participants through 8,500+ programs.

Opening their new home: (From left) Moishe House Atlanta – Buckhead residents Cassidy Artz, Amy Abelson, and Matthew Spruchman officially opened the doors on April 21.

Logan Campus to open May 27

The JCC is excited about the addition of the Jewish Community Center Logan Campus (The former Logan Swim and Tennis Club)! Now, membership to the Jewish Community Center will include the Logan Campus at no additional cost. JCC members will have access to the state-of-the-art fitness center, indoor pool, group exercise classes, group aquatic classes, and discounted programming. The Logan Campus adds a full-size, outdoor swimming pool, kiddie pool, changing rooms and showers, tennis courts, a full basketball court, volleyball, tetherball, bocce, two picnic pavilions, and more. JCC Members can enjoy outdoor family fun nights with movies, s’mores, karaoke, card nights, and a host of other summertime events.

Who Qualifies for Logan Campus:
Current JCC Members
Healthways Members (SilverSneakers and Prime)
All new JCC members (with at least a $400 commitment)

Volunteer Day: Jewish Community Center Logan Campus
Friday, May 19, 9 a.m – 2 p.m.

Help the JCC prepare the Logan Campus for a fun-filled summer! Volunteers will be helping with painting, prepping the pool deck, and beautifying the space. Free babysitting will be provided at the JCC’s main campus with registration. Every volunteer will receive a free day pass to the Jewish Community Center Logan Campus. For questions contact Sarah Wilschek: 330.746.3250 Ext. 123 or by email at SarahWilschek@jewishyoungstown.org.

Logan Campus Kick-Off Party!
Sunday, July 2, 1 – 4 p.m.

Join in a Logan Campus opening celebration, with food, music, games, prizes, contests, kids entertainment, and more!
Reflecting on this anniversary year

By Hilari Lipkin and Eliot Legow

When we first began this journey, almost a year ago, we never would have thought the time would fly so fast. Imagine how fast and how many changes have happened in 150 years!

We began our journey thinking about the past, the present, and the future. We are all intermingled through the years. Who were we? What are we doing? Where are we going?

This year has been a year of contemplation and discussion.

Our wonderful speakers shared so much about the past, the present and our future. There was a speaker for everyone to hear. The last speaker before our Gala weekend was Rabbi Richard Block.

As our journey comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our congregants and staff who have participated. We were all invited to take part in the festivities, and I know we had at least 150 different congregants participate with us. Thank you to everyone for your support and assistance. Our congregation is special, and times like this bring out that feeling of togetherness and community.

Open to the community
Several local leaders will be joining us for that service and Oneg Shabbat.

Saturday morning, 10 a.m.
Family Shabbat with musician Marc Rossi. (see story on right) Pizza lunch to follow.

Saturday evening gala, 7:30 p.m.
Neshama Carlebach and Josh Nelson, Community concert
Dessert reception to follow
R.S.V.P. for all events, by April 28.

May 12-13
Celebrate our sesquicentennial with us.
Friday night service
7:30 p.m.
With Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, Speaking on: “The Future of Reform Judaism: A Vision and A Hope”

Jubilantly,
Hilari and Elliot

Community concert especially for children features Marc Rossio

A community children's concert with Jewish singer-songwriter Marc Rossio. Jewish will be part of Rodef Sholom's 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Tamarkin Chapel, the event is free with a pizza lunch following the concert.

Reservations are required by May 10. Call the Temple office at 330.744.5001.

A Columbus resident, Mr. Rossio spends his time playing guitar, composing, singing, touring, and recording his music. He loves his audience, and the feeling is mutual. Some of them even give him hugs.

Preschoolers are his biggest fans, but their older brothers, sisters, and parents embrace his music too. This creative children's musician uses "The Marvelous Toy" as his stage name. He borrowed the name from the title of a Tom Paxton song. His spontaneous act fits perfectly with the description of the toy in the song.

Although Rossio's stage persona is hip, casual, and fun — he is passionate about teaching children about Judaism.

In his CD, "L'Chaim" he introduces prayer, Jewish holidays, and lighting Sabbath candles. He teaches a little Hebrew too. In addition, Rossio, composer music for all children. His CD, "Batteries Not Included," includes classic children's songs, and Rossio's original compositions. Pottery Barn For Kids sponsors him, and he gives shows throughout the United States.

Congregation Rodef Sholom Historical Exhibit

May 2017

In conjunction with the Temple's 150th Anniversary celebration, excerpts from Temple's events, archival material, and various other objects, will be displayed in the Wilkoff Library. These are but a token, reflecting the rich and dynamic history of the Rodef Sholom family, which extends over many generations. The entire community is invited to visit the visual story of our congregation. We hope this display will afford our visitors the pleasure of rediscovering, reconnecting, and reliving the many memorable happy moments and occasions through viewing this display.

Confirmation Service

Rodef Sholom Chapel
Friday, May 26, 6 p.m.

Please share in the joy of the family of Karina Kunkel as she becomes confirmed and honored on the completion of her formal religious education at MSJS. Rabbi Muller will officiate.

All in the Congregation are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served in Handler Hall following the service. R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, May 23 by calling the Temple office at 330.744.5001 or email rodefsholom@sbcglobal.net.
Why is this Filipina fighting for Israel?

By Andrew Tobin

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Staff. Sgt. Joana Chris Arpon isn’t Israeli, or even Jewish. Her service in the Israel Defense Forces is personal.

Staff Sgt. Arpon, 20, is the daughter of Filipino parents who came to the Israel to find work. She said she enlisted as a combat soldier because an Israeli army team rescued her grandmother in the aftermath of the 2013 typhoon that devastated the Philippines.

“It was amazing to see the soldiers show up and help people. They saved my grandmother when her house was destroyed,” Staff Sgt. Arpon said. “I was like, “Whoa, that’s what I want to do.”

On Tuesday, Israel’s 69th Independence Day, Staff Sgt. Arpon will be one of 120 soldiers recognized by Israel’s president for distinguished service. Later this year, Staff Sgt. Arpon and her mother will be granted Israeli citizenship thanks partly to her time in the army.

Born in Israel, Staff Sgt. Arpon always felt like part of the Jewish state. While many Filipinos live clustered in Israel’s big cities, her mother raised her and her older brother in the small town of Mishmar Hashiva, in central Israel. At their high school in nearby Rishon Lezion, they were the only Filipino students.

Staff Sgt. Arpon’s mother immigrated to Israel in 1988 to work as a nanny, and stayed to raise her children even after her husband left. The vast majority of the some 31,000 Filipinos who live in Israel are female caregivers.

As a rule, Filipinos are only allowed to live in Israel as temporary workers. But Arpon and her brother are among the hundreds of Filipino children the government has granted permanent residency, along with their immediate family members. After the children serve in the army, their families qualify for citizenship.

Staff Sgt. Arpon long knew she would follow in the footsteps of her brother, who served as a paramedic and is now a citizen. But it was only recently that she decided she wanted to be a combat soldier. Only about 7 percent of Israeli combat soldiers are women, though that number is growing despite opposition from some Orthodox Jews and others.

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines with record-breaking force. At least 6,300 people were killed, and tens of thousands lost their homes, including Arpon’s grandmother.

A few months later, Staff Sgt. Arpon flew with her family to the country to visit her grandmother in the hospital. Israel had sent soldiers and other emergency responders to help, and Arpon learned that its army’s Search and Rescue Unit had helped save her grandmother from her destroyed home.

“People said without the Israeli soldiers, they weren’t sure they would have survived,” Staff Sgt. Arpon said. “I realized that I wanted to be part of this unit, and definitely this country.”

When Staff Sgt. Arpon returned to Israel, she fought to enlist in the army as a non-citizen and was granted her

(Continued on next page)
OSWIECIM, Poland, April 28 — Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor Bronia Brandman, 86, returned to the death camp on Friday for the first time since her liberation, accompanied by a delegation of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) officers and 40 Friends of the Israel Defense Forces supporters from across the United States.

Mrs. Brandman was born in Jarovno, Poland, and watched two of her sisters being sent to the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Except for her older brother and cousin, who also reside in the United States, her entire family perished in the Holocaust. She has one daughter and two grandchildren who live in Israel. Mrs. Brandman, who now lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., and had vowed never to return to Poland, decided to return to Auschwitz as part of the FIDF “From Holocaust to Independence” delegation to Poland and Israel for the first time since the Red Army liberated the camp in 1945.

“I came to Auschwitz in 1943 as a child of 12. My parents and four siblings were consigned to the gas chambers. The daily bestiality and dehumanization was beyond words, and the world’s silence was deafening,” said Mrs. Brandman. “I never wished to return to that place of our degradation and annihilation, but to return in the presence of our noblest, the bravest of the brave — our IDF soldiers, allows my spirit to soar with pride and hope.”

Mrs. Brandman’s return to Auschwitz was among the highlights of the FIDF delegation to Poland and Israel. Chaired by FIDF National Vice President Robert Cohen, who founded FIDF’s Washington, D.C., and Mid-Atlantic chapters, the 10-day trip is spanning Jewish history, from its darkest moments to its most triumphant. Israeli soldiers and Holocaust survivors accompanied the FIDF supporters across Poland, starting in Krakow, once home to more than 60,000 Jews, tracing the community’s steps from the city’s ghetto to the Buczyna forest, where the Nazis executed more than 800 children. The delegation also visited the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camps.

Last week, the entire delegation flew on an Israeli Air Force transport jet from Poland to Israel, where they will visit IDF bases, commemorate Israel’s Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror, and celebrate Israel’s 69th Independence Day.

“This historic delegation is tracing the modern history of the Jewish people through the eyes of Holocaust survivors and IDF officers,” said FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir. “It’s telling the story of our near-extinction in Europe, the creation of a Jewish homeland, and the new generation of Jewish defenders who made sure they are not forgotten – the brave soldiers who protect their legacy: the State of Israel and the Jewish diaspora around the world.”

Filipina in the IDF
(Continued from preceding page)

Staff Sgt. Arpon said she did not know why she was being honored until Tuesday from among “so many people with amazing stories.” But she said her mother and brother were proud of her, and would be on hand for the event. She said, too, that her grandmother, who died recently, likely would have approved of her plans for after she finishes her army service in November and becomes a citizen.

After the army, Staff Sgt. Arpon wants to study architecture — and design houses that will stand in any weather.

“l’m really glad I chose this type of service, where I was able to help the country that helped me,” Staff Sgt. Arpon said. “I see my future in Israel.”

From left: IAF Commander of Aerial Defense Brig. Gen. Zvika Haimovich; Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor Giselle “Gita” Cycowicz; FIDF National Vice President Robert Cohen; Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor Bronia Brandman; and FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Meir Klifi-Amir walking through the entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau, beneath the infamous sign that reads “work sets you free,” in German.

Shahar Azran
Celebrating Jerusalem Day
50th Anniversary of the Reunification

May 21, 2017 | 12:30 P.M.
Jewish Community Center | Multi-Purpose Room

Dr. Brook served as a battalion physician during the Yom Kippur War and authored the book “In the Sands of Sinai: a Physician’s Account of the Yom Kippur War.” He served in the Israeli army as a medic in the Six Day War in 1967 and as a battalion physician during the Yom Kippur war in 1973 and r. Brook served in the US Navy for 27 years. Brook, is a Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Georgetown University in Washington DC and the past chairman of the Anti-infective Drug Advisory Committee of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

RSVP by May 17 to Gon Erez, gerez@jewishyoungstown.org; 330.746.3250 x 159
www.JewishYoungstown.org
Jerusalem Day Celebration: not just another program

By Bonnie Deutsch Burdman
JCRC Director

The Jewish Community Relations Council, in conjunction with the Jewish Community Center, is planning a meaningful “Jerusalem Day” program, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of the eternal capital of the Jewish people, on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 12:30 at the JCC. Because reunification was achieved through Israel’s victory in the Six Day War, this event is special and should not be missed.

The 1967 war was a transformative event in the history of Israel and the Jewish people. Surrounded on all its borders and threatened with annihilation, Israel emerged after just six days of battle with a decisive military victory against the combined armies of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. It was nothing short of miraculous.

The victory brought numerous benefits to the fledging Jewish state. In the first two decades since Israel’s establishment, during which Jerusalem was divided and occupied by Jordan, Jewish holy sites were desecrated and access was denied. After 2000 years, Jews were once again able to pray at their most holy site. The reunification of Jerusalem is indeed a moment worthy of celebration, if not triumphalism.

But with triumph, also comes challenges. Israel’s battle for survival left the state in control over the lives of millions of Palestinians in areas previously controlled by Jordan and Egypt. This has fed into the perception that Israel, not the Arab world, was primarily at fault for the conflict and has been used as a pretext for committing terrorism against the Jewish people and for ostracizing Israel in international bodies.

Many wrongly, and with intense anti-Semitic motivations, accuse Israel of being a permanent occupier, however, a close look at the historical record since 1967 demonstrates that Israel has consistently sought to achieve peace with the Palestinians and the wider Middle East. All efforts were either rejected or ignored by opposing leadership, thus making it clear that the elimination of Israel, not peace with it, is the ultimate objective.

Despite all the challenges, Israel is thriving, and with the help and backing of Jews and other pro-Israel activists worldwide, Israel will continue to be a democratic, light amongst the nations.

As we were reminded last month during our community Holocaust commemoration events, the birth of the State of Israel provided a safe haven for Survivors to rebuild their shaken lives.

Jerusalem Day is free and open to the public.
R.S.V.P. to Goni Erez at — gerez@jewishyoungstown.org or 330-746-3250, x 159.
See you there!

Israel’s population is 8.68 million on eve of 69th birthday

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel’s population stands at 8.68 million on the eve of Israel Independence Day.

The figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics ahead of the nation’s 69th birthday on Monday, May 1, show that the country’s population is growing by nearly 2 percent a year and that there are 10 times as many Israelis today as there were when the state was founded in 1948.

Some 6.48 million residents of Israel are Jewish and account for 74.4 percent of the population, and 1.8 million Arabs make up 20.8 percent, according to the bureau. Non-Arab Christians and other ethnic groups make up the remaining 388,000 people, or 4.4 percent, of Israel’s population.

In the last year, there were 174,000 births and 44,000 deaths. The population also increased some 30,000 by new immigrants from around the world.

Seventy-five percent of the current population was born in Israel, compared to 35 percent who were born in the area in 1948.

Some 54.3 percent of Israelis are between the ages of 19 and 64. Those aged 65 and over make up 11.1 percent of the population and 18 and under make up 34.6 percent. Some 45,000 people are 90 and older.

Forty-four percent of Jewish Israelis consider themselves secular, with 24 percent identifying as traditional but “not so religious.” Eleven percent say they are religious/Orthodox and 9 percent say they are haredi Orthodox. Of the country’s non-Jews, 52 percent call themselves religious, 21 percent secular, 23 percent “not so religious” and 4 percent very religious.

Under the heading of “how is it to live in Israel,” 89 percent of Israelis age 20 and up say they are “satisfied with their lives”; 59 percent say they are “satisfied with their economic situation”; 52 percent “estimate that their lives will be better in the future,” and 44 percent “believe their economic situation will improve.”

Jerusalem is identified as the largest city with 865,700 residents. Israel’s smallest town is Neve Zohar, located at the southern tip of the Dead Sea, with 71 residents.
**ADULT PROGRAMMING**

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

**JCC Journeys**

**An American In Paris**

This new Tony® Award-winning musical tells the story of an American soldier, a mysterious French girl and an indomitable European city, each yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war. Acclaimed director/choreographer and 2015 Tony® Award winner Christopher Wheeldon brings the magic and romance of Paris into the perfect harmony with unforgettable songs from George and Ira Gershwin.

Date:  Sunday, July 9
Location:  Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC:  11:00 a.m.
Return:  7:30 p.m.
$65/Member $85/Non Member
Register online at Jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar:  330.746.3250 Ext. 195

**CIRCUS OF THE KIDS!**

July 31- August 4

We want YOU to join the circus at Camp JCC! You won’t find another camp like this anywhere in the Youngstown area! Learn amazing skills such as trapeze and acrobatics from circus professionals and then end the week with performances for your family and friends! Visit www.circusofthekids.com to learn more.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**Liz Rubino Studios**

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

**Private Sessions**

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

**Triple Threat**

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

**Liz Rubino’s Broadway 360!**

Back by popular demand this summer at Camp JCC, July 3-14!

This advanced 2-week camp will be featuring the musical Beauty & The Beast. It takes students through a full-circle view of auditions, casting, rehearsals, and performance! Bookended by loads of technique and specialty topics in theatre, this specialty camp has been a huge success and we hope to see your campers there! Register online at Jccyoungstown.org.

**JCC School of Dance**

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

New this Summer:  Adult Ballet, Tap, and Hip Hop

Summer Session Dates:

Summer Session I:  May 1- June 11
Summer Session II:  July 14 - August 21

**JCC School of Music**

The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown School of Music! This exciting program will featuring piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! Visit Jccyoungstown.org to learn more and to register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

**FITNESS**

For more information on fitness programs, contact Sheila Cornell at 330-746-3250 Ext. 182 or Scornell@jewishyoungstown.org

**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

**Health and Wellness Program**

**Lunch and Learn: Ovarian Cancer**

Jodie Kavensky with the NormaLeah Ovarian Cancer Initiative will speak about early detection education, patient support services and research fundraising for ovarian cancer- the silent killer of women. An R.S.V.P. by May 10 is required to Sheila Cornell, 330.746.3250 Ext. 184.

Date:  Friday, May 12
Time:  12:00-1:00 p.m.
Location:  JCC
(Also see story on page 2)
Delay the Disease: Starting May 3
Free and open to the public
A fitness program designed to empower people with Parkinson’s Disease to take control of the disease with daily exercise. The empowering results of our Delay the Disease exercise program can help participants:

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

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Location: JCC Group Exercise Room

NEW Cardio Kickboxing
This class will get beginners into shape, while challenging advanced athletes. The class integrates combinations of punches and kicks. Additional muscle and motion exercises are incorporated to strengthen and tone. You will have fun, reduce stress and get an awesome workout. Men and women welcome!

Date: Thursdays
Time: 4:30-5:25 p.m.

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

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

AQUATICS
For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrystal, 330-746-3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org.

Aquatic Classes
You & Me Baby
In this monthly class, 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, 9:30-10:00 a.m.
$30/Member $40/Non Member

Learn-to-Swim ages 3 & up
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors.
Level 1: Children are taught basic swimming skills such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.
Level 2: Children are taught the arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.
Level 3: Children are taught the basics of breaststroke, butterfly, and diving as well as refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.
Level 4/5: Children will continue to refine the four swim strokes and diving.

Date: Saturdays, 8:50 – 9:30 a.m. or 10:00 – 10:35 a.m.
$30/Member $40/Non Member

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

1:1 student/teacher ratio
4 lessons @ 30 minutes
$82/Member $110/Non Member

Swim Safe 500
This program provides free swim lessons for children in kindergarten through eighth grade who receive free or reduced school meals. Lessons will be taught in a group setting with a low student to teacher ratio.

Date: Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
$125/Member $160/Non Member

New Summer Swim Team at the JCC Logan
Campus (part of Youngstown Swim League)
We are now offering summer swim team! Participants must be between the ages of 4 – 18. They must also be able to swim one length of the pool independently. Practices will be held at our new Logan Campus outdoor pool. An informational meeting will be held Sunday, May 7 in the adult lounge of the JCC at 1:00 p.m. Children can try on swimsuits and apparel will be for sale.

Swim Team Season: June 1-July 29
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Advanced swimmers
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Swimmers under 10 and new swimmers
$98/Member $130/Non Member

Swim meets will be held on Wednesdays during June and July. Children must arrive at meet location at 4:30 p.m. Meets will start promptly at 5:45 p.m.

JCC Logan Campus Pavilion Rental
The JCC Logan Pavilion is a large, covered, outdoor pavilion that sits next to our tennis courts and a short walk from the full size heated pool. Round tables outfit the pavilion and you can decorate to suit your theme. Swim in our heated pool or take time out of the pool and shoot hoops on the basketball court, play volleyball, tennis, shuffleboard, bocce, or whatever you would like on our spacious grounds. Invited guests who are non members must pay price of admission. Maximum capacity is 50.

$75/Member $100/Non Member
from 12 – 3:00 p.m.
$75/Member $100/Non Member
from 4 – 7:00 p.m.
$150/Member $200/Non Member - all day rental
Contact Kelli McCormick for bookings at 330.746.3250 Ext. 284

NEW Game Time-Birthday Bash
You and your party guests can play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, wiffleball or whatever you like in our full size gymnasium; then enjoy time in our party room. Borrow our gym equipment or bring your own.

$120/Member $160/Non Member
$50/hr. for additional time in the gymnasium
Pricing includes one hour in our spacious gymnasium and one hour in our private party room.
Contact Kelli McCormick at 330-746-3250 Ext. 284 for more details.
Film

On Sunday, May 7, at 3 p.m., Ohev Tzedek will be hosting a showing of *Denial*, the story of a woman’s legal battle to prove the historical truth of the Holocaust. Light refreshments will be served. The event is free, but reservations to the Ohev Tzedek office are required by Thursday, May 4.

OT Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.

Torah Studies

Rabbi Oresky and Father Balasko will continue to lead their monthly Torah Studies for Christians program Wednesday, May 17, at Villa Maria from 1-2:30 pm. This month’s topic is how new Jewish holidays get added to the Jewish calendar.

Memorial Day Cookout

Join us at 1 pm at Ohev Tzedek on Monday, May 29, for a Memorial Day cookout with kosher hot dogs, kosher hamburgers, vegan burgers and all the fixings! The entire Jewish community is welcome! Please RSVP with payment and meat preference by Tuesday, May 23 ($10 if RSVP by 5/23 or $15 at the door).

Services

Morning Minyan services are held each Thursday at 7:30 am.

Shabbat services are held every Saturday at 9:45 am. Rabbi Saul leads a Torah study session after each service.

Shavuot

On Erev Shavuot, we will meet at Rabbi Oresky’s house at 8 pm for an all-night study session and dairy potluck. Bring your favorite vegetarian/dairy dish to share! R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office by Tuesday, May 23. If you wish to do a teaching, please let the Rabbi know by Monday, May 8, so he can coordinate the study session.

Services will be held at Ohev Tzedek on the second day of Shavuot, June 1, at 9:45 am.

Adult Education – Spring 2017

Classes that receive a minimum of six registrants will begin in May. Each is designed to be approximately 10 sessions. Some classes may require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee of $50 per class. Unless otherwise noted, all will be held at Ohev Tzedek.

*The Amidah* – Using Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman’s excellent volume in the *My People’s Prayer Book* series as a guide, we will explore this core prayer to discuss *tefilla*, Jewish prayer, as a whole, and how Jews have ever understood our ongoing, evolving relationship with G-d.

*Star Shlep: The Next Generation* – Using Jewish science fiction/fantasy as the starship, we will explore the farthest reaches of the galaxy of issues of Jewish identity, survival, and development. We are now entering a new phase of the class and will be selecting a novel and/or more short stories to read together. While we are currently in the middle of a novel, there’s still time to join the class if you’re not already a Star Shlepper; if you’d rather not join in the middle of a book, the next novel is scheduled to begin at the beginning of June. This class will continue to meet Thursday nights at 7.

Organic Gardening

Ohev Tzedek will be hosting an organic gardening class, led by Ron Sabelli, on Sunday, May 7, from 12-2:30 pm. This class will work with both the existing Ohev Tzedek garden and new grow boxes, which are perfect for those without yards or whose HOAs prevent the planting of a traditional garden. There will be a $5 fee; all materials will be provided except for the vegetables you wish to grow, so pick up a packet of your favorite organic seeds! Subsequent sessions will be free. When harvest-time comes, everyone is invited to sample a little of the produce from everyone’s plantings.

Space is limited to 15 students, so R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office is a must by Tuesday, May 2.

2017 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday, August 20**

**Wednesday, August 23**

**Sunday, August 27**

**Thursday, August 31**

**Thursday, September 7**

**Sunday, September 10**

More information will be released soon, including titles, times and locations.

For more information contact Sarah Wischek

(330) 746.3250 x 123 or SarahWischek@JewishYoungstown.org

Adams work on display at JCC

The work of John T. Adams is currently being exhibited in the Thomases Family Endowment Art Gallery at the JCC.

Mr. Adams is an Ohio native whose work in the “Following the Thread” exhibition explores concepts of communication and musical performance through abstract compositions.
LET’S STAY CONNECTED!
Update your contact information
BLUE BOOK 2017

Stay connected with the next edition of the Jewish Community Blue Book. The JCC will take the lead in preparing this valuable tool to help ‘the best small Jewish Community’ around to be able to continue to communicate easily with one another. We will again allow you to list two different addresses as well as your cell phone numbers and email addresses (if you wish). The cost for the 2017 book will be $20 plus tax. You can order one or as many copies as you’d like.

In order to make the process as efficient as possible and to minimize the possibility of mistakes to the final product, we encourage as many of you who are able to:

1. **Visit our website:** www.jccyoungstown.org/bluebook.
   Submit your information by completing the online form. (You will also be given the opportunity to reserve and pre-order a copy of the 2017 Blue Book)

2. **By email:** Email your name(s), home address, phone number, cell phone number(s), seasonal address, seasonal phone number, to kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

3. **By Mail:** Complete the form below and mail to: JCC, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio 44504.

Our goal is to collect the information, collate and publish the books and have orders to you by August of 2017.

Thank you in advance for all of your help with this important undertaking.

**Blue Book Contact information:**

Name: _______________________________ Spouse's Name: _______________________________

Address: _____________________________________________

City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________________________

Home Phone Number: _______________________

My Cell Number: ___________________________ Spouse's Cell Number: _______________________

Seasonal Address: ___________________________

City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________________________

Seasonal Home Phone: ___________________________
Prince Charles recalls grandmother’s rescue of Jews from Holocaust

(JTA) -- Prince Charles of Wales spoke with Holocaust survivors in Austria about his grandmother’s role in saving the lives of a Jewish family during the Shoah.

Charles and his wife, Camilla, spent the final day of a nine-day tour of Europe in Vienna meeting British and Austrian survivors of Nazi persecution at the city’s Jewish museum, the Jewish News of London reported.

The royal couple sat down with a group of elderly men and women who shared their harrowing stories with them. During World War II, Princess Alice, the Duke of Edinburgh’s mother and Charles’s grandmother, sheltered a number of Jewish people when Greece was occupied.

Alice, who is buried in Israel, was recognized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem as a Righteous Among the Nations, and was posthumously awarded the British Government’s Hero of the Holocaust medal.

In September 1943, the Cohen family, old acquaintances from the Greek town of Trikala, appealed to Princess Alice for refuge. She hid them in her palace until the Nazis withdrew in October 1944. During that time, the Nazis sent the vast majority of Greece’s Jewish community to concentration camps.

Charles told the group: “My father’s mother took in a Jewish family during the war and hid them – she was amazing, my grandmother. She took them in during the Nazi occupation. She never told anybody, she didn’t tell her family for many years. She’s buried in Jerusalem.”

Princess Alice’s remains are interred at the picturesque Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, above the Garden of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives. Charles said he visited the grave last September while attending the funeral of Shimon Peres, a former president and prime minister of Israel.

Holocaust survivor Gerda Frei, 80, who had escaped Vienna with her mother and father to Hungary in 1938, had a chance to chat with Charles at The Jewish Museum Vienna.

“The prince was very well informed about the Holocaust, and it is very important that they came here,” she said after the chat.

Frei and her parents were hidden from the Nazis by a family in Budapest.

Holocaust commemoration (Continued from p. 4)

Ursuline High School junior Sophie Alper was the winner for Grade 11-12 poetry. Her teacher is Matthew Sammartino.

Her winning entry follows.

My New Life — a sonnet

Words ruined my whole world in my hometown,
Being called a Jude makes life turn darker,
Having a yellow star to show around,
It became a symbol or marker
Dark clouds surround our city life each day,
More soldiers march within the town limits,
Posting propagandas on Jews’ cafes,
And not allowing for travel tickets.
Then one day, they came after everyone,
We were told to board these trains for refuge,
A soldier pushed me to that very one,
And I realized his own subterfuge.
I never got to see my old childhood,
Still wishing now and everyday I could.

Miss Alper has been an active participant in youth activities within the Jewish Community. She has represented the area playing soccer in the Maccabi Games. In addition, on behalf of the Jewish Community, she most recently was a part of the ecumenical worship service presentations by a combined youth, choir from area churches, and scripture readings by representatives of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faiths at the January commemoration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

May is Jewish American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month, a national commemoration of the contributions that Americans Jews have made to the fabric of our nation’s history, culture, and society, begins on May 1.

This year, JAHM celebrates Americans Jews who have made a significant impact in the field of medical research. Now in its 12th year, JAHM encourages people of all backgrounds to learn about and draw inspiration from the more than 360-year history of Jewish life in this country.

“The stories of American Jews are woven into the rich history of this diverse nation,” says Ivy Barsky, CEO and Gwen Goodman Director of the National Museum of American Jewish History, the lead sponsor of JAHM.

“By celebrating JAHM, we honor the values of inclusion, acceptance, and religious liberty cherished by this country. This year’s focus on American Jews in Medical Research invites deeper exploration of one of the many facets of American life impacted by this community.”

According to Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and a member of JAHM’s Board of Directors, “The Jewish experience in America constitutes a soaring tribute to the noble ideals upon which this republic was founded. It is a timely story that will lift our national spirit by assuring us that liberty and opportunity ultimately triumph over bigotry and divisiveness.”

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Soft-Touch Furniture Monthly Magazine
May 2017
Cancer concerns (continued from page 2)

en who delay childbirth until later in life and have fewer children do not enjoy as much of the positive, cancer risk-reducing effects of the hormonal changes associated with childbirth.

Ashkenazi Jews in particular have a significantly higher risk for breast cancer: They are about three times as likely as non-Ashkenazim to carry mutations in the BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 genes that lead to a very high chance of developing cancer. One of the BRCA-1 mutations is associated with a 65 percent chance of developing breast cancer. Based on family history, including on the father’s side, the chances could be even higher.

“Every Ashkenazi Jewish woman should be tested for these mutations,” said Dr. Levy-Lahad, who has done significant research work on the genetics of both breast and ovarian cancer. Iraqi Jews also have increased prevalence of one of the BRCA mutations, she said.

Dr. Levy-Lahad is collaborating on a long-term project with the University of Washington’s Dr. Mary-Claire King — the breast cancer research pioneer who discovered the BRCA-1 gene mutation that causes cancer — on a genome sequencing study of Israeli women with inherited breast and ovarian cancer genes. The two women are using a grant from the Israel Cancer Research Fund to apply genomic technology to study BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 mutations and their implications for breast cancer risk in non-Ashkenazi women in Israel, who are similar to populations in Europe and the United States.

In a project testing thousands of women for deadly cancer mutations, they are also studying how mutations in genes other than BRCA-1 and BRCA-2 impact inherited breast cancer in non-Ashkenazi Jews.

The earlier breast cancer mutations are discovered, the sooner women can decide on a course of action. Some choose to have bilateral mastectomies, which reduce the chances of breast cancer by 90-95 percent.

But mastectomies are not the only option. Some women instead choose a very rigorous screening regimen, including more frequent mammograms and breast MRIs.

Early detection is the cornerstone of improving breast cancer survival rates.

“Breast cancer is not nearly as deadly as it once was,” Dr. Levy-Lahad said.

Ovarian cancer

Of the three “Jewish” cancers, ovarian cancer is the deadliest. Linked to the two BRCA mutations common among Jews, ovarian cancer is both stubbornly difficult to detect early and has a very high late-stage mortality rate. Women should be screened for the mutations by age 30, so they know their risks.

In its early stages, ovarian cancer usually has no obvious symptoms, or appears as bloating, abdominal pain or frequent urination that can be explained away by less serious causes. By the time it’s discovered, ovarian cancer is usually much more advanced than most other cancers and may have spread to surrounding organs. If that has occurred, the five-year survival rate drops considerably.

Women with the BRCA mutations have about a 50 percent chance of getting ovarian cancer. The best option is usually to remove the ovaries.

“We put a lot of pressure on women to have their ovaries removed because it’s a life-saving procedure,” Dr. Levy-Lahad said.

That doesn’t mean these women can’t have children. The recommendation is that women wait to have the procedure until after they complete child-bearing, usually around the age of 35-40.

Much work still needs to be done on prevention, early detection and treatment of ovarian cancer, but new research shows some promise.

“The exciting thing is that we live in a genomic age, and we have unprecedented abilities to understand the causes of cancer,” Dr. Levy-Lahad said. “There’s a whole field that, if you become affected, can look at the genetic makeup of the tumor you have.”

The study of these three “Jewish cancers” are a major component of the work of the Israel Cancer Research Fund, which raises money in North America for cancer research in Israel. Of the $3.85 million in grants distributed in Israel last year by the fund, roughly one-quarter were focused on breast cancer, ovarian cancer or melanoma, according to Ellen T. Rubin, the ICRF’s director of research grants. The organization’s Rachel’s Society focuses specifically on supporting women’s cancer awareness and research.

Lunch and Learn: Ovarian Cancer

Jodie Kavensky, chair and executive director, of the NormaLeah Ovarian Cancer Initiative will speak about early detection education, patient support services, and reseach funding for ovarian cancer — the silent killer of women at the Jewish Community Center, on Friday, May 12, from Noon-1 p.m.

Ms. Kavensky is the second child and oldest daughter of Norma Yecies Shagrin. Her first volunteer job was as a candy stripe in a local hospital at age 13. After receiving her B.A. in journalism/PR from The Ohio State University and her M.A. in advertising from Northwestern University, she spent seven years working in advertising in Chicago where her clients included the Mayo Clinic Health Letter and Michael Reese Hospital among others.

When she married, she moved to Rock Island, Illinois where she became a marketing consultant and volunteer in the non-profit sector — primarily for health and arts organizations, including a start-up mail order pharmacy. She is currently a board member on the Illinois Arts Council and is a sustaining member of Junior League of the Quad Cities. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Experience Quad Cities and the Rock Island Mayor’s Arts Advisory Committee.

R.S.V.P. to Sheila Cornell, by May 10. scornell@jewishyoungstown.org | 330.746.3250 Ext. 182

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Your birthday, a time to celebrate

It comes around once a year, and I don’t mean Chanukah, I mean the birthday! On the second day of Passover I celebrated my 83rd birthday.

It was my pleasure, believe me. As long as I am of sound mind (depending on who you talk to) and my body doesn’t get any more blows below the belt, I am pleased to celebrate each additional year. I don’t mean with presents so much, but the presence of family and friends being around to celebrate with me.

As you can see, I don’t mind telling how old I am. As a matter of fact I am proud of that fact. I know some people don’t like birthdays and some also do not like to tell their age.

One of my mother’s sisters, Lilly, would not tell anyone how old she was, but her daughter was the tattletale.

I also once worked with a friend who refused to celebrate his birthday insisting that it was his mother who should be honored. Doesn’t sound like a bad idea; I could celebrate three more times during year, if that were the case.

This year my birthday fell on the first day of Pesach and therefore the second Seder. That in itself is not an unusual occurrence. I still remember the years my mother made her wonderful sponge cakes, cut layers, then made whipped cream to fill the layers, and top it all off with strawberries.

Certainly a nice way to have a birthday.

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine May 2017

El Emeth’s plans for May

“Brunch with the Rabbi” will take place on Sunday morning, May 21. The Youngstown Connection, a group of talented Youngstown High School students will perform a musical program of singing and dancing. The group, which has performed all over the world promotes a message of peace, love and brotherhood through their performance. Brunch begins at 10:30 am with the program following at 11 a.m.

Shmoozing with Shmulik will meet on Monday morning, May 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Sam Kooperman leads the group with stories, music, jokes and more in Yiddish. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Rosh Chodesh will have its last session of the year on Tuesday, May 23 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Carol Al used to make that day cake, unless you were like me at that time and all I wanted was a chocolate, non-Passover cake. I have always been spoiled, as you may have guessed by now.

The cake I prefer now, that is not for Passover is a lemon spice cake with lemon spice frosting. Al used to make that for me and then Beth has done the same thing for me when she has the time. Sound good? If you want the recipe, just let me know.

This year my daughter-in-law Candy made me a matzo cake with chocolate frosting, delicious! I can only tell you that I am happy to have reached this age and with G-D’s help I can have a few more good years to celebrate my natal day.

You are all welcome to celebrate with me each year with good health, good mind and happy families. Happy birthday to all of you on your birthday!!! CELEBRATE!!!

Sisterhood

Sisterhood had a very busy month in April. We celebrated Sisterhood Sabbath under the guidance of Elyse Silverman and Ronna Marlin on Saturday, April 22, with a delicious lunch following.

Donor was held on April 27, and Bobbie Berkowitz was honored for her many years of volunteering and also for producing and delivering the Leagram books. At a matter of fact, she wore out another typewriter — which Sisterhood is very happy to help fund to keep her going. Thanks to Rochelle Miller, Lori Szoke, Phyllis Perlman, Ellen Weiss, Debbi Grinstein, and Paula Ferguson for their combined efforts in making this a beautiful and fun day.

Torah Fund

The Torah Fund drive is winding down for the year. Holly Small, Chairman of the project, said “The response from Temple El Emeth’s congregation was wonderful, and we look forward to acknowledging all donors at Sisterhood’s last meeting on May 9.

This was the 100th year of the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and the 75th year of the Torah Fund Campaign. We are proud of and grateful to those who support the education of our future rabbis and leaders.”

Our closing meeting will be on May 9 with the board meeting at 10:45 a.m. and lunch at noon. Shai and Gon Erez and maybe even baby Nuria will be speaking. It will be good knowing their past history. Reservations due by May 4. The lunch will be $12 for members. Come on, come all and enjoy a lovely and informative afternoon.

El Emeth
This Yom HaAtzma’ut, celebrate red, white, and blue.

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www.afmda.org

Building an even better JCC

Eight JCC staff members attended the JCC Professional Conference in Orlando that took place March 19-21. They spent the three days learning about new and innovative ways to foster the JCC mission and to better serve the greater Youngstown Community.

Pictured above: (Back row, left to right) Shawn Crystal, Michael Rawl, Pam Stoklosa. (Middle row, left to right) Courtney Lockshaw, Sheila Cornell. (Front row left to right) Kathy Mioni, Emily Collins, Jennifer McNeil

This year my family’s Passover seder was at Wrigley Field

The writer, second from right, and her family at Game 4 of the World Series, Oct. 29, 2016.

By Molly Tolsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Since leaving my beloved Chicago for New York nearly seven years ago, there have been a few consistent reasons for making a visit back home. The birth of nieces and nephews. Friends’ weddings (and dress fittings, and wedding showers, and bachelorette parties).

And of course, the Jewish holidays — Passover, in particular.

I love spending Passover with my family. I love the seder. I love the homemade seder guides that my family uses — a hodgepodge of photocopied pages from various Haggadahs stapled together. I love my dad’s goofy shtick of dressing up as Elijah by throwing on a ghost costume made out of a sheet with (Continued on page 20)
Largest Kent State group journeys to Poland, visits Auschwitz

Twenty-four Kent State University students — the largest group to date — Kent State group recently returned from a very successful third annual spring break short-study abroad program to Poland.

For all participants, this was their first time to Poland, and for many this was their first experience abroad and their first encounter with a Jewish community and Jewish issues of survival. The students came from different majors and different backgrounds.

Students were introduced to the Holocaust as it occurred in Poland from varying points of view represented by survivors, films, art, museum representations. Further, they had the opportunity to experience firsthand many of the historic sites with the belief that seeing will lead to everlasting memories and understandings of the horrific events of this period of time.

The trip included visits to Warsaw, Krakow, and Auschwitz – Birkenau. Students visited museums, listened to speakers, and met with Survivors.

Participation in this program, for many of the students, was made possible only because of the ongoing generous support of the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown area Jewish Federation and others who support this program. The students wrote personal thank you notes to the donors.

Chaya Kessler, director of Jewish Studies at Kent, said, “For me, it’s always a deeply personal and emotionally rewarding experience to see all the sites again through the eyes of the young students in a way that allows them to learn about the past and be able to connect to their own humanity.”

She added, “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 required to keep a journal and prepare a final presentation. Mrs. Kessler provided two of the journal entries:

“It’s heartbreaking to think about how many people there are that don’t have anyone to share their story.” — Keara Steving

“I felt guilty that I complain about little things, but this trip opened my eyes and I learned something so important...We’re all human. No matter our stories, religions, anything. We are all human and nobody deserves to go through what they went through.” — Mackenzie Bailey

As Mrs. Kessler explained, “The true measure of success for a trip like this is in the way in which students demonstrate a changed mind-set upon their return. And this journey to Poland has changed them deeply. It’s not necessarily about what new material or information they have learned, but more so about the way in which their hearts and minds have been opened so that they listen more carefully, understand more clearly, and love more openly as citizens of a global world.” and Righteous among the Nations.
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Cubs Seder (continued from page 19)

“Got Wine?” written over his stomach in permanent marker. I even love matzah (at least when it’s covered in butter and chocolate).

So it was a total no-brainer when I booked tickets back in January to come home for Passover.

But this year, I learned, will be different from all other years. Why? Because this year, the first night of Passover (Monday, April 10) happens to fall on opening night at Wrigley Field — where, for the first time in 108 years, the Chicago Cubs will play on their home turf as World Series champions.

So instead of hard-boiling massive amounts of eggs and hiding the afikomen in the piano bench, my parents and I will be making the trek to the Friendly Confines for a different kind of spring festival — one that may not be religious in the traditional sense, but just as significant to my family’s spirituality and identity.

We are not an interfaith family; both of my parents are Jewish, and my brothers and I grew up going to Hebrew school at a Conservative synagogue. But there are two religions observed in our home: Judaism and the Cubs. Both have been an equal part of my upbringing from the very start.

At age 3, I went off to school — Jewish preschool — and also attended my first Cubs game. At 12, I celebrated both my bat mitzvah and Sammy Sosa’s 63 home runs (both of which led to much embarrassment down the line, but that’s another story).

Last fall, as the Cubs made their historic run to the World Series, I became even more aware of just how integral Cubs fandom is to my family’s culture — and how much being a Cubs fan is a lot like being a Jew. From the superstitions we habitually follow to the rituals passed down from generation to generation, one tribe starts to look a lot like the other.

And so, when we realized the Cubs-Passover scheduling conflict this year, my parents and I didn’t think twice about “doing the right thing.” For us, the choice was clear.

“It’s been a lifetime of waiting for a World Series championship, and we might not win again for another lifetime,” my mom explained, assuring me she’ll bring a baggie of matzah and a Haggadah to read between innings.

My dad admitted to feeling just a smidge of guilt.

“I hope God understands as I dine on hot dogs at Wrigley Field with Theo Epstein,” he said, referencing the (Jewish) president of baseball operations for the Cubs, who was recently named the World’s Greatest Leader by Fortune magazine. (Moses, shmoses!)

We’ll still host a more traditional seder at my parents’ condo — albeit on Sunday night, technically before the holiday begins but easier on everyone’s schedules, especially the aforementioned nieces and nephews. My aunt will bring her beloved matzah ball soup, my mom will make her famous chopped liver and we’ll all complain about when we get to eat while dipping our pinkies into wine.

Monday night, however, will be dedicated to a different set of rituals.

We’ll arrive at Wrigley Field early enough for the ceremony before the game, when two banners will be raised — one for clinching the National League Championship and one for winning the World Series. We’ll remember our 108 years of enslavement to “the curse” of billy goats and Steve Bartmans plaguing our every chance of success.

And we’ll celebrate our destiny — how we’ve made it to the Promised Land, hallelujah, at last.

Editor’s note: Fortunately for Molly Tolsky, as of April 30, her Cubbies were holding the lead in the National League Central Division despite being swept by the Red Sox over the weekend in inter-league play.

Closer to home, the Indians lead the American League Central Division, finishing off Seattle on Sunday with a decisive 12-4 score, including eight runs in the third inning. About the Pirates, probably the less said, the better.
An author’s zeal for research leads to outstanding book

By Patricia R. Kelvin
Editor, The Jewish Journal

Tom Welsh might seem an unlikely candidate to write a book about the Jewish History of Youngstown and the Steel Valley.

A product of Youngstown Catholic schools, Mr. Welsh was a journalist in the United States, South Korea, and Cambodia, before turning his attention to the study of more academic pursuits. His focus was on the cultural foundations of education, earning a doctorate at Kent State University.

He said the field of foundations of education was dwindling, with little research support. However, because he was particularly interested in cultural foundations and had the support of advisor Prof. Natasha Levinson, he was able to write a dissertation that was scholarly but more journalistic than pedantic.

This became his first book, Closing Chapters: Urban Change, Religious Reform, and the Decline of Youngstown’s Catholic Elementary Schools.

With the support of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society and unlimited access to their Jewish archives, Mr. Welsh was able to write a dissertation that was scholarly but more journalistic than pedantic.

As but one example of the cooperation and assistance he found, Louise Shultz of Warren found the 1900-1918 generation and assistance she found, Louise Society.

They will be held at the Historical

Tom Welsh

Ark from the original Warren synagogue in her garage.

Others found photographs in family albums that they were willing to share.

Mr. Welsh said, “Some people wondered if anybody outside the Jewish community would even be interested in the book.” But the way Mr. Welsh has interwoven local Jewish history with state, national, and international history over the past 150 years makes the book an important contribution of much more than just regional history.

He credits his co-authors — Joshua Foster, a grandson of Rose Kravitz, with research beyond that available locally, and Gordon F. Morgan, who also grew up in the area, with expertise in public history — for the richness of the work.

History of Youngstown’s Jewish Community just released

Local authors Thomas Welsh, Joshua Foster, and Gordon F. Morgan have announced that their new book, A History of Youngstown and the Steel Valley, will be released by the Charleston, S.C.-based History Press on May 1.

The 208-page narrative, which features dozens of images, was produced in collaboration with the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. The book draws upon previous historical accounts, volumes of archival data, and scores of interviews with members of the Jewish community.

The story of the Jewish community is older than area residents may suspect. By the time the Mahoning Valley’s first Jewish congregation, Rodef Sholom, was organized in 1867, the area’s small Jewish community was almost three decades old.

Various historical accounts indicate the community’s first Jewish resident, Jacob Spiegle, arrived in 1837, only to be joined within a year by fellow European immigrants Emanuel Hartzell and Simon Lowenstein. No less surprising is the breathtaking range of contributions Jewish residents have made over the past 180 years.

Many are aware of the international celebrities who once resided in the Steel Valley, including the Warner brothers, pioneers in the U.S. film industry, and the Raffel brothers, co-founders of the Arby’s fast-food chain. Older residents look back fondly on an era when Jewish-owned businesses studded Youngstown’s glittering retail district.

Indeed, family-owned enterprises such as Strouss-Hirshberg Department Store, Livingston’s Women’s Wear, Lustig’s Shoes, and Haber’s Furniture became household names throughout the region. Few Valley residents, however, are aware of the pivotal role that Jewish entrepreneurs played in the development of industrial firms like Youngstown Sheet & Tube, Truscon Steel, and Commercial Shearing.

The official launch of A History of Youngstown and the Steel Valley will take place at 5 p.m., on Monday, March 22, at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center in downtown Youngstown. For further information, please contact the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, at 330-743-2589.

In addition, on Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m., Mr. Welsh will discuss his book at Temple Rodef Sholom.

On Thursday, May 25, El Emeth’s Minyan and a Meal will feature guest speaker, Thomas Welsh, speaking on A History of Jewish Youngstown and the Steel Valley. Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The book will be for sale that evening. For further information, call the Temple office at 330 - 759-1429.

Review: A History of Jewish Youngstown and the Steel Valley

As a newcomer to the Mahoning Valley — only 25 years ago — and despite my involvement in Congregation Ohev Tzedek and The Jewish Journal, I had no idea the extent of the region’s Jewish history. This wonderfully research and written book changed all that. My full review will appear next month. — Patricia R. Kelvin
Leonard Benjamin Spiegel

YOUNGSTOWN — Services were held on Thursday, April 20, at the Rodef Sholom Temple for Leonard Benjamin Spiegel, 87, who died at Heritage Manor.

He was born to Benjamin and Eva Spiegel on May 26, 1929, in New York City.

He was raised in Washington Heights in Upper Manhattan, N.Y., graduating from George Washington High School and New York University. Leonard enrolled in Florida State University, from which he graduated with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

Leonard came to Youngstown in 1961 to begin his university teaching career at Youngstown State University. For the next 35 years, Leonard had a distinguished career as a professor of Biochemistry, where he was privileged to teach many students who would go on to pursue careers in medicine, nursing, teaching, and industry.

Leonard loved working at YSU, especially working with his colleagues in the Chemistry Department and with undergraduate and graduate students.

He was a member of the American Chemical Society and other chemistry associations.

Leonard was an avid supporter of YSU athletics and theater. For many years, he was a season ticket holder for YSU basketball, as well as YSU theater.

Leonard loved spending time with the Spiegel and Elder families. He loved traveling with his first wife, Jocelyn and his second wife, Joy, visiting friends and relatives around the United States, as well as traveling to eastern Europe and Israel.

Leonard is survived by his wife of 20 years, Joy Elder; children Jonathan, Rebecca (David) Grossman, and Robert (Mira) Spiegel; stepchildren Beth (Paul) Okun, Charles (Leslie) Elder and Bruce (Rona) Elder; and grandchildren Alexis, Alyssa, Rhiana, Caralyn, Zoe, Aaron, Sandy, Jeffrey, Jacob, Isaiah, Joshua, Noah and Eli.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Jocelyn Weimer Spiegel, whom he married in 1961.

The family requests that memorial contributions be directed to the Congregation Rodef Sholom, Heritage Manor, or the Youngstown State University Foundation.

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

Semyon Verkhlin

YOUNGSTOWN — Semyon Verkhlin, 65, died on Thursday, April 6, 2017, peacefully and of natural causes.

Semyon was born on Aug. 21, 1951, in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, to Mikhail and Eva Verkhlin.

Semyon immigrated to the United States in 1979, lived in Youngstown, and worked as an engineer for Roth Bros and York Mahoning.

He was best-known for his sense of humor and fun-loving personality. He enjoyed laughter, socializing, and celebrating with family and friends.

Semyon is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Mark, Tara, Dan and Allison; and grandson Grayson; along with extended family in Ohio, Ukraine and Israel.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother.

The funeral was conducted on Friday, April 14, at El Emeth Cemetery on Granada Avenue.

Memorial tributes may take the form of contributions in Semyon’s name to Temple El Emeth, 3970 Logan Way, Youngstown, OH 44505, or other charity of donor’s choice.

Don Rickles

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Don Rickles, the bullet-headed comedian and actor whose pioneering brand of insult comedy earned him the nickname “Mr. Warmth,” has died at 90.

Rickles died at his home in Los Angeles from kidney failure, according to his publicist. He would have turned 91 on May 8.

Bald and squat, Rickles would pace the stages of nightclubs and late night talk shows seeking out “victims” in the audience, riffing on their weight, ethnicity and dress, calling them “hockey puck,” but usually pulling back from the edge of causing any real offense by offering a wide smile and an intentionally uncouth declaration of universal fraternity.

Rickles also was a serious actor who trained at the famed American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and he had supporting roles in a number of memorable films including “Kelly’s Heroes,” with Clint Eastwood; “Run Silent, Run Deep,” with Clark Gable and Burt Lancaster, and “Casino,” directed by Martin Scorsese and starring Robert DeNiro.

Rickles was born and raised in Queens, New York. His father, Max, immigrated to the United States as a child from Kaunas, Lithuania. His mother, born in New York, also was the daughter of Jewish immigrants.

Rickles served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and after his service honed his act at small and often seedy nightclubs.

Rickles first appeared on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson” in 1965, and would return as a guest at least 100 times.

In 2012, Jon Stewart presented Rickles with the “Johnny Carson Award For Comedic Excellence” at the Comedy Awards run by the Comedy Central cable network.

In his 2007 memoir, “Rickles’ Book,” he recalled a visit to his father’s grave on Long Island along with the cantor who would perform his wedding to Barbara Sklar.

“The cantor put on his white robe and prayer shawl,” Rickles recalled. “In the still of the morning, standing over my dear father’s grave, he sang the Hebrew prayer for the dead. He wailed; he sang with such tender feeling and heartfelt anguish that I felt the presence of God Almighty in every fiber of my being. Afterward, we recited the Kaddish, the Jewish mourners’ prayer, our words melting the morning fog to tears.”

Barbara Rickles survives her husband, as does their daughter, Mindy. Their son, Larry, an Emmy Award-winning producer, died at 41 in 2011 of respiratory failure.
A glimpse of Israel through its food.

By Patricia R. Kelvin
Journal editor

Dining and eating in Israel is enough of a reason to visit the Jewish State, as I discovered on my recent trip in January and February. From small winery restaurants to top-rated modern haute cuisine, the choices are as overwhelming as they are delicious. And no way, could I walk enough to offset the calories.

Chef and winemaker Sandro Pellegrini comes from an aristocratic Italian family, and keeps the scroll showing his family’s lineage from the 14th century as well as the family’s crest carved in marble which has been passed down through the generations.

At the winery’s restaurant La Terra Promessa, Mr. Pellegrini blends nouveau Italian with the Cochin, India, influences of his wife Irit.

You may think you know all about Israeli breakfasts, but unless you’ve tried the offerings at the Cinema Hotel in Tel Aviv, you’ve really missed a treat. I realized when it took me six pages of notes to describe the salads, hot dishes, baked goods, cheeses, fresh fruits, yogurts, and home-made jams and preserves, I’d reached the pinnacle. Compared to the five other hotels where I breakfasted, the Cinema Hotel quite literally took the cake.

At Focaccia restaurant in Jerusalem, the dessert tray makes a selection almost impossible.

There’s some good bread arisin’. It’s Friday afternoon in the orthodox community of Sefad. At this bakery, hundreds of loaves are being kneaded, risen, and baked, so residents can pick up their challahs before sundown.

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A new baby? An engagement? A wedding? Graduation (from high school, college or grad school)?
June is Celebration month.

Jewish Journal readers want to read about your simchas. Families are invited to submit information and photographs to The Jewish Journal. Please be sure to include the names of parents and grandparents, and spouses (if appropriate); names of schools/colleges and majors or degrees, with any honors awarded, and future plans; positions held by brides- and grooms-to-be.

Please send your news to — journal@jewishyoungstown.org. High resolution photos provided digitally offer the best reproduction.

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