Jewish themes books are welcomed as Hanukkah gifts. See these websites for recommendations:

- http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org,
- https://jewishreviewofbooks.com;
amazon.com;

The Sigler family enjoys its Sukkot vacation in the Philadelphia area. See story on page 17.

Dr. Patricia Cunningham talks with Sam Kooperman after her JCRC presentation. See story on page 4.

Happy ‘Jewish’ Thanksgiving
Story, page 16
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With UNESCO vote, Palestinians’ bid for attention backfires

By Cnaan Liphshiz

(JTA) If the latest draft resolution at UNESCO on “Occupied Palestine” succeeded in the Palestinians’ aims to reclaim the world’s attention, then it was a Pyrrhic victory at best and a setback at worst.

Part of an effort on Jerusalem initiated at UNESCO in 2015 by the Palestinian Authority, the Oct. 12 vote saw a comfortable majority of states, including Russia and China, pass language calling on Israel “to cease the persistent excavations and works in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City,” as one clause reads.

Only six countries, the United States and five European Union members, opposed the resolution and 26 abstained.

Yet the specific charges in the text were largely eclipsed by the resolution’s failure to refer to Judaism’s holiest sites by their Jewish names. The erasure of Jewish ties to Jerusalem ignited a diplomatic dispute that is dividing UNESCO, embarrassing some of its member states and exposing the Palestinians to rebuke not only by Israel, but even by passionate supporters of their cause who are angered by what they perceive as an anti-Semitic bid to rewrite history.

The UNESCO vote is part of a broader push by the Palestinian Authority to inject the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into international forums that are not designed to settle such disputes. And while the strategy is alienating some supporters, observers of Palestinian diplomacy say it is a discredited leadership’s survival tactic, meant to satisfy a disgruntled population and prevent the tragedy in Syria and the rise of ISIS from eclipsing the plight of the Palestinians on the world stage.

Two days after the UNESCO vote, the diplomatic fallout already was generating significant dissent within the ranks of the United Nations cultural agency. Its director-general, Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, penned an unprecedented rebuke of the draft resolution passed by her own organization.

“To deny, conceal or erase any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions undermines the integrity of the site, and runs counter to the reasons that justified its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list,” she wrote.

The resolution refers to Jerusalem’s Temple Mount — site of the first and second Jewish Temples and a locus of Jewish veneration — only by its Arabic name, Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The Western Wall, a remnant of the biblical Temple compound built by the Jewish King Herod and Judaism’s holiest site, is referred to as Al-Buraq Plaza — a term the Simon Wiesenthal Center says was lifted from Hamas literature — with “Western Wall Plaza” appearing only between quotation marks.

When divisions over such things “carry over into UNESCO, an Organization dedicated to dialogue and peace, they prevent us from carrying out our mission,” added Bokova, who according to Israeli diplomats has maintained a largely fair attitude toward the Jewish state. Though UNESCO has passed several texts in recent years seen as erasing Jewish ties to holy sites, it was the first time she spoke out so clearly against the trend.

Outraged, the Palestinian Authority essentially told Bokova to shut up about the draft resolution, which was submitted by seven Arab countries but is widely understood to have been initiated as part of a Palestinian push at UNESCO, which the Palestinians joined as members in 2011.

However, in the days that followed, the Palestinians saw more pushback. Israel ridiculed the text and charged it typified a refusal by the Palestinian leadership to accept the Jewish people’s claim on any part of the Land of Israel.

Both U.S. presidential candidates harshly condemned the resolution, and a U.S. State Department spokesman called it a cause for deep concern and one of several “recurring, politicized resolutions” that he said should not pass. The draft united Jewish groups across the spectrum in outrage; even Americans for Peace Now, which on Oct. 15 condemned Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands during a U.N. Security Council forum debate, criticized the UNESCO resolution’s “exclusionary and inflammatory language.”

Traditional allies of the Palestinian cause wavered as objections to the text intensified. Mexico, which supported the text, had a change of heart, initially requesting a re-vote and then sufficing with a statement blasting the text as offensive and biased against the Jewish people. This was after it fired its ambassador to UNESCO, Andre Roemer, who is Jewish, for protesting his country’s “yes” vote. In a personal protest, Roemer walked out of last week’s vote in Paris, leaving his deputy to cast the vote for Mexico.

Dozens of Czech lawmakers wrote a joint letter of protest to UNESCO over the vote, as did various U.S. lawmakers and several Christian groups, including the World Council of Independent Christian Churches.

As discord continued to spread, even Brazil, which voted in favor of the text and whose Socialist government is regarded by critics as blatantly hostile toward Israel, expressed dissatisfaction with the text it supported.

Tellingly, France was among 26 countries that abstained from the vote – a vogue, or an about-face, from its customary role as “a leading figure in the Arab-led anti-Israel bloc,” according to UN Watch, an NGO that monitors anti-Israel activity at the world body. The French abstention followed an internal debate that developed between the Foreign Ministry and Prime Minister Manuel Valls over the country’s support in April for a similar UNESCO text. Valls said publicly following the earlier vote that France should never have voted in favor.

India, which supported the UNESCO resolution in April, also abstained, as did Sweden, Spain, Argentina and Slovenia. Both resolutions were opposed by the same six countries: the United States and the five European countries, including Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

Palestinian leaders are aware of the pushback but are pressing ahead anyway.

They are “desperate to point to achievements to a population that is increasingly critical of Ramallah’s under-

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The staff of The Jewish Journal wishes our readers and advertisers a very Happy Thanksgiving

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine is sent monthly to members of the Jewish communities in Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio, and Mercer County in Pennsylvania, and all Jewish Community Center members at no charge.

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JJMM Mission Statement

◇ The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —
◇ Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;
◇ Present current local, national and world news of Jewish interest;
◇ Offer timely commentary, interpretation, analysis and authentic background on events of the day for the purpose of encouraging the concern and response vital to our responsibilities as Americans and Jews;
◇ Enrich the cultural interest of individuals and the community through articles, features, 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.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Dec. 2016 issue.
Education is most important civil rights issue today

Imagine one-third of Ohio children hungry. Imagine children who have consumed “grape-type things” — like Kool-Aid or grape soda — but who have never eaten an actual grape or, for that matter, have never tasted real pineapple.

But those aren’t conditions aren’t imaginary. That’s the reality described by Dr. Patricia Cunningham, who spoke at a JCRC Lunch and Learn during Ohio’s Nonviolence Week. Dr. Cunningham characterizes herself as a folklorist and storyteller — one who uses the power of story to explain who she is and how her personal experience illustrates the cultural connection between Blacks and Jews.

Dr. Cunningham, the director of social change at The Ohio State University, said the affinity of Blacks and Jews emerged through their historical disenfranchisement in the United States. As Black Americans streamed north after the Civil War and Jewish refugees poured into the United States, they faced similar discrimination, the American nativist bent revealed in signs for housing, hotels, jobs, and restaurants as signs read “no Jews,” “no ‘colored,’” and even “no Irish.”

As a result, Dr. Cunningham said, because many neighborhoods were closed to what were construed as readily identifiable people [Jews and Blacks] both groups, they lived near each other instead. “Living life together,” she said, “helped form a transformative relationship.” For example, the first two presidents of the NAACP were Jewish, she explained.

Today, most Jews have escaped the bonds of poverty. However, the same cannot be said for Black Americans. She contrasted the economic situation in Bexley, OH, to the poor Black community adjacent to the wealthier Columbus suburb. Dr. Cunningham said, “Zip codes can tell how kids will do in life.”

The state of education and a community’s environment are inextricably linked. She said that Cleveland and Cincinnati are in the top 10 of poor air quality. Water quality in Flint, MI, was largely ignored by the white political power structure. Children who are hungry, breathe poor air, and drink lead-tainted water are in no position to learn.

That’s why Dr. Cunningham advocates mixed-income housing to help achieve the socioeconomic diversity important to community stability as “coalition building happens in an organic kind of way.”

She said, “We were better together” in the past. We can be better together now.

Civil Rights Movement (continued from p. 2)

in the 1960s against segregationist laws and blatant injustice than it will be confronting today’s structural challenges. While the “new Jim Crow” may not be as explicitly segregationist as the old Jim Crow, the current inequities in our society — particularly our criminal justice system — disproportionately affect African-Americans and other minorities and wreak havoc in the inner city.

Today, the United States incarcerates more than 2 million people, more than any other nation. Among this population, people of color are vastly overrepresented. One out of every 15 black men is currently in jail and one in three will be incarcerated during his lifetime. African-American men and women are far more likely than whites to be harassed by police, and subjected to excessive use of force. They are less likely to receive adequate legal representation from a desperately underfunded, over-extended public defender system. Draconian drug laws put many productive people in jail for long prison sentences. Upon reentry, former inmates are disqualified from many jobs and services and often end up back in jail.

The Jewish community, which prides itself on its historic commitment to social justice, has every reason to join the cause of helping America live up to its own ideals of equality. And if the community wants to have any influence on how today’s civil rights activists view Jews and Jewish issues, it must show up to the planning meetings, press conferences and protests. Moreover, unlike many other social policy issues, criminal justice reform enjoys bipartisan support and should be less divisive within the Jewish community.

How can we mobilize the Jewish community to engage on civil rights?

First, we must do our homework on today’s civil rights landscape. We have to educate ourselves on the issues and identify the people already doing the work. Our traditional partners from civil rights 1.0 are no longer the only voices driving civil rights 2.0.

Second, we must relax litmus tests that make it harder for us to re-engage. Alan Dershowitz argues that “until and unless Black Lives Matter removes this blood libel from its platform and renounces it, no decent person ... should have anything to do with it.” He does not say, however, what we should do after they inevitably refuse to repudiate the platform. Is he suggesting that the Jewish community stay away from civil rights meetings where a Black Lives Matter representative is present? Such litmus tests are a prescription for Jewish isolation, not greater influence over the direction of the movement.

Third, we must help empower Jews of color and young people. Many Jews of color have connections to today’s civil rights movement. Not only can they help their fellow Jews navigate the external challenges, they can aid the community in developing the inner capacity to engage. They can help us talk to ourselves about race before we talk to the outside world.

Fourth, we must find our own voice on civil rights. It will not be easy integrating the Jewish community into civil rights coalitions, some of which hold very different political sensibilities. Young activists routinely invoke phrases like “white supremacy” to describe America’s prevailing power structure, and this may sound extreme to many mainstream Jews. Rather than feeling obliged to use these terms, however, the Jewish community can develop its own social justice vocabulary and come to the table in its own voice.

History will not wait for Jews to come around on our own schedule. We need to jump headfirst into the issues that matter now. It’s time to find our voice and make sure Americans — particularly African-Americans — hear it.
NEW YORK — College graduates ages 21 to 30 who are interested in teaching English to Israeli children, while embarking on a journey that will change their lives, are invited to apply to participate in the 2017-2018 class of Masa Israel Teaching Fellows.

The Masa Israel Teaching Fellows program is a partnership between Masa Israel Journey, Israel's Ministry of Education, and The Jewish Agency for Israel. The prestigious fellowship provides young Jews from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand a 10-month experience living in Israel and volunteering through teaching English in schools. The program aims to close the educational achievement gap in Israel's education system through small group instruction and tutoring at schools identified as in need of additional assistance by the Israeli Ministry of Education. The Fellowship runs from late August to June.

“We are so excited about Masa Israel Teaching Fellows’ continued growth,” said Tamar Zilbershatz, director of Gap and Service Programs at Masa Israel Journey. “We are now in our sixth year, and we know we are having an impact because students tell our fellows that their older siblings remember the fellows before them. We have become part of the national landscape.

“Though our students get the chance to immerse themselves in Israeli life, they are also charged with the daunting task of helping Israel's Education Ministry meet its goal of vastly improving English language among students countrywide. Masa Israel Teaching Fellows are part of something much bigger than themselves, an agenda of national priority for Israel's million plus students.”

The 2017-2018 fellowship class will be assigned to elementary and middle schools in Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, Beit She'an, Migdal Ha'emek, Nazareth, Netanya, Petach Tikvah, Rahat, Ramla, Rehovot, and Rishon Lezion as well as in a youth village providing a boarding school setting for immigrant and youth at risk. Applicants are asked to identify their top-choice location.

In addition to working directly with Israeli school children, Masa Israel Teaching Fellows also participate in a two-credit academic course, “Methods in Language Teaching: Theory & Practice,” taught by the academic staff of Tel Aviv University’s TESOL Master's program. Throughout the program, the fellows will study under top international language instructors in Israel, focusing on understanding how individuals acquire a new language. The strategies learned through this program help fellows better connect with their students and address challenging classroom situations.

Eligible applicants must identify as Jewish and have at least an undergraduate degree by September 1, 2017. Applicants cannot be Israeli citizens or have spent four consecutive months or longer in Israel within the last two years.

To begin the application process, interested applicants should visit israel-teachingfellows.org, and click “Learn More.”

Kasim Hafeez is a British citizen of Pakistani Muslim heritage who grew up being exposed to radical anti-western, anti-Semitic, and anti-Israel ideas. During his teenage years, Kasim embraced a radical Islamist ideology and became active in the anti-Israel movement. Alan Dershowitz’s book “The Case for Israel” challenged Kasim’s fundamental beliefs and led him to a period of research, reflection, and a journey to Israel in 2007. Witnessing the true nature of the Jewish state, Kasim felt a moral obligation to speak publically for Israel and against the dangers of radical Islam.

RSVP by: Nov. 10 to Nancy Sentelik (330) 746-3250 x 108 or NSentelik@JewishYoungstown.org

Applications now open for English teaching fellowships in Israel
Shimon Peres remembered for commitment to Zionist ideal

By Leah Garber
Vice President/Director,
JCC Israel Center

Shimon Peres, one of the last surviving public figures of the generation that founded Israel as a nation in 1948, passed away on Sept. 28, never recovering from a stroke two weeks earlier.

At the time Mr. Peres died, he was surrounded by family and is mourned deeply by the people of Israel, and Jews all over the world for his commitment to the Zionist ideal, his deep love of the land, and his efforts toward creating a peaceful future.

At 93, Mr. Peres was one of Israel's most beloved and appreciated public figures, an intellectual and an outstanding speaker. He was also one of the most recognized and active politicians the country has ever produced, instantly recognizable around the world.

A Nobel laureate, he shared that prestigious award in 1994 with the late Yitzhak Rabin for his active role in the peace talks he participated in as Israel's then-Foreign Minister, producing the Oslo Accords.

Mr. Peres was a member of 12 cabinets, during a long, storied career that spanned nearly seven decades. He was elected to the Knesset, Israel's parliament in 1959 and served continuously until 2007, when he became president. He was Israel's ninth president, serving from 2007 to 2014, and the first former prime minister to serve in that role.

In that role, he served twice as the country's prime minister and twice as interim prime minister, holding many other political seats and roles in his long career.

Shimon Peres was born as Szymon Perski on Aug. 2, 1923 in Wiszniew, Poland.

The Perski family spoke Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian at home with their two sons, and young Peres learned Polish at school. His father was a wealthy timber merchant, later branching out into other commodities, his mother was a librarian.

In 1932, Peres’ father immigrated to Palestine and settled in Tel Aviv. The family followed him in 1934 where Peres graduated high school and later became a kibbutz member for several years.

All of Mr. Peres's relatives who remained in Poland were murdered during the Holocaust, many of them burned alive in the town's synagogue.

In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Mr. Peres was appointed an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George. Queen Elizabeth II bestowed this honor in Buckingham Palace in London in 2008. In June 2011, he was awarded the honorary title of sheikh by Bedouin dignitaries in Hura for his efforts to achieve Middle East peace.

In June 2012, Mr. Peres received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from United States President Barack Obama. On May 19, 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to award Mr. Peres the Congressional Gold Medal. The bill said that “Congress proclaims its unbreakable bond with Israel.”

Mr. Peres published The New Middle East in 1994, which was quickly translated into at least 17 languages. The book outlined his dream for the region, and he was a strong supporter of peace through economic cooperation.

When Mr. Peres's presidency ended in June 2014, it was the first time in close to 70 years he didn't hold an official political role. At that time, he was among the most recognized and admired Israeli politicians in recent years.

Three years ago, Israel celebrated Mr. Peres's 90th birthday. Renowned politicians and artists from around the world, including Bill Clinton, Barbara Streisand and others, celebrated a man whose career spanned the country's contemporary history, from its birth to start-up nation status.

I had the privilege of seeing Mr. Peres at the Israeli Presidential Conferences — high level conferences under his auspices. The gatherings, titled “Facing Tomorrow,” brought together the world top leaders and thinkers in a wide variety of fields to navigate the most pressing global challenges ahead.

Surrounded by many renowned speakers, former-President Peres was always the highlight of these conferences. Always brilliant, eloquent, sharp, full of humor, extremely knowledgeable, formal and yet so reachable, a true people’s person.

I will miss Mr. Peres. I will miss his vision. I will miss the dignity he represented, the great honor and respect he brought to the Jewish people, to the State of Israel.

Mr. Peres was the ultimate believer, who never abandoned his hope. He once said: “Optimists and pessimists die the same way. They just live differently. I prefer to live as an optimist.”

May the Peres family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Editor's note: Ms. Garber represents the interests of JCC Association and North American JCCs in Israel, and works to develop collaborative ventures with the JCC Movement's partners in Israel. The YAJF's shaliach Gon Erez asked that The Journal use this article in lieu of his regular column.

The Secret Lost Tribes of Israel

Thursday, December 8, 2016
Dinner: 6:00 p.m. | Lecture: 6:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
$10 for dinner | The lecture is free

www.jccyoungstown.org
No sense denying the Jewish connection to Jerusalem

By Stephen M. Flatow/JNS.org

Archaeologists have uncovered yet more evidence of the ancient Jewish connection to Jerusalem — the very same week that UNESCO and the Palestinian Authority (PA) were declaring that Jews have no ties to Jerusalem. Talk about irony.

The latest discovery of a site where the Roman army assaulted Jewish forces guarding the outer walls of Jerusalem, during the Second Temple period, explodes the lies of the U.N. and the PA.

Consider this. The Romans were attacking Jewish forces. No evidence was found of any Palestinian forces in the area. The assault took place during the Second Temple period — the temple which the PA says never existed.

The newest findings confirm an account in the book, The Wars of the Jews, by the ancient historian Josephus Flavius in the first century C.E., which some historians previously doubted. Problem for the PA: Josephus never mentions Palestine or Palestinians.

Every time archaeologists dig in Israel, another piece of the Palestinian propaganda line crumbles. Earlier this year, scientists unearthed two ancient document seals in Jerusalem, dating to the late eighth century or early seventh century B.C.E. The script on the seals is Hebrew, not Arabic or any other language connected to Arabs or Muslims.

One of the seals bears the name of a man, “Saadyahu ben Shebnayahu.” The other is the name of a woman, “Eliahannah bat Goel” (or Gael). Jewish names. Not Arab or Muslim or Palestinian. The archaeologists noted the construction of the names were “in typical Judean fashion for this time period.” Judean, not Palestinian. This is more vivid, indisputable evidence of a Jewish presence in the Land of Israel — more than 1,400 years before Mohammed founded Islam.

Another important archaeological discovery earlier this year found the world’s oldest glass kilns, alongside a railroad track at the foot of Mount Carmel, near Haifa. Professor Ian Freestone, of London’s University College, a specialist in the identification of the chemical composition of glass, noted the kilns prove that “Israel constituted a production center on an international scale — hence its glassware was widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean and Europe.”

The kilns date from around the year 400 C.E., some 300 hundred years after the Romans destroyed the Second Temple, killed an estimated 600,000 Jews, and destroyed more than 1,000 Jewish cities and towns.

Despite that devastation, the Jews were so attached to the Land of Israel that they rebuilt their society, to the point of serving as a glass-production center that exported its wares throughout the Roman Empire. One of the most famous discoveries in this field is an edict by the Roman emperor Diocletian, carved on a stone tablet, setting the prices for what he called “Judean glass.”

Not “Palestinian glass,” but “Judean glass.” Because everyone knew that Judea was the name of the region. That’s what the Bible called it. That’s what historians have called it for more than 2,000 years.

That is, until UNESCO and the Palestinian Arab propaganda machine came along.

Stephen M. Flatow, an attorney in New Jersey, is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995.

(For more on this issue, see page 9)
Children of fallen soldiers celebrate special b'nai mitzvah

By Sam Sokol/JNS.org

JERUSALEM—Dozens of orphans of fallen Israeli soldiers, and the son of an American serviceman who died in Afghanistan, celebrated their bar and bat mitzvahs in Jerusalem in a mass ceremony conducted by the IDF Widows and Orphans Organization.

The children, between ages 12 and 13, met with the Israeli Army’s Chief Rabbi on Thursday morning, ahead of the event, to receive pairs of tefillin, leather boxes containing scriptural passages that Jewish men wear on their arms and heads during prayer when they reach adulthood.

The organization, which provides support for army widows and orphans, makes an “extra effort to be there at important junctions in the lives of children who lost parents, and one of these is the bar mitzvah year,” said Shlomi Nahumson, director of the group’s youth department, at a celebratory concert for the young orphans.

“The participation of the organization makes a meaningful difference in the lives of children who lost their parents,” said Nahumson.

A 13-year-old boy, who lost his father, sang Yishai Zemer’s “Adon Kol Ha’Aravim,” or “Master of the Land,” and a 12-year-old girl, from a family of four, sang Rebecca Ben Amos’s “Ez Matira,” or “You Tore Down.”

“A child should be able to begin this journey with the hand of their father on their shoulder and with their presence when they make their choices on becoming adults,” Nahumson said. “There’s no way we can bring their fathers back to them. But we can put our hands on their shoulders, so they know they’re not alone, and that we appreciate the sacrifices their parents made.”

As multicolored strobe lights illuminated the room during the evening gala, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin addressed the youngsters, accompanied by Chief of the General Staff Gabi Eizenkot, Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman and other senior officials.

“I know that all of you will continue to be a source of hope to make the world a better and more peaceful place,” Rivlin said. “We will accompany you always as you continue to grow and make your families and the people of Israel proud.”

While the event was billed as a bar/bat mitzvah ceremony, not all of the kids were Jewish. However, among those clapping and laughing as an IDF choir sang classic Israeli pop songs was Asool Naserladen from the Druze village of Dalitay Eal-Karmel.

Asool, now 12, was only 4-years-old when her father Lutf, an infantryman in the Golani Brigade, was killed in the line of duty.

She recalled his laugh, how he would buy her presents and “when he took me to Luna Park.” Since losing him, she feels that “this organization is my home. I feel that everyone loves me and thinks about me,” she said.

Among the Israeli children was American A.J. Voelke, 13, from Springfield, Virginia.

Slight and blond, A.J., an avid sportsman, worried constantly about his father when he went overseas and recalled how sad he felt when his father deployed for the fifth time to Afghanistan.

Describing her initial reaction to the news, Voelke’s wife, Tami, said, “It was kind of like in the movies when officers come to your house and you see them standing there and you know what it means. They [military officials] asked me to come in and I said, ‘No.’ And then I finally got to my senses and said, ‘Come on in.’ They brought in a chaplain and then life changed.”

“It was the worst day of my life,” A.J. remembered.

Connected with the Israeli widows and orphans organization by an American group with a similar mission, the Voelkes were invited to take part in the bar mitzvah ceremony, an experience that A.J. said was incredibly meaningful.

Staying with an Israeli army widow during their visit has been incredibly special, Traci Voelke explained, saying she felt an “instant connection.” Visiting Israel during the High Holidays has been “very spiritual” and sharing experiences and pictures have “helped us all through this big event for A.J.”

“It feels pretty good to be bar mitzvahed in Israel with children who know what I’m going through,” A.J. said. “It’s been pretty great.”
Italian PM blasts ‘outrageous’ resolution

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke over the weekend with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who harshly criticized the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s decision last week to deny any link between the Jewish people and Jerusalem.

Renzi said that “to say that the Jewish people have no connection to Jerusalem is like saying that the sun creates darkness.” He called the move “outrageous.”

In an interview with a local Italian radio station, Renzi called these types of anti-Israel resolutions “unacceptable and wrong.”

Renzi told the radio station Italy’s decision to abstain from the vote on the resolution was not motivated by anti-Semitism, but rather a desire to vote in line with the rest of Europe. He said he would have preferred it if Italy had voted against the resolution.

“We cannot continue with these resolutions attacking Israel,” Renzi said, adding that he would vote against other EU member nations in the future.

More denunciations of UNESCO by lawmakers of 17 nations

(Israel Hayom/Exclusive to JNS.org)

Lawmakers from 17 countries signed a declaration Thursday against last week’s UNESCO resolution and called for international recognition of Jerusalem as the undivided and eternal capital of Israel.

The UNESCO resolution rejects any Jewish link to the Temple Mount and Western Wall in Jerusalem.

In the declaration, 19 members of legislative bodies representing the 17 countries, said that “the U.N. resolution is disconnected from reality and is incorrect. We will work toward the international recognition of Jerusalem, as the undivided, eternal capital of the state of Israel.”

The parliamentarians presented the declaration to Deputy Minister Michael Oren, who delivered it to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Oren called the UNESCO resolution “unacceptable.” He said it “must be fought against every way possible. The signing of the declaration by MPs from all over the world against UNESCO is one of the steps we will take against this atrocious decision. We will continue to emphasize the eternal connection between the Jewish people and our eternal capital for ever and ever, which nobody in the world, and certainly not UNESCO, can break.”

French Jewish groups rallying to protest state’s silence on votes

(JTA) — The main Jewish groups in France urged members to rally in front of the headquarters of the country’s Foreign Ministry to protest its failure to oppose U.N. resolutions that ignore Jewish ties to Jerusalem.

CRIF, the political lobby group representing French Jewish communities, in a rare move was joined by the Consistoire, French Jewry’s organ responsible for religious services, in organizing a protest rally for Thursday opposite the Quai d’Orsay in Paris in reaction to the passing of two resolutions on Jerusalem this month by UNESCO committees.

In May, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls apologized for his country’s support for an earlier resolution passed by UNESCO in April that also was seen as erasing Jewish ties to Jerusalem.

“We were shocked by the anti-Israeli obsession of UNESCO and are now revolted by its disavowal of its own values,” CRIF President Francis Kalifat wrote Wednesday in his call for French Jews to rally outside Quai d’Orsay. Hundreds are expected to convene there for the protest.

UNESCO resolution (continued from page 2)

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November 2016
The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
Ewan McGregor’s big challenge: Philip Roth

By Curt Schleier

(JTA) — Which is braver? Riding a motorcycle across the length of Africa, or taking on an adaptation of a Philip Roth novel for your first directing gig?

For a second, actor Ewan McGregor is stumped by the question — but he quickly recovers.

“I think this [‘American Pastoral’] was more dangerous,” he told JTA.

As part of his role as a UNICEF ambassador, in 2007 the leading man traveled 15,000 miles by motorcycle from Scotland through Europe and across Africa, all the way to Cape Town, South Africa. There, his biggest obstacles were potholes.

But staying true to the Hollywood trope that every actor really just wants to direct, McGregor apparently sought an even bigger challenge with his desire to work behind the camera.

McGregor, of course, has spent the past two decades building a considerable reputation as an actor. Starting with his brilliant portrayal of heroin addict Mark Renton in “Trainspotting,” he has starred in well-received independent films such as “Salmon Fishing in Yehmen” as well as blockbusters like “Moulin Rouge!” and the three “Star Wars” prequels, where he portrayed the young Obi-Wan Kenobi.

But the inaugural directorial project he decided to take on — an adaptation of Roth’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel — is one that might foil the most experienced directors.

“American Pastoral” is the eighth movie made of Roth’s work — nearly all of which have been critically panned and commercial failures. “Goodbye Columbus” was the exception, achieving both critical and commercial success on its release in 1969. More recently, “Indignation” received positive notices, but failed to gain traction with audiences.

And if that wasn’t daunting enough, in addition to directing, McGregor also plays the lead role of Seymour Levov — a handsome, goyish-looking Jewish athlete turned successful businessman known as the Swede.

Yet none of this deterred the 45-year-old Scottish-born actor.

“I didn’t think it was dangerous at the time,” McGregor said. “I thought John Romano’s script was beautifully written and got right to the heart of the story. I didn’t feel it was an uphill battle. I didn’t think I had to reach for something because it was all there in the script. And if you’re going to start your directing career based on a novel, why not make it an amazing novel?”

American Pastoral is considered among the best, if not the best, of Roth’s works. In addition to the Pulitzer, it made Time magazine’s list of the 100 greatest novels of all time.

The book, like some other novels by Roth, is narrated by his alter ego, Nathan Zuckerman, and is centered on American and Jewish identity. Here, Zuckerman returns to Newark, NJ, for his 45th high school reunion to discover the Swede, his best friend’s larger-than-life big brother, had just died.

The Swede had seemed destined for greatness: He was a multi-sport star, a Marine Corps officer and heir to the family’s Newark glove factory. Over the objections of his father, Lou (Peter Scolari), he marries Dawn (Jennifer Connelly), the shiksa former beauty queen.

“Perfect wife, perfect house, perfect baby,” Zuckerman (David Strathairn) narrates. “Something was smiling down on him. This is the way I always thought it would be for him. He was the Swede.”

But it wasn’t to be. His daughter, Merry (played as a teenager by Dakota Fanning), is a stutterer with emotional problems. She becomes radicalized, plants bombs that kill three people and is forced to go underground. The Levov family disintegrates just as the nation around it erupts into riots, violent demonstrations and domestic terrorism.

(Continued on page 15)
Jewish cultural icons bring it all back home

By Larry Yudelson
Associate Editor, The Jewish Standard

(JTA) — As a fan who runs the “Bob Dylan: Tangled Up in Jews” website, I should be ecstatic at the Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to the writer whose words have been the soundtrack to my life since I first sang them at a Jewish summer camp some 40-odd years ago.

However, as an editor of a New Jersey Jewish newspaper located just 23 miles from the Newark neighborhood of Weequahic where Philip Roth grew up and placed so much of his fiction, I should be heartbroken that Roth, also rumored to be a contender for the prize, lost out — again.

Roth, 83, and Dylan, 75, have a great deal in common.

Both are the grandchildren of Jewish immigrants. Their fathers were middle class: Herman Roth was an insurance salesman. Abe Zimmerman had an appliance store in Hibbing, Minnesota.

Each was an early herald of the escape from middle class norms that defined the 1960s.

Young Robert Zimmerman dropped out of college, moved to New York City, sought out folk singer Woodie Guthrie as an inspiration and role model, made up fantastical stories about running away from home as a child, and changed his name to Bob Dylan. He would soon be dubbed “the voice of his generation” for warning “mothers and fathers throughout the land” that “the times they are a-changin.”

Young Philip Roth graduated from college, attended graduate school, became a teacher and earned literary respectability with stories in “The New Yorker” in the late 1950s. But his first short stories told of Jews who refused to either fully assimilate or to behave: Jewish soldiers who lied about Yom Kippur to get an extra pass from the army; a child who refused to accept Hebrew school dogma; and, perhaps most precociously, a suburban Long Island householder who becomes a Hasid.

Even before he portrayed an unmarried nice Jewish girl worrying about birth control or a not-so-nice Jewish boy soiling the family dinner, Roth’s willingness to tell the story of his Jewish community in public earned anger and disapproval, perhaps most famously when he appeared on a 1962 panel at Yeshiva College. The tone of the evening was summed up in the words of a Yeshiva educator who wrote, in a letter to the Anti-Defamation League, “What is being done to silence this man?”

For Roth’s and Dylan’s Eastern European forebears, the choice was simple if not always easy: You were either in the community or out. Were you a Jew or did you abandon the faith? The dilemma was not unique to America: “Fiddler on the Roof” captures the mood of Russian Jews worried about their children’s fate more than a century ago. Would they fall in love with a Christian and convert? Would they fight for a tradition-annihilating Communist revolution?

Looking at young Philip and young Robert, say, a decade after their bar mitzvahs, it is easy to imagine the dismay of a generation of Jewish mothers and fathers. Their sons and their daughters — certainly Philip and Robert — were beyond their command.

What did that bode for the Jewish people?

The answer turned out to be blowing through the words they wrote and the lives they lived. They were not, despite the very Jewish blessing contained in a song Dylan wrote for his son Jakob, forever young. Instead, they matured and grew, coupled and uncoupled and recoupled, even matured into nostalgic elders, and along the way chronicled and contributed to the mixed-up confusion that is contemporary American Jewish life.

Dylan felt the surrealistic quality of the present while yearning deeply for the past. He tells of devouring Civil War newspapers in the New York Public Library when he was first living on borrowed sofas in Greenwich Village. His most recent 21st-century songs mashed up phrases from 19th-century poets and prewar blues singers into a timeless collage.

This mix of past and present works with a spirituality that is largely absent from the work and life of Roth, a proud atheist. Each man toyed with the question of making his life in Israel. (Dylan started filling out paperwork to move to a kibbutz; Roth imagined a counterlife where he was Israeli.) But it was Dylan who was photographed at the Western Wall for his son’s bar mitzvah; who became a born-again Christian follower of the evangelist Hal Lindsey; who performed on a Chabad telethon; who showed up on Yom Kippur at Chabad houses across the country, and who was seen occasionally at student performances at his grandchildren’s Jewish day school.

The question of in or out, whether for an individual or a generation, has no easy answer because people are never static. The enfant terrible matures, kicking and screaming, into the elder statesman. It was 50 years ago that Dylan “went electric” and embraced rock ‘n’ roll; who can count the stages between then and his present status as a gravelly voiced interpreter of Frank Sinatra songs?

Roth began as a naughty young Jewish writer, became a champion of Eastern European authors and let his early ambition to be a great American novelist play out as the grand chronicler of lives lived amid historical moments, capturing the eras of his lifetime, including the McCarthy era, the ’60s counterculture, the presidency of Bill Clinton and, in his 2004 novel of alternate history, “The Plot Against America,” World War II.

(Continued on page 14)
Darlene’s Destinations

Finding Neverland

This new Broadway musical tells the fascinating story of how Peter became Pan. Based on the Academy Award®-winning film of the same name, it has been brought to extraordinary life by the team behind Shakespeare in Love, Chicago and Pippin. Packed with mesmerizing visuals, irresistible songs and plenty of laughs, “Finding Neverland” is a timeless story about the power of imagination and spectacular proof that you never really have to grow up. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

Date: Sunday, Nov. 20
Leave JCC: 11 a.m.
Return: 7:30 p.m.
$75/Member  $85/Non Member

Movie and Lunch Bunch
AL JOLSON-The Jazz Singer

“The Jazz Singer,” starring Al Jolson, the world’s most popular musical comedy artist, is considered by Warner Brothers to be their most supportive triumph. Don’t miss this classic movie! Price includes movie and light lunch.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 19
Time: Noon-2 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$5/Member  $7/Non Member
$10 after Oct. 14

Sip and Paint

“Whoa! You are a sip away from a Masterpiece!” Once you walk in the door the party will begin. An easel, paint, canvas, aprons, snacks, wine and an instructor will be provided. No experience is required. Our local experienced and enthusiastic artist will give easy step-by-step instructions for everyone to follow. You’ll leave with a one-of-a-kind piece of art ready to display. Price includes art supplies, wine, cheese and snacks.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 17
Time: 5:30-8 p.m.

J Cafe

Lou Zona has been the executive director of The Butler Institute since 1981. He has overseen dramatic expansions to the Butler’s physical plant including two branch museums and adding many significant works of art to the collection. Under his stewardship, the Butler became accredited by the American Association of Museums and published the first scholarly catalogue of the Butler collection. Price includes lecture and lunch.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 17
Time: Noon-1:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$8/Member  $10/Non Member
$12 after Nov. 14

The Time Traveler’s Wife

Lose yourself in timeless love with this gloriously romantic story of the journey of two hearts. Artist Clare Abshire shares a deep emotional bond with Henry De Tamble, a handsome librarian who travels involuntarily through time. Knowing they can be separated without warning, Clare and Henry treasure the moments they have together. Price includes movie and light lunch.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 7
Time: Noon-2 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$5/Member  $7/Non Member
$10 after Nov. 14

The Secret Lost Tribes of Israel

Join us for an amazing journey with an exciting multimedia presentation entitled, “One nation, many faces — Jewish demography and destiny.” Our presenter, Laura Ben-David, will discuss her work with “lost” and “hidden” Jewish communities in some of the most far flung spots on the globe. Laura Ben-David is the director of marketing and new-media in “Shavei Israel”—an organization that aims to help descendants of Jews reconnect with the people and State of Israel.

Date: Thursday, Dec 8
Time: 6-7:30 p.m.
Location: JCC

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

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

For more on Shlichim programming, or to make reservations for any of the programs, contact Gon Erez: 330-746-3250 ext. 195 or gerez@jewishyoungstown.org.

For more information, contact: Emily Collins 330-746-3250 Ext. 152 or Ecollins@jccyoungstown.org.
Private Swim Lessons

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

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

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

The JCC offers free swim lessons especially geared towards persons on the autism spectrum. Our instructors have gone through special training and will be using advanced techniques to connect with and aid autistic children during lessons. Those wishing to enroll in the JCC P.A.L.S. program must apply to be on the waiting list by visiting our website at www.jccyoungstown.org and finding the PALS program under the aquatics tab.

**Dive In-Movie**

Join us for a fun-filled dip in our indoor pool while we watch the movie “Captain America Civil War.” Kids of all ages can enjoy donuts, cider and Captain America-themed prizes!

- **Date:** Nov. 18
- **Time:** 4-6 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free for members
- **$5** non Members

**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 10-10:35 a.m.
- **$25/Member $40/Non Member**
Save May 22, 2017, for new book launch

“Founded in the Mahoning Valley during 1837, a tiny settlement of secular German immigrants grew into one of the most influential centers of Jewish life in the Midwest.

Home to nationally renowned rabbis and Zionists, and being American, the community produced an astonishing array of leaders in an impressive range of fields throughout the twentieth century.

This notable legacy ranges from the entertainment juggernaut of Warner Brothers to the Arby’s fast-food empire and Youngstown Sheet & Tube, among others.

Authors Thomas Welsh, Joshua Foster, and Gordon F. Morgan trace the unique history of one of Ohio’s oldest Jewish communities, from its humble beginnings to the challenging climate of the new millennium.”

The book will be released in May 2017, and a launch event will be held at the Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center on May 22.

Brothers to the Arby’s fast-food empire and Youngstown Sheet & Tube, among others.

Cultural icons (continued from page 11)

That book is a prescient depiction of the temptations and consequences of America First nativism and anti-Semitism and features not only a conspiracy-mongering President Charles Lindbergh but a bullying developer who is described as a “cheapskate,” “screamer,” “shouter” and “a man without a friend in the world.”

For that reason, a Nobel nod to Roth right now might have been seen as more Swedish meddling in American politics, akin to President Obama’s peace prize. Yet Dylan, too, is a rebuke to the Trump moment — not only for his youthful support for the civil rights movement as a songwriter and performer (he professed to abandoning politics back in 1964, singing that he was “younger than that now” and has, with a handful of exceptions, remained apolitical since), but for showing that singing American and being American is as rooted in the language and songs of the African slaves as it is in the folk immigrants from England and Scotland, and that a grandson of Russian Jewish immigrants can nurture himself and his country by grafting on to these deep roots.

In awarding a literature prize to a songwriter for the first time, the Nobel Committee honored Dylan for the boundaries he broke in the genre of popular song. Surrealism, anger, confusion — again and again Dylan found words with old echoes for ideas new to the radio and record player.

And it is for this, for using old words in new ways, that I come down on the side of Dylan over Roth. Roth beautifully, masterfully chronicles the life of American Jews. But in recombining old texts for new times, Dylan hearkens back to the most ancient Jewish way of reading and writing, from the first compilers of the Bible, through the rabbis of the Talmud and the Zohar, to the Yiddish and Hebrew writers of the past two centuries.

In that, Dylan puts me in mind of the Jewish writer who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1966, Shmuel Yosef Agnon. Like Roth, Agnon chronicled the lives of Jews in their times. Like Dylan, Agnon creates something new from old language, using the words and phrases and images from the prayer book and midrash to tell his tales — with more than a touch of the mythical and surreal thrown in for good measure.

Roth, for all his brilliant sentences and psychological awareness, is a writer of Jews.

In making newspaper headlines sound like ancient wisdom, Dylan is a Jewish writer.

Editor’s note: At the time of printing, Bob Dylan had not yet acknowledged his being awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

News from the JCC Library

Books at the JCC Library

The Imperial Wife
by Irina Reyn. The Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership is featuring Reyn’s book to read during Jewish Book Month, Nov. 24 to Dec. 24. The plot interweaves the story of a young Catherine the Great and a modern Jewish art dealer. Highly recommended by Rabbi Bruce Elder. The entire Chicago community will be reading this book. (F/REY)

Where the Jews Aren’t: The Sad and Absurd Story of Birobidzhan, Russia’s Jewish Autonomous Region
by Masha Gessen. This nonfiction offering gives readers a glimpse into the lives of 20th century Russian Jews. (C947/GES)

Irena’s Children
by Tilar J. Mazzeo. Irena Sendler is known for saving more than 2,000 Jewish children during the Holocaust. This is truly a story of courage and hope. C940.43/MAZ)

JCC Library Book Club meeting

The next meeting of the JCC Library Book Club will be on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the library. Members will discuss Protecting Paige by Deby Eisenberg. Two copies are available at the JCC library and other copies can be obtained through amazon.com and on Kindle. Call Mary Lou Henneman at 330-746-3251 and leave a message if you have questions or wish to join.

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The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

November 2016
Ewan McGregor (Continued from page 10)

McGregor said he had read Roth before: The Human Stain, Portnoy’s Complaint, and I Married a Communist — “which, to my shame, I didn’t complete,” he said.

But McGregor said he hadn’t read American Pastoral until after he had been offered the script. He agreed to the role, but as often happens in Hollywood, years went by and nothing happened.

“We got close to the film disappearing, so I threw myself into the mix and offered to direct,” he said.

McGregor threw himself into the book, reading and rereading portions every day. He listened to Ron Silver’s audio recording while driving.

“My goal was to sop it up and sear the book into my soul,” he said.

And he largely succeeded. While some might disagree with what he put in and what he left out, McGregor effectively captured the book’s essence — that nothing is what it seems, that beneath the seeming tranquility of post-war American life simmered anger, subterfuge and lies.

McGregor also elicits extraordinary performances from his cast, particularly Fanning, whose emotional turmoil and its impact on her family is at times heartbreaking.

But not everyone is impressed — recent reviews have ranged from tepid to damning. The response from critics following the premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September was decidedly mixed, most often suggesting his direction was uninspired.

“I never read critics,” McGregor said. “I never liked to as an actor — I find it difficult to read harsh things about my performance. But I’m under no illusions. I know there were some hard ones coming out of Toronto.”

The reviews may be part of the reason he is so actively promoting the film — McGregor is making the rounds these days on TV with appearances on “The Today Show,” “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” and the like.

“Sometimes with unexpected results,” he said. “I was reminded this morning [in another interview] that the Swede is not my first Jewish character,” McGregor said. “I played Jesus in “Last Days in the Desert.””

It raises the issue of how comfortable he was playing a Jewish character. Very comfortable, it turns out.

“I’m married to a Jewish woman,” he said of wife Eve Mavrakis. “My children are Jewish and we brought them up as such. It is sort of the only religious experience I’ve ever had, so I was very proud to be telling this story since half my family is Jewish.”

McGregor said he attends synagogue from time to time with his family, which includes four daughters ranging in age from 5 to 20. Each of the older three have had a bat mitzvah.

Perhaps because he himself is not Jewish, McGregor took extra care with Jewish tradition in the film, a touch he added at the movie’s denouement.

“I wanted the Mourner’s Kaddish at the end of the film [at Swede’s burial],” he said. “It was not of great importance to him, but I think it’s part of what Roth was exploring, if we can turn our backs on who we are.”

McGregor had recently returned from Iraq, where he visited several refugee camps and spoke at UNICEF offices.

“Tha’t’s a lovely thing to say and means a great deal to me,” McGregor said, demonstrating the kind of “nice guy” temperament that had made the Swede famous in Newark.
Jacob Neusner brought Jewish studies into the mainstream

By Alan J. Avery-Peck

WORCESTER, Mass. (JTA) — Jacob Neusner, the famed scholar and almost mythically prolific author who died Oct. 8 at age 84, almost singlehandedly created the modern study of Judaism, and in doing so he revolutionized our understanding of the history of Judaism and our perception of what Judaism can mean to Jews today.

His career, which spanned more than 50 years and famously included the publication of hundreds of books, brought him national and international recognition. But most important, it created a model of Jewish life and learning that both adheres to the heritage of Torah and tradition, and with intellectual and historically honesty is at home in 21st century America.

By the early 1960s, when Neusner was first beginning to publish, Bible scholars had long questioned and sought methods of analyzing everything from the Hebrew Bible's account of the history of early Israel to the New Testament's claims regarding what Jesus had said and done. But it remained routine in Jewish history simply to accept as fact what Jewish texts, written hundreds of years after the events they reported, said had happened or claimed what certain rabbis or other figures had said.

Instead, Neusner insisted that ancient Jewish writings be examined according to the same norms of analysis that were routinely applied to the Bible and New Testament.

In his earliest writings, Neusner showed conclusively that rabbinic books — the Mishnah, the two Talmuds, collections of Midrash — expressed distinctive ideologies uniquely suited to the time and place of their authors and editors. This meant that Jewish history, just like Israelite and early Christian history, could not be expressed in terms of what had actually happened, but only as the history of the ideas and ideologies of those who compiled and edited the later literary evidence.

A first implication of this discovery was that we could no longer speak simply of some single and monolithic “Judaism.” Individual rabbinic books, rather, needed to be understood in the context of the specific and diverse Judaic systems in which they arose.

Second, Talmudic texts could not be studied as they always had been, with every text, early or late, being used to illuminate every other text.

And third, accurately interpreting this literature required academic methods. This meant that the Talmud, to be truly understood and for it to take its rightful place among the world's great literatures, could no longer be in the sole purview of the yeshiva and yeshiva-trained scholars.

The last point is perhaps the most significant. Through critical examination, massive projects of translation and commentary, and his application of disciplines ranging from literary study to anthropology, Neusner brought the study of Judaism — and the university-trained scholar of Judaism — into dialogue with scholarship throughout the academy. Talmudic literature, previously viewed as neither accessible nor, because of its superficially arcane content, as worth accessing, would now contribute to the work of humanists and social scientists throughout the academy.

This had another important implication. Even as Jews and Judaism came of age and became increasingly at home in the America of the 1960s and beyond, Jacob Neusner assured that Jewish history, literature and tradition would take their rightful place within the academy, benefiting from critical study while also demonstrating how Jews and their literary and intellectual legacy contribute to human learning overall.

In this work, Neusner defied entrenched religious and academic monopolies, whose approach to these texts and commitment to a traditional reading of Jewish history and religion was now challenged exactly as, a century before, academic study had challenged regnant, fundamentalist readings of the Hebrew Bible. Strikingly, today, just as a critical approach to the Hebrew Bible has begun to enter even the world of Jewish Orthodoxy, Neusner’s critical methodology is standard, even among scholars who no longer are conscious of where these approaches came from and who take issue with Neusner’s specific conclusions.

Whether he wins or loses on the details, Neusner won the battle over how Talmudic texts would be studied and how they would be regarded in the contemporary academy.

Alan J. Avery-Peck is the Kraft-Hiatt Professor in Judaic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is the co-editor of “A Legacy of Learning: Essays in Honor of Jacob Neusner” (Brill, 2014).

Thanksgiving: a Jewish holiday?

Jewish Americans have been celebrating Thanksgiving since at least 1789 when the new President George Washington called for an official day of Thanksgiving.

The affinity began at when Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue in New York – and the first synagogue established in America in 1654 – wanted to connect the experience of being Jewish and American. Thus, when President George Washington called for that official day, according to the Sephardic blog, Shalom Morris, “Gershom Mendes Seixas, minister of Shearith Israel, spoke at that first Thanksgiving service. He contrasted how Jews saw themselves as both ‘chosen’ and therefore apart, but also as part of America as equal citizens. He argued that as a chosen people Jews had an even greater obligation to conduct themselves as model citizens and to support the state.”

Beyond the significance of the proclamation itself, Washington’s words were notable for what was not included as well as the words that were.

Unlike the custom of the time, no specific religion was identified nor religious figures within those religions.

His second Thanksgiving proclamation in 1795 went further, as it was “directed to all religious societies and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever, within the United States to set apart and observe Thursday, the 19th day of February next as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day to meet together and render their sincere and hearty thanks to the Great Ruler of Nations for the manifold and signal mercies which distinguish our lot as a nation. Particularly for the possession of constitutions of government which united and by their union establish liberty with order; for the preservation of our peace, foreign and domestic; for the seasonable control which has been given to a spirit of disorder in the suppression of the late insurrection, and generally for the...”

(Continued on following page)
**Akiva’s Israeli teachers and their children thrive in Ohio**

After Israeli educators Kobi and Maayan Sigler applied for an international teaching destination through a special Jewish Agency program, they learned that they’d been assigned to “Youngstown.” What was Youngstown? Everyone in their group knew about Los Angeles or New York or Chicago, but Youngstown was a mystery. In fact, Kobi Sigler said, “We thought we were headed to South Africa.”

Just after Purim, 2014, the Siglers heard from Tirtza Kohan, that Youngstown’s Akiva Academy wanted to interview them. “But,” Mr. Sigler, laughed, “We still didn’t know it was in the U.S.”

After researching Youngstown and Ohio, they learned more about the region, its active Jewish community, and the area’s reputation as a good place to raise children. So they were looking forward to their adventure.

Still, their introduction to the United States was not easy. Landing at New York’s JFK airport with their three children, they rented a car to drive to their hotel in New Jersey. Driving in Times Square is difficult — if not impossible — for most Americans. Driving at night in the pouring rain was more than a challenge. Mr. Sigler said, “Maayan was dying, she was so tired.”

Mrs. Sigler was impressed that everything was so green. “In Israel, it only rains in the winter, so I thought it was going to be cold.” She learned quickly that August in the eastern United States was anything but cold.

“And now we know how cold winters are,” Mrs. Sigler said. “But we still love it.”

The Siglers were especially appreciative of all the people who helped them in their journey of coming to a new country and different culture.

“We were amazed to find our house organized, the beds made, and food in the fridge,” Mr. Sigler said.

They remarked about how all the synagogues and the Federation were very welcoming. The Siglers explained that other Israeli teachers who had gone to big cities didn’t have the sense of “this community wrapping around us.”

The Siglers have found that teachers in the United States receive so much more respect than do teachers in Israel. “In Israel,” Mr. Sigler said, “teachers could expect calls from parents at night. But here, teachers’ own time is respected. In Israel, teachers are called by their first names, which is not the situation here.”

Mr. Sigler also compared the secular schools where they taught in Israel — he as a science teacher and she in special education — to Akiva. “I think it’s amazing that we teach Hebrew to such a diverse group of students,” they said. “Hearing Hatikvah being sung by all the children at Akiva was such an exciting moment.”

Fortunately, the Siglers have signed another two-year contract. The students and the community couldn’t be happier.

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**Thanksgiving (continued from p. 16)**

Washington was not identifying the United States as a Christian nation. He was well acquainted with members of Shearith Israel and relied on Haym Solomon, the Jewish businessman who ensured that the Revolutionary War effort was financially stable.

But John Adams Thanksgiving proclamation — actually, a call for a day of fasting and humiliation (not thanksgiving) in 1798 sounds more like a Yom Kippur exhortation than a declaration of feasting.

Adams wrote,

“I have therefore thought fit to recommend, and I do hereby recommend, that Wednesday, the 9th day of May next, be observed throughout the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer; that the citizens of these States, abstaining on that day from their customary worldly occupations, offer their devout addresses to the Father of Mercies agreeably to those forms or methods which they have severally adopted as the most suitable and becoming; that all religious congregations do, with the deep and earnest supplication that our gracious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may have mercy on his countenanced vessels in America, and be pleased to bless the United States with his presence and guidance, and support them in all the dangers which threaten it; that our civil and religious privileges may be preserved inviolate and perpetuated to the latest generations...”

Today, American Jews save their fasting and abstention for Yom Kippur and join in the Thanksgiving celebrations that characterize the entire nation — enjoying a family feast and even watching a “pigskin” being hurled up and down 100 yards of real (or synthetic) turf.

For Thanksgiving recipes with a decided Jewish flair, please see page 24.

P2G JEWISH JOURNEY TO POLAND, BRATISLAVA & BUDAPEST
(Depart U. S. May 7, arrive Warsaw May 8, Depart Budapest May 16)
*with optional extensions to BERLIN or ISRAEL (see back for details)

$2950 double occupancy LAND ONLY*
($550 Single Supplement)
*A $2,000 subsidy is available for first time mission participants, and a $1,000 subsidy is available for prior mission participants.

**Suggested minimum $500 increase over 2017 and 2018 pledge to the 2017 and 2018 Combined Jewish Appeal Campaigns to qualify for subsidy.

Tips and individual transfers not included (other than with group arrival and departure). Trip price based on a minimum of 28 participants. We encourage all trip participants to buy trip insurance. Space is limited.

Informational Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17 4:30-5:30pm- JCC Board Room

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Museum of History of Polish Jews, Warsaw
- Warsaw Train Station and Old Town
- Warsaw Ghetto and Memorial
- Majdanek Concentration & Extermination Camp
- Kazimierz Jewish Quarter
- Krakow Synagogue and Jewish cemetery
- General city sites of Warsaw and Krakow
- Auschwitz - Birkenau
- Meet young adults building Jewish Budapest
- Budapest city sites including the Castle District
- Dohany synagogue
- Budapest Jewish Quarter
- Partnership Friends
- Balint JCC
- Israel Cultural Institute
- Szentendre artist village
- Boat ride on the Danube
- Bratislava Museum of Jewish Culture
- Tour Jewish Bratislava and synagogue

PRICE INCLUDES:
- Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach for all touring and sightseeing
- English speaking tour guides & guided tours
- Daily breakfast buffets in hotels
- 6 Lunches
- 6 Dinners
- Porterage in hotels
- Entrance fees (including Majdanek and Auschwitz - Birkenau)
- Boat tour on Danube
- Hotels:
  5★ Hotel Sofitel Victoria (Warsaw)
  5★ Hotel Holiday Inn City Center (Krakow)
  4★ Regency Suites Hotel (Budapest)
  5★ Kempinski Hotel Corvinus (Budapest)

Registration Deadline: January 6, 2017
($1000 Deposit to your Federation required, cancellation fees apply after Jan. 15, final payment required by March 10.)

Contact Andy Lipkin, ALipkin@JewishYoungstown.org (330) 746-3250 x 111
or Sarah Wilschek, SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org (330) 746-3250 X 123
for more information.

www.westerngalilee.org.il
**BERLIN EXTENSION:**

**May 16 - May 19, 2017**

$1498 per person *(double occupancy)*

$250 single supplement

*Trip based on minimum 8 participants*

*(Depart Budapest morning of May 16; Depart Berlin morning of May 19)*

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Jewish Berlin Tour—Jewish Quarter, New Synagogue, and Cemetery
- Brandenburg Gate
- Reichstag Boulevard Unterden Linden
- Berlin Wall
- Checkpoint Charlie
- Holocaust Memorial
- House of Wannsee Konferenz

**INCLUDED:**

- Hotel Palace Berlin
- English speaking guide
- Daily breakfast buffet
- Deluxe air conditioned coach
- All entrance fees
- 1 lunch
- Farewell Dinner

*Some special transfers may not be included*

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**WESTERN GALILEE EXTENSION:**

**May 16 - May 19, 2017**

$500 per person *(land only - double occupancy)*

$160 single supplement

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Culinary Workshop
- Galilee Medical Center Tour and Briefing
- Malka Beer Tasting
- Command Centers and Israel/Lebanon Border Tour
- Tikkun Olam Project with P2G Twinning School
- Rosh Hanikra Club Car Rides
- Dinners with Israeli Friends

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**WHAT IS PARTNERSHIP2GETHER?**

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER is a program of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Federations of North America, promoting people-to-people relationships through cultural, social, medical, educational and economic programs. This Partnership is between the 14 communities of the Central Area Consortium, Budapest, Hungary and Israel’s Western Galilee.

**Our Partnership2GETHER Communities:** Buffalo, NY, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Northwest Indiana, South Bend, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Des Moines, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska; Austin, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Texas and Budapest are linked with Akko and Matte Asher in the Western Galilee.

**Contact:** Andy Lipkin at ALipkin@JewishYoungstown.org or Sarah Wilschek at SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org

**CONNECT & MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

www.westerngalilee.org.il
Berkowitz Lecture Series  
Saturday, Nov. 5 – 10 a.m.

Featuring Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell speaking on “Is there a future for religion? What it might be?”

An abbreviated Shabbat service will precede the lecture.

There is no charge for the event. However, an R.S.V.P. is required if you are staying for lunch. Please call the Temple at (330) 744-5001 or email rodefsholom@sbcglobal.net by Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.

Social Action Committee at Second Harvest Food Bank  
Wednesday, Nov. 9 – 5 – 7 p.m.  
2805 Salt Springs Road  
Youngstown, OH 44509

R.S.V.P. to the Temple office

Simchat Shabbat Family Service!  
Friday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m.  
Tamarkin Chapel

Service led by the children using the new prayer book, Mishkan T’Filah for Youth, recently published by The Central Conference of American Rabbis.

“Simchat Shabbat” means “Joyous Sabbath,” and that’s exactly the kind of Shabbat experience we hope our families will enjoy. The children will lead the service and Rabbi Muller will provide music with his guitar. There will be birthday and anniversary blessings for children and adults celebrating in the month of November, and a special Simchat cake for dessert.

The theme for the evening is Voices & Visions connecting Jewish thought, art and people

Following the service, a traditional Shabbat chicken dinner and a program will be held in Handler Hall

A nominal charge of $8.50 per adult or $20.00 per family is the cost for the evening. The deadline for reservation and payment is Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 4 p.m. No phone/email reservations please.

Berkowitz Lecture Series  
Saturday, Dec. 10 – 10 a.m.  
Sanctuary

Featuring Dr. Kurt Malkoff speaking on “My personal journey of 70 years of Judaism: Can you be a practicing Jew without embracing the concept of God?”

An abbreviated Shabbat service will precede the lecture.

Dr. Kurt Malkoff was born and raised in Youngstown, where he and his family were lifelong members of Congregation Rodef Sholom. Dr. Malkoff celebrated both his Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation at the Temple.

Leaving Youngstown in 1964, he attended both the University of Wisconsin and then The Ohio State University where he received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in clinical psychology. He completed a one-year internship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in the Department of Psychiatry, Division of Clinical Psychology.

Dr. Malkoff has been practicing psychology in Columbus for 40 years. He is the founder and president of Matrix Psychological Services, which provides services both locally, nationally and internationally. Matrix provides services to Victoria’s Secret, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, The Ohio State University, William-Sonoma, Nationwide Medical Mutual Insurance through their four Columbus locations, which have 35 psychologists on staff as well as a national network comprising more than 13,000 psychologists.

Dr. Malkoff has been on the boards of the Columbus JCC, Homeless Shelter, VP, Temple Israel, president and life member of Wexner Heritage Village, president of Bright Pink, a national organization whose mission is to save women’s lives from breast and ovarian cancer by empowering them to live proactively at a young age. All are cordially invited to attend. A luncheon will follow the presentation.

There is no charge for the event, however, an R.S.V.P. is required by calling the Temple at (330) 744-5001 or email rodefsholom@sbcglobal.net by Tuesday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m.

Save the Date  
Cooking with Kandy  
Sunday, Dec. 11  
10 a.m. – noon  
Handler Hall kitchen

Rabbi Frank and Darlene Muller lead congregants to observe tashlich.

Todah Rabbah

To the following members who helped make the Brotherhood Big Ticket Raffle held Sept. 28, the Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner, and the Kol Nidre dinner such a success: Sally Blau, Nancy Burnett, Laurel Chevlen, Jodie Damioli, Inez Heal, Barbara Kirkorsky, Bonnie Lehman, Lisa Levy, Sandy Mallen, Kandy Rawl, and Helen Sacherman.

Art Einzig owner of “The Fire Grill” in Girard for catering the Rosh Hashanah dinner, and the Kol Nidre dinners.

Plus, a thank you to all of the fabulous bakers who made desserts for the event!

Mazel Tov to the winners of the Brotherhood Big Ticket Raffle: Marc and Donna Stein - $3,000 winner, Karen Rubin - $2,000 winner, Barry Davis - $1000 winner.

Rodef Sholom Service Schedule

Saturday  
Nov. 5  10 a.m.

Berkowitz Lecture with Dr. Joan Brown Campbell

Friday  
Nov. 11  6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

Friday  
Nov. 18  6 p.m.

Simcha Shabbat Service and dinner

Friday  
Nov. 25  6 p.m.

Shabbat Service

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, Jewish Community Center; Stambaugh Auditorium, Tyler Historical Center; Temples El Emeth, Ohev Tzedek and Rodef Shalom.

3135 Belmont Avenue, Liberty Township • 330-759-7889
Poland Library • 330-757-2330
El Emeth — November 2016

Jewish Christian Dialogue
The first first session of the year takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Rabbi Schonberger will present the Jewish view of this year’s theme “Our most important values and connection to Sinai.” Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 1 p.m.

Brunch with the Rabbi
“Brunch with the Rabbi” will take place Sunday, Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Come enjoy brunch and a timely discussion with the Rabbi. Minyan is at 10 a.m. with brunch beginning at 10:30.

November birthdays will be celebrated at a Kiddush luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 19 following Shabbat morning services. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office for lunch.

Shmoozing with Shmulik
The “Shmoozing with Shmulik,” Yiddish group, will meet on Monday, Nov. 28. The group meets from 10:30 a.m.–noon with Sam Kooperman for some fun in Yiddish. Coffee and pastry will be served.

Mark your calendar for El Emeth’s annual Fiesta Raffle and Cocktail Party scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3 at the synagogue. Enjoy an hors d’oeuvres and dessert buffet and open bar. Tickets are $150 for two people for the evening. Entertainment will be provided by Anthony Horvath. For more information please call the Temple office at 330-759-1429.

Services
Friday morning Minyan 7 a.m.
Shabbat morning services 9:30 a.m.
Sunday through Friday Minyans 5:45 p.m.
Saturday Minyans
Sat. Nov 5 5:45 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 12 5:15 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 19 5:15 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 26 5 p.m.

Brightening smiles
By MaryLou Finesilver
Did you ever walk into a room and you were so pleased with what you saw that you smiled? Sometimes, it’s the décor, the location and/or the people. Sometimes, it’s the satisfaction of doing a job well or getting an unwanted chore done quickly.

A little baby smiling can make me smile, and that touches the heart a little, too. Answering the phone and hearing the voice of someone you love on the line can make you smile. Seeing a favorite plant suddenly sprout a flower can also bring on a smile.

Washing my dog do the “happy dance” by running around the dining room table or from room to room makes me smile and, of course, I make sure I’m not on his trajectory.

My bedroom is my sanctuary and I love how I decorated it. As I walk in the door and stand in the doorway, I can feel my face turn up with a little smile.

Watching my son walk his little dog down our street and sometimes into our driveway makes me smile in wonder that they are actually here. Getting to see my granddaughter for the first time on my turf makes me smile with a tear in my eye. Spending some quality time with my daughter-in-law makes me smile.

There are all kinds of smiles. The nice smiles are of satisfaction, joy, relief, pride and humor. The not-so-nice smiles usually are really smirks or leers or the kind of smile that makes you think of rubbing your hands with greed and smiling that special “Aha” smile. I know some people like that, unfortunately.

What is that old saying, “A smile is a frown turned upside down.” I don’t know about you, but somehow a smile makes me feel better — even when I am feeling down. And that happens to me too, but if I can smile it really makes me feel better.

What makes you smile?

Temple El Emeth
Fiesta Cocktail Party & Raffle
$6000 in Cash Prizes!!!
Hors d’oeuvres ~ Open Bar ~ Dessert
$150 admits TWO to the Party And ONE entry for the raffle
December 3, 2016 7-10 pm
3970 Logan Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44505

Sisterhood
Nov. 8, marks a big day for Sisterhood. First, we have to vote. I won’t tell you who, but it is your G-D given right to vote, so don’t abuse it.

Please remember that also on that day is our Sisterhood meeting, with guest speaker genealogist Mrs. Betty Franklin, so do bring your questions with you.

The open board meeting is at 10:45 a.m. with the luncheon scheduled for noon. Please, please respond no later than Nov. 4. Lunch for Sisterhood members is $12 as usual. Sisterhood’s next meeting will be a Chanukah Party, Dec. 13.

Devra Silverman awarded fellowship
Devra Silverman, community engagement coordinator for the Jewish Federation of Savannah, GA, has been named one of 16 participants in the Merrin Fellowship Program. The Fellowship is based on the idea that the key to creating a vibrant Jewish future is connecting our teens to meaningful Jewish experiences today. The program provides an intensive, transformative professional development program to JCC professionals who are early in their career and who have a passion for working with teens.

It supports their growth within the JCC movement, in their work with teens, and their growth as Jewish communal professionals. There are four core areas of focus for the cohort: Jewish literacy, understanding adolescence, networking, and leadership. The 18 month program includes five seminars held around the United States, with the third seminar in Israel.

Ms. Silverman is a past president of Dodi Li BBG, a graduate of Liberty High School and the University of Cincinnati. She is the daughter of Harry and Elyse Silverman, and the granddaughter of Estelle Silverman and of the late Charles Silverman, and Sara and Allen Wolkoff.
**Drake earns 13 American Music nominations**

(JTA) — Drake was nominated for 13 American Music Awards, breaking the record of 11 set by Michael Jackson in 1984.

Drake, 29, born Aubrey Graham in Toronto to a African-American father and white Jewish mother, attended a Jewish day school and still occasionally notes Jewish holidays on social media. He discussed his mixed heritage in a bar mitzvah sketch while hosting “Saturday Night Live” in 2014.

Among the nominations for the Canadian Jewish Black rapper are Artist of the Year, Favorite Male Artist and Favorite Album for his 2016 album “Views.” The list of nominees was announced Monday.

**Services**

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

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

**Adult Education**

Please contact the Ohev Tzedek office if you are interested in these classes or to suggest ones that you would like to see.

**Mussar** — The study of middot (positive personality traits and characteristics) and the practice of perfecting them is an excellent way to enter the new year and to improve all of our relationships. We will meet one weekday afternoon per week to discuss and to find ways of bringing these important values and traits into our lives. Please let us know what afternoon best fits your schedule – however, we are leaning towards Mondays at 1 p.m, beginning Nov. 7.

**Star Shlep** — An Exploration of Short Jewish Science Fiction and Fantasy: Using Jewish science fiction/fantasy short stories as the starship, we will explore the farthest reaches of the galaxy of issues of Jewish identity, survival, and development. Texts: *Wandering Stars* and *More Wandering Stars* (both edited by Jack Dann); *People of the Book: A Decade of Jewish Science Fiction & Fantasy* (edited by Swirsky and Wallace); and other sources. This class meets Thursday nights at 7 p.m.

**Ohev Tzedek – November, 2016**

The High Holidays food drive at Ohev Tzedek will continue through Saturday, Nov. 5. Please bring your non-perishable food and toiletry items to the temple and place them in the yellow barrels in the lobby.

Please help the hungry in the community. Second Harvest welcomes all donations, but the following are most needed: peanut butter, cereal, tuna fish, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and dry pasta.

There will be a special Kiddush luncheon on Saturday, Nov. 12, sponsored by Barbara Goldberg in memory of her father, Herman Lefsky.

Rabbi Oresky and Father Balasko will continue to lead their monthly Torah Studies for Christians program Wednesday, Nov. 16 at Villa Maria from 1-2:30 p.m. This month’s topic is to be determined.

Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah will be participating in the NJOP Read Hebrew America program on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m, with the intention of furthering the appreciation and knowledge of Hebrew, the most important Jewish language. We can accommodate beginning to intermediate students and will have additional teachers on hand to help. Please let Ohev Tzedek know your needs so the temple can better tailor the class to you. The class is free, but a response is required by Friday, Nov. 18.

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Sandy Kessler, and Kim Zeidenstein, are joined by Abby and Jake Hagler for another trip around the synagogue on Simchat Torah.

**Sounds Of Music**

Join Us to Learn the Joys of Music on the Violin and Piano

Lessons for students of all ages & skill levels

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Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine

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Dima-Isakov@mail.ua

Sounds of Music

306 Churchill-Hubbard Rd.

Youngstown, OH 44505
Kathie Levy Weinberg

LIBERTY – Kathie Levy Weinberg, 64, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Sept. 24, at ValleyCare Northside Medical Center, with her family by her side.

Kathie was born in Youngstown, on April 16, 1952, the daughter of Henry and Gertrude Levy. She graduated from Liberty High School and Youngstown University. She worked in the family business, Bi-Rite Home Improvement, for 30 years, learning every aspect of company operations, ultimately taking over as president after her father passed away in 2004.

Kathie was a devoted wife to her husband, Don, whom she married on July 26, 1992. She was a faithful sister to her brother, Brad. She was also an extremely dedicated daughter and caregiver to her mother, Gertrude for the last decade of her life, before she passed away in 2013.

Kathie had a loving heart and a giving spirit which endeared her to the many people she cared about and who loved her in return. She devoted herself to many worthwhile causes in the community, including the Trumbull County Animal Welfare League, and she was actively involved in the annual Cattle Baron’s Ball benefiting the American Cancer Society.

She is survived by her husband of 24 years, Dr. Adon Weinberg of Liberty; her brother, Brad (Judy) Levy of Liberty; and her beloved Shih Tzu, Honey, whom she rescued.

She was preceded in death by her loving mother, Gertrude and her father, Henry, of blessed memory.

Services were held on Sept. 26 at the Shriver-Allison Funeral Home, in Youngstown.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Kathie’s memory be sent to Congregation Rodef Sholom, 1119 Elm St., Youngstown, OH 44505.

Kathleen Susan Farbman

YOUNGSTOWN - Private family services were held Oct. 6 for Kathleen Susan Farbman, 56, who passed away Tuesday evening at Briarfield Manor, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Mrs. Farbman was born Jan. 10, 1960, in Youngstown, and was a daughter of George and Kathryn Madden Ernst, and was a lifelong member of the community.

Mrs. Farbman was employed by the Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation as a production secretary for over 16 years. She was a graduate of Austintown Fitch High School, served as a secretary for NAAMAT USA, loved being outdoors enjoying nature and loved her family.

Her amazing creative talents led to the development and the production of a monthly show called “Library Nights,” where she was the set designer, director, producer and entertainer. The live show was composed of comedy, skits and singing. “Library Nights” was entertainment for adults with various disabilities and their family and friends. The show was viewed by an estimated 30,000 people over a 13-year period through 146 shows. Mrs. Farbman put her heart and soul into each and every performance. It was that dedication which allowed “Library Nights” to be successful without any accolades for herself.

Mrs. Farbman was also an active parent volunteer in the Austintown Local School District PTSA, Austintown Choir Parents, and assisted with the Austintown Fitch High School Drama Club. Some of her most notable efforts included preparing room parties, tutoring in Ohio Reads at Woodside Elementary School, and helping to prepare materials and advertise for Austintown plays and concerts.

Mrs. Farbman leaves to cherish her memory, her husband, Harvey Farbman, whom she married Dec. 20, 1992, and a son, Paul Farbman.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Please visit www.mccauleyfuneral.com to send thoughts and condolences.

Moshe Kapon

HUBBARD – Moshe Kapon, 73, born in Tel-Aviv, Israel, son to Eliaou and Aliza Kapon, passed away on Oct. 24, at his home in Hubbard.

A retired, self-made business man and former paratrooper in the Israeli Defense Forces, Moshe lived most of his life in New York City, then Coral Springs, Fla., until finally settling down in Ohio.

He leaves behind his caring daughter, Dr. Michelle Kapon; his grandson, Eli Kapon Cooper; step-daughter Suzanne Honig; and his ex-wife and companion, Sophia Kapon.

Calling hours will be held today, Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m. at the Shriver-Allison Funeral Home in Youngstown.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a Jewish charity of your choice.

Arrangements by the Shriver-Alison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home in Youngstown.
Of course, you can serve matzo ball soup with your Thanksgiving dinner, but why not try something a little different this year.

That leftover challah in the freezer, cut it in half-inch cubes for your stuffing. Raisin challah would be even better.

An online recipe for roasted turkey with spices commonly found in Israeli cooking, za’atar and sumac. [see http://www.cookistry.com/2011/11/27/israeli-couscous/]


The following recipes are reprinted with permission.

Enjoy!

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**Gingered Sweet Potato Latkes**

*By “My Jewish Learning” Staff*

If you’re tired of mashed canned yams topped with brown sugar and marshmallows, sweet potato latkes are a delicious alternative.

About 8 servings (depending on how laden your table is)

**Ingredients**

- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- ¼ cup tahini
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1/4 tsp salt (or more to taste)
- A few Tbsp. of water or drained chickpea water
- Additional olive oil for serving (optional)
- Pepitas or sesame seeds for serving (optional)

**Directions**

- Peel and grate sweet potatoes and remove any excess moisture (can put in dish towel or cheesecloth and squeeze out moisture).
- Beat eggs and add one at a time, mixing well.
- Add matzoh meal or flour and baking powder.
- Add spices and mix well.
- Heat oil until hot and put large spoonful for each pancake. Cook until brown and flip.

To avoid the extra calories from frying, spray a cookie sheet with vegetable oil spray or Pam and put any of these in a hot (450 degree) oven for about 5-8 minutes on each side.

Note: For fluffier pancakes, separate eggs. Separate and add yolks where “add eggs.” Beat egg whites until stiff. Fold in egg whites after all other ingredients have been mixed in.

Reprinted with permission from Jewish Family & Life!

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**Pumpkin Hummus**

*By Shannon Sarna*

While waiting for everyone to arrive for dinner, serve this delicious — and pareve — dip with with sesame seed crackers.

**Ingredients**

- 1 15 oz can chickpeas, drained (reserving liquid)
- 1 cup pumpkin puree (canned or fresh is fine. Just don’t use pumpkin pie filling)
- 1/4 cup tahini
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp salt (or more to taste)
- A few Tbsp. of water or drained chickpea water
- Additional olive oil for serving (optional)
- Pepitas or sesame seeds for serving (optional)

**Directions**

- Combine chickpeas, pumpkin, tahini, olive oil, lemon juice and spices in a food processor fitted with blade attachment.
- Pulse for 30 seconds.
- Add additional olive oil, chickpea water or water until desired consistency.
- Drizzle with additional olive oil and top with pepitas or sesame seeds if desired.
- Can be stored in fridge in airtight container for 1-2 weeks.

Reprinted from http://www.myjewishlearning.com/recipes/ through JTA.

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**Pumpkin Pie Blintzes**

*By Amy Kritzer*

A different dairy dessert, serves 8.

Prep time: 20 mins.
Cook time: 15 mins.

**Ingredients**

**For Batter:**

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs, whisked
- 1 cup milk
- 1 T butter, melted and cooled
- Unsalted butter for cooking
- Whipped cream, powdered sugar and cinnamon for garnish

**For Pumpkin Pie Filling:**

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ½ cup pureed pumpkin
- 2 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg

**Instructions**

- First, make your blintz batter. Whisk together the flour, sugar, cinnamon, and salt.
- Then add the eggs, milk and butter and whisk until no lumps remain.
- Let your batter rest in the refrigerator at least 1 hour to let the gluten relax.
- While your batter is resting, make the filling by whisking together cream cheese with sugar until smooth.
- Stir in pumpkin, cinnamon and nutmeg.
- To assemble, lay four large pieces of parchment paper close to the stove.
- To make blintzes, butter a 9-inch nonstick pan with a thin coat of butter over medium high heat.
- Then pour ¼ cup of batter into the pan to coat the bottom.
- Swirl the pan to coat evenly. After about a minute you will see the ends begin to curl up — your blintz is done.
- Do not flip. Slide blintzes onto parchment paper to allow them to cool. Don’t layer blintzes together or they will stick!
- Spread a spoonful of the pumpkin mixture towards the bottom of each blintz. Fold the bottom of the blintz up to cover the filling and then fold the sides in. Then roll like a little Jewish burrito!
- Add 1 T butter back to the medium nonstick pan over medium high heat and cook on each side until golden brown — about 1-2 minutes per side. Garnish with whipped cream, powdered sugar, and cinnamon.

Recipe reprinted by permission from What Jew Wanna Eat at http://whatjewwannaeat.com/pumpkin-pie-blintzes/

Editor’s note: The preparation and cooking times seem a little low to me, but may be fine for the experienced cook.