Children enliven the Jewish Community.

Above left, the children of Rodef Sholom celebrate Simchat Torah with Rabbi Franklin Muller.

Below left, the children of El Emeth help honor Noah Westreich on his consecration, with Rabbi Joseph Schonberger.

Read more about synagogue activities on pages 4-5 and 6.

Above right: November is national Jewish Book Month, the perfect time to find Jewish-themed books for Hanukkah gifts for children, teens and adults. Read about local Jewish book clubs on page 16-17.
Get more women speakers at big Jewish events

By Esther D. Kustanowitz

LOS ANGELES (JTA) In November, the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America is coming to Los Angeles for the first time since it became my home city in 2008.

Over the course of my Jewish professional life, I have eagerly attended at least six General Assemblies, one of organized Jewry's largest gatherings: I spoke at a plenary, in front of thousands in Nashville, TN. I helped JFNA organize an innovators' "schmooze" reception at GAs in New Orleans, Denver and Baltimore, and spoke on topics like young Jewish engagement and social media. Each GA represented a massive convening of energy, and the opportunity for Jewish geography, networking and reinvigoration.

And on Monday, I visited JFNA's website (generalassembly.org) and saw the list of six "confirmed speakers" on the draft program.

All were men.

I understood that this was a problem of optics, not intentional omission. Logically, I knew the GA program has dozens of panels, workshops and plenaries, and multiple speaker slots. With the number of women in Jewish life, obviously women would be speaking over the course of the conference.

Why no women?

But the elevation of six men as the confirmed speakers seemed to convey that women either had not confirmed as speakers or were not impressive enough for top billing. And those are optics we should all be sensitive to.

I posted a screenshot on Facebook and the conversation began, with participation from engaged Jews of all ages and professional affiliations, including JFNA professionals. While many started with frustration, the conversation evolved into something precious and productive.

Commenters asked how we could work together to change the optics, if not for this conference, then for the future of Jewish conferences. Some suggested pressuring speakers to make their acceptance contingent on female counterparts. Others recommended resources — tagging women they knew and considered to be speaker-worthy, or providing links to Advancing Women Professionals in the Jewish Community's Men as Allies, or a Twitter list called #AwesomeJewesses that Jewish communal professional Jeremy Burton started several years ago to help combat what is still, unfortunately, a problem.

On Tuesday, I spoke with Rebecca Dinar, associate VP of strategic marketing and communications at JFNA, who told me that JFNA was behind in updating the website because the organization has been "laser-focused" on providing support to communities — including Houston, Puerto Rico and others — suffering the impact of natural disasters. Perhaps thanks to the Facebook conversation we started, the full program and all of the confirmed speakers — more than half of whom are women — are now available online.

Priorities

"We're glad that we were able to put all the information up there because without a doubt it is a priority for us to make sure that the GA represents the diversity of the community at large," she said, noting that Advancing Women Professionals' Shifra Bronznick has worked with JFNA for nearly a decade to provide information to federations and advocate for gender equality in the workplace. "We spend a lot of time to make sure there's balance, and the speakers list and attendees demonstrate that."

Ms. Dinar mentioned as example one panel that will feature three female legislators who put forward and passed anti-BDS legislation in their states.

Many of us want to move the cause of gender equality and equal representation forward. So here's what we — as individuals representing organizations large and small — can do.

Make sure that our fliers, brochures, ads and programs for conferences and events reflect gender (and other kinds of) diversity. This builds visibility, helps reshape expectations in the community, keeps us mindful of the optics and prevents speculation in the absence of information.

Commit to placing women as heads of federations, other Jewish organizations and major initiatives. When all the top-level executives are men, they continue to be the most in-demand speakers, commanding the prime space on the programs and highest speakers' fees.

Can't find any women speakers (or speakers of color or speakers from the LGBTQ community)? Seek out people who can help. Advancing Women Professionals, ROI Community and the Schusterman Foundation can help. Burton's #AwesomeJewesses list is a resource. Check out TED Talks, or their Jewish cousins JDOV Talks and Eli Talks. Hire men who are active allies for equal representation and ask them who to call. Or ask an awesome Jewish woman to recommend her favorites.

Give the community a voice

Crowdsource speakers from the local, national and international community. Allow them to pitch and program panels like they do at the tech/music/film conference South by Southwest, or engage organizations that serve special populations to co-create sessions that ensure a broader spectrum of content.

Don't get starstruck. Sure, you want a big name for your program. And maybe he is more heavily credentialed or more famous than the women who speak on the same subject. But be the organization or event that helps increase visibility for women on the rise — help us all "see tomorrow's stars first."

This year I will be attending the GA as a representative of the media. And I'll be listening for diverse voices across the spectrum of politics, race, gender and culture, and looking out for those who are flying under the radar, as if they were Jewish communal Wonder Women in invisible planes.

The Jewish community has talent that is diverse, erudite, irreverent, passionate and deserving of a spotlight far brighter than what our community has thus far provided.

Editor's note: Esther D. Kustanowitz is based in Los Angeles, where she is an editor at GrokNation.com and a contributing writer at the Los Angeles Jewish Journal.
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About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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JJMM Mission Statement

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The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —

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Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;

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Present current local, national and world news of Jewish interest;

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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;

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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;

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Provide a communication tool to enable all members of the Jewish community to express their viewpoints on issues of Jewish importance and interest;

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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.

November 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the December 2017 issue.
What does being religious mean?

By Mary Lou Finesilver

As you all know, I am Jewish. I was born Jewish and raised Jewish. I went to Hebrew school for a while as a kid, but I didn't like it, so I stamped my foot and got out of it. My sister, Raysa, actually went for Hebrew school — almost through high school. She liked it.

Funny how things work out. However once she left, home she was not happy with formal services for the Sabbath or holidays. The only time she tolerated them was when my parents were alive.

I on the other hand, liked the services. As long as I was able, our kids came for all the holidays, even when school was in session. In those days, we had a nice number of youngsters that also came to Temple. It was a different world. I worked full time for 15 years at Tamco, the distributor for Phar Mor. During that time, I was not able to take off for all the holidays and what saddened me was not being able to go to Yizkor.

All that changed once I started to work for the Jewish Community Center and was able to go to Shul. Now, I guess I go fairly frequently. As a matter of fact, I go to Hebrew school — almost through high school.

That gave me food for thought. I'm not a religious person; I am not “frum” or particularly observant as you would think of a religious person. I no longer keep a kosher home. I was raised in one and I kept one for many years, but that was only in the home. Dining out was an entirely different story.

I do attend services with some regularity, not as often as some, and more often than others. I'm not sure I can explain what being Jewish means to me. I think I just am. It's my state of mind, I guess you could say, I take it for granted and wouldn't know how to be or think as anything else.

I do try to be open about my feelings, and I try to live by the ethics of our religion, as others of other religions do. I believe in one G-d and worship no other. I try to “do unto others as I would have them do unto me.” I also believe very strongly that mine is not the only religion, and I absolutely believe that others should worship freely within the parameters of their religion.

Well, I didn't exactly start out to preach. Not even sure what made me come up with this column, but it is here and so am I. I really look at our converts with awe because it is not easy converting to another religion and beliefs. They have to feel very strongly to make this transition and do it with such dedication. I salute them all.

Well, since this is still October, and tonight is the Simchat Torah celebration, I am off to an early dinner so that I can go and march around the Sanctuary. I'll have to wait for the baby Torahs since carrying the big ones is no longer an option. I miss those days, but I guess at 83, something has to give.

Until we talk again, Shalom, peace and out!

Fabulous Fiesta set at El Emeth

Co-chairs Alice Franklin and Art Friedman are overseeing plans for Temple El Emeth’s annual Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle which will take place from 7-10 pm on Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Synagogue. Tickets are $150 for two to attend the evening and be entered in the Raffle. A total of $6,000 in cash prizes will be raffled off including the grand prize of $3500. Entertainment will be provided by Jim Loboy, and guests will be treated to an open bar, with a hors d’oeuvres and dessert buffet. Tickets may be purchased in the Temple office and have been mailed to members. Call the Synagogue at 330-759-1429 for further information.

Bagels with the Rabbi

Bagels with the Rabbi will have its first session of the year on Sunday, November 12. Minyan is at 10 a.m. followed by the program at 10:30 a.m. with Rabbi giving a Jewish War Veterans presentation. Reservations may be called into the office by Nov. 10 at 330-759-1429.

Minyan and a Meal

Our own Sophie Alper will share her experience in Israel this past summer at a Minyan and a Meal, on Monday evening, Nov. 13 at the Synagogue. Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with dinner following at 6 p.m. Sophie’s presentation will follow dinner. Reservation forms have been mailed to member’s homes or can be found in the Temple bulletin.

Shmoozing with Shmulik

Shmoozing with Shmulik will meet with Sam Kooperman on Monday morning, Nov. 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. The group speaks a little Yiddish, enjoys jokes, stories and music! Refreshments are served and all are welcome to attend.

Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle.

Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, Dec. 2 for our annual Fiesta Cocktail Party and Raffle. Tickets are $150 for two to attend the evening and be entered in the Raffle. A total of $6000 in cash prizes will be raffled off including the grand prize of $3500. Jim Loboy will provide entertainment, and guests will be treated to an open bar, hors d’oeuvres and dessert buffet. Tickets may be purchased in the Temple office and have been mailed to members.

Services

Daily Minyans are 5:45 p.m. including Saturday afternoon, and 7 a.m. on Friday mornings. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.
The next Sisterhood meeting and luncheon will be Nov. 14, at 12 noon with the open board meeting at 10:45. Our favorite chef, David Scialabba of Kravitz, is going to demonstrate and prepare our lunch while demonstrating how everything is made. Reservations are due by Nov. 9, cost is $12. Honorable Mensch of the month is Lori Mirkin.

Speaking of Honorable Mensch, we want to remind all of you about our Honorable Mensch program for Sisterhood. Any one, man or woman who would like to sponsor a luncheon may do so in honor or memory of someone or something for $54. This will help to underwrite our lunches and keep the cost down. Feel free to write a check to El Emeth Sisterhood at any time to reserve a month. Check may be sent care of Program V.Ps Phyllis Perlman or Ellen Weiss.

Heritage Manor is looking for volunteers for the birthday celebrations. Our dates are Jan. 11, 2018 and May 10, 2018. Things have changed a bit; they are looking for women to mingle with the residents instead of dishing out the birthday cake. We would like at least three or four volunteers for each session. It is our turn to help them enjoy the occasion.

Sisterhood dues are now due. It comes around once a year and we are fortunate; it is only $30 a year. No raises, thank you. Talk to Financial Secretary Lori Mirkin to make sure you are up to date.

Paula Fergusson and Debbi Grinstein are working with our program Vice Presidents Phyllis Perlman and Ellen Weiss on an “Alternative meeting” program. The idea is to be able to have meetings with women who work and would like to be involved. This does not mean that we will give up the day time meetings, but have a second meeting in the evening. A very interesting concept.

The idea is to open up our doors to any women who have an interest in becoming involved.

Jewish women are working with Church Women to organize the Interfaith Tea to be held Feb. 6, 2018 at a location to be announced. Please put it on your calendar, so that we can have a nice showing. I’m sure we can car pool for anyone interested. We will keep you updated.

Don’t forget your donation to Torah Fund to bring to Holly Small. This is a very important fund for Women’s League, and it is our privilege to be able to help lend our support monetarily.
Praise for author Dennis Prager

By Rabbi Frank Muller, D.D.
Congregation Rodef Sholom

A congregant recently attended a fundraiser for the organization, Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, at the Landerhaven event center in Cleveland.

The main speaker was Dennis Prager, who is an American conservative and nationally syndicated radio talk show host, columnist, public speaker and author of many books including the classic he co-wrote with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism.

I have been a huge fan of Dennis Prager ever since I became a rabbi 35 years ago. He used to publish a bi-weekly newsletter called “Ultimate Issues” which I have saved all these years and still refer to from time to time.

Amazingly, they are as relevant and poignant today as when they were first written in the 1980’s. Dennis Prager is a deep thinker who cuts to the heart of the major religious, spiritual, moral and ethical dilemmas of our time. He is a brilliant theologian who is steeped in Jewish knowledge and tradition. He wrote one of my favorite teachings about God – “The believer in G-d has to account for only one thing: unjust suffering. The atheist however, has to account for everything else”.

Prager is the kind of writer and speaker who is so logical and persuasive in his argumentation that he can change an intelligent mind in a single lecture. He causes people to question their own long-held beliefs and opinions. One of his books is even entitled Think A Second Time. His other books include Why the Jews? The Reason for Anti-Semitism; Happiness is a Serious Problem; Still the Best Hope: Why the World Needs American Values to Triumph; The Ten Commandments: Still the Best Moral Code; and his newest, A Dark Time in America.

They have greatly influenced my own thinking about American politics as well as the Jewish religion. Fiercely independent, Prager’s opinions, intellect and integrity have influenced millions of lives through his books, writings, lectures and broadcasts. You can listen to him daily on the internet at prageru.com.

I would love to have Dennis Prager visit Youngstown, and have begun the process of possibly making that happen. What a thrill it would be to have him come to our Jewish Community. He is considered one of the top five speakers in America. Dennis Prager is also a Renaissance man. He is quite knowledgeable on a wide range of topics, including classical music. His lecture on “An Introduction to Classical Music” is one of my favorites. If you’d like to hear it, just let me know and I’ll lend you my copy.

Darlene and I wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving.

Ohev Tzedek – November 2017

Services

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

Shabbat
Saturday, Nov. 11, 9:45 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 18, 9:45 a.m.

Simcha Shabbat
Saturday, Nov. 25, 9:45 am

Dario Hunter leads a Torah study session after each service.

Join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat service and potluck!

We will meet in Boardman Park’s Elton Beard Family Cabin at 6 pm on Friday, November 17. All are welcome! Please bring your favorite vegetarian/dairy dish to share. RS.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office by Thursday, Nov. 16, and let us know what you will be bringing.

Adult Education – Fall 2017

Some classes may require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee. Unless otherwise noted, all classes will be held at Ohev Tzedek. All of the classes are open to the entire Jewish community.

Mussar — The study of Mussar is a Jewish ethical, educational practice that studies personal character traits (middot), such as humility, patience, anger, and jealousy, and their relationship to living a meaningful life. Its goal is to align individual actions and intentions with Jewish values. Mussar class is re-convening under the leadership of Rabbi Dario and will continue to meet on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. While this class has been ongoing for some time, our study is at a point where we will revisit each of the middot; there is still time to join the class if you have been wondering but worried about joining mid-class.

Birkhot Hashachar — Using Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman’s excellent volume in the My People’s Prayer Book series as a guide, we will explore these traditional morning prayers to discuss tefilla, Jewish prayer, as a whole, and how Jews have ever understood our ongoing, evolving relationship with G-d. This class will meet on Wednesdays at 2:30 pm. (There are only two more spaces available at this time. Registration fee of $25 includes book.)

Cooking with Karen Rubin
Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 9:30 a.m.
At the home of Karen Rubin – 5775 Lamplighter Drive, Girard, OH 44420
Short Sisterhood meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Cooking program begins at 10 a.m.

Reservations required by Thursday, Nov. 9. Please call the Temple office at 330-744-5001

Todah Rabbah
To those from Sisterhood who baked and set tables for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah:

Mushroom barley soup for sale
$10 a quart - Please call the Temple office at 330-744-5001 to pick-up. Thank you!!
At Kent State, students and community members learn about hunger

KENT, OH — Hillel at Kent State partnered with Kent State University’s Office of Experiential Education and Civic Engagement to bring Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger’s ‘This Is Hunger’ exhibit to campus. The program, which was featured over homecoming weekend, October 13-16, sheds a light on the hunger epidemic struggled with across America.

Over the course of the tour run by Mazon, participants watched a multimedia presentation detailing people faced with hunger in the United States. At the end of the tour, participants were given the opportunity to read more personal stories of hunger and sign a petition advocating for the preservation the S.N.A.P. initiative in state and federal legislature. The tour was both shocking and inspiring; encouraging participants to take action to help the people whose stories they have heard.

Alana Bandos, Hillel’s student life coordinator, said of the experience, “Working with the University to host, ‘This is Hunger’ at Kent State was an incredible opportunity to showcase real issues not often discussed on a college campus. We tend to think about hunger as related to homeless shelters or children in underprivileged areas; however, the tour highlighted Americans from every walk of life struggling to feed themselves and their families.”

“Welcoming and caring for the stranger is a core value in Judaism and something we continually strive to champion at Hillel at Kent State,” said Adam Hirsh, executive director of Hillel at Kent State, “Our students raise money and awareness to combat hunger locally and nationally through the Challah 4 Hunger program which donates half of its proceeds to Mazon. We are proud to have had the opportunity to showcase these issues to the Kent State community through a Jewish lens.”

Hillel staff and student leaders volunteered to help staff the truck while on campus. (Left to right) Yotam Elias, Jewish Agency Israel Fellow; Rivka Joseph, student; and Adam Hirsh, executive director.
Volunteers are needed for the Jewish Community Center’s Annual Gift Wrap Fundraiser at the Southern Park Mall!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**There are four shifts available each day:**
- 9:00 a.m. - noon  
- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
- Noon - 3:00 p.m.  
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**New volunteers must attend one of the following gift wrap training sessions:**
- Dec. 3: 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. or 12:00- 1:00 p.m.  
- Dec. 4: 4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
- Dec. 7: 4:00-5:00 p.m. or 5:00-6:00 p.m.

**To reserve your volunteer spot visit jccyoungstown.org/volunteer or contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284.**

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**General Colin Powell honored by World Jewish Congress**

NEW YORK – World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder will honor former Secretary of State General Colin Powell on November 8 with the WJC’s annual Theodor Herzl Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals who work to promote Herzl’s ideals for a safer, more tolerant world for the Jewish people.

Legendary film director George Stevens will be honored with the Teddy Kollek Award for the Advancement of Jewish Culture. George Stevens, Jr., will accept the award on his father’s behalf.

General Colin Powell served in the US Army for 35 years, rising to the rank of Four-Star General, and went on to hold senior military and diplomatic positions in four presidential administrations: From 1987–1989, Powell served as President Ronald Reagan’s National Security Advisor, and from 1989–1993 served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for both President George H.W. Bush and for President Bill Clinton – the first African American ever to hold this position. Under President George W. Bush, Powell was appointed the 65th Secretary of State.

“General Colin Powell has devoted his life to public service for more than 50 years, representing America and its values of democracy in crises around the world,” said World Jewish Congress President Ronald S. Lauder. “General Powell has used the power of diplomacy to build trust and form alliances, and worked tirelessly to promote peace in unstable regions. I have known General Powell for almost four decades and am humbled by his great dedication to this country, to the State of Israel, and to the Jewish people.”

Film director George Stevens is best known for what is often called his ‘American trilogy’ which earned him two Academy Awards – A Place in the Sun (1951) and Giant (1956). Stevens also received an Honorary Academy Award in 1991 for his contributions to the world of cinema. He died in 2010.

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Continued on next page
George Stevens, Jr., himself an Oscar winner, is a producer, director, and playwright and the recipient of 17 Emmys and 2 Peabody Awards.

Previous recipients of the Theodor Herzl Award include former US Vice President Joseph Biden, Israeli President Shimon Peres, Elie and Marion Wiesel, former secretaries of state Henry A. Kissinger and George P. Shultz, and, posthumously, Ronald Reagan and Axel Springer. The inaugural Teddy Kollek Award was presented in 2016 to actor Kirk Douglas.
A Hebrew charter school takes a not-so-Jewish trip to Israel

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA) — On her first trip to Israel next month, eighth-grader Melodee Poupponeau is excited to visit Tel Aviv and eat Israeli foods. She’s also looking forward to practicing Hebrew, her third language.

It’ll be a stark change from her home life in Brooklyn, where she speaks Haitian Creole and typically eats foods from the Caribbean nation where her parents were born.

Melodee, 12, isn’t Jewish, but she’s confident she’ll be able to carry on a conversation with Israelis when she visits the Jewish state. As a student at Hebrew Language Academy, a Hebrew-language charter school in Brooklyn, she’s been studying Hebrew and Israeli culture since kindergarten.

“I feel excited because it’s not uncomfortable for me because I speak Hebrew,” she said. “If I go to Israel not speaking Hebrew at all, that would be weird.”

Melodee is one of 33 eighth-graders from two Hebrew-language charter schools who are traveling to Israel on a class trip. The trip aims to give the students a firsthand look at the language and culture they’ve learned about in class. But because the schools are publicly funded, the program has to straddle a thin line: Throughout the 10-day trip, the aim is to immerse students in Israeli culture — but without being overtly Jewish or taking a political stance.

Unlike Jewish day schools, which are private, Hebrew charter schools receive taxpayer dollars and are free and open to students of all backgrounds. Because of that, they can’t give their students religious education — though they can teach a particular language, culture and history. The two schools taking the trip — Hebrew Language Academy and Hattikvah International Academy in East Brunswick, New Jersey — are both part of Hebrew Public, a national network of four Hebrew charter schools it directly manages and six affiliates.

During a reporter’s visit to the Brooklyn school earlier this week, first-graders were learning Israeli dance while third-graders took a Hebrew proficiency exam. Meanwhile, the eighth-graders — preparing for the trip — did a unit on sabich (pronounced sah-BEEKH), an Israeli egg and eggplant sandwich.

Mira Yusupov, a Hebrew teacher, explained that the curriculum eschews traditional grammar lessons in favor of learning everyday vernacular conversation.

“There’s no Alef-Bet,” she said, referring to teaching the Hebrew alphabet by rote. “If they’re going to a coffee place, we teach the skills rather than the language — how to order stuff.”

Ms. Yusupov, who will be accompanying the students on the trip, hopes the experience will bring Israeli culture to life. The 10-day excursion follows an itinerary with many of the same stops as Birthright, the free, 10-day trips to Israel for young Jewish adults.

The middle-school trip will start in Tel Aviv, with visits to a tech hub and outdoor markets. They’ll take a camel ride in a touristy Bedouin village, float in the Dead Sea, hike up to the ancient fortress of Masada, spend a few days in Jerusalem and then some time at a kibbutz up north.

But because the trip isn’t Jewish, it departs from the Birthright checklist. The kids won’t visit Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust museum — on a previous trip to Washington, they visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum — but will visit a mosque, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Via Dolorosa, the Western Wall, the Western Wall plaza and a Druze village. They will also stop by Hand-in-Hand, a Jewish-Arab school in Jerusalem, and Kids4Peace, a youth group for Israeli and Palestinian kids. They’ll visit the Western Wall on Friday night, but won’t pray there, and that night’s dinner won’t include communal blessings over wine and challah.

“We’re not going to try to edit out anything Jewish, per se, but I think that the kind of reflections and conversations we have are not going to be around Jewish identity,” said Jessica Lieberman, Hebrew Public’s director of Israel studies. “We’re not going to delve into ‘What does it mean to be an American Jew who comes to see these things?’”

Hebrew Language Academy was founded in 2009 with private funding from Michael Steinhardt — who also funds Birthright — and other Jewish philanthropists who founded the Hebrew Public network. It’s one of about a dozen Hebrew-language charter schools nationwide. Now, the school runs entirely on public funds, and chooses its students by lottery from its local school district. Hebrew Language Academy estimates that about 50 percent of its students are Jewish, along with a large proportion that are Arab, Druze and from other religious backgrounds.

(Continued on next page)
Charter school trip (continued from prior page)

population of students of Caribbean descent.

Because of that, it faces the challenge of not being “too Jewish” on a daily basis. The school avoids teaching Judaism by focusing entirely on language instruction and Israel education, like learning about food, music, geography and history. But at first glance, the school could be mistaken for a Jewish day school: Hebrew phrases adorn the walls and the classrooms are named after Israeli cities, with Israeli and American flags hanging from the walls.

“We built a dual-language school with an appreciation of Hebrew language and Israel,” said Peter Katcher, the head of school. “The genesis of the [Israel] trip was as a culmination of this many years of study. The most important part of this is to have the respect and understanding of the culture.”

As such, while specifically religious issues will be avoided on the trip, students will dip their toes into the Israeli-Arab conflict. The kids will visit the embattled Gaza border town of Sderot and the Lebanese border, where students will hear a talk from a local security expert. They will also hear a lecture from a legislator from the Labor party.

“The conflict is obviously an important part of Israel and learning about Israel,” Lieberman said. “It’s not the main part of the trip. I also want to see what the students know and what their questions are because we built into this trip lots of different encounters with lots of different people.”

And while Mr. Katcher said the group will stay out of the West Bank, they will visit eastern Jerusalem, which Israel has annexed but the international community views as occupied territory. The itinerary includes a stop at the City of David, a Jewish-run archaeological park open to tourists in the hotly contested eastern Jerusalem Arab neighborhood of Silwan.

Ms. Lieberman said the visit will focus on archaeology, and that the school didn’t consider the park’s location while planning the trip.

A trip to Israel is not inherently political or religious — just as a trip to France and the Notre Dame Cathedral isn’t inherently Catholic, said Shaul Kelner, a Jewish studies professor at Vanderbilt University, who focuses on diaspora Jewish travel to Israel.

“Language and culture are intimately connected,” he said. “The language instruction overall is never just about learning to speak in a different code. It’s about learning the culture connected to that code.”

As it happens, for at least some of the kids going on the trip, the complexities of politics and religion are at best an afterthought. Justin Matushansky, 14, went to Israel last year to celebrate his bar mitzvah with his family. He’s mostly excited to eat when he returns in November.

“They have really good burgers,” he said. “They had free samples of falafel. I want to try pita for falafel.”

Spertus launches graduate leadership program for employees of Midwest Jewish organizations

Spertus Institute’s MA in Jewish Professional Studies (MAJPS) is a career-boosting Jewish educational opportunity. First piloted in Chicago ten years ago, the program advances the professional skills and Jewish knowledge of those working for and with the Jewish community.

Over the past decade, the program has been tailored to serve Jewish communities in Canada, Israel, and several U.S. states. A Midwest Regional Cohort of the MAJPS program will begin this spring, specifically for employees of Jewish organizations in Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, as well as those who serve Jewish communities in Illinois outside the Chicago area.

For this cohort, a curriculum has been designed to address the needs of Midwestern Jewish communities ranging in size from 5,000 to 55,000.

Applications are now being accepted. Fellowships are available to cover up to 65% of costs for qualified students admitted by March 26, 2018.

The program is geared toward busy, working adults. Courses are taught by distinguished faculty with real-world expertise, through onsite seminars at the Spertus Institute campus in Chicago and online coursework. The emphasis is on material that is immediately applicable to students’ careers.

Students progress through the program with a cohort of fellow professionals, building a network of partners and colleagues. The program can be completed in just over two years. Students are each paired with a professional mentor as a core component of the program.

Those interested in the program—for themselves or members of their staff—should contact Spertus Institute Director of Enrollment Anita Silvert at asilvert@spertus.edu or 312.322.1707. More about the program can be found online at spertus.edu/MAJPS.

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership offers dynamic learning opportunities, rooted in Jewish wisdom and culture and open to all. Graduate programs and workshops train future leaders and engage individuals in exploration of Jewish life.

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership is a partner in serving our community, supported by the JUF/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Spertus Institute’s Center for Jewish Leadership is supported by a generous grant from the Crown Family.
ADULT PROGRAMMING

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

Senior Outreach (67+)
If you or someone you know is over 67 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact Senior Outreach Coordinator Darlene Muller: For more information contact her at 330 942-6270 or dmuller@jewishyoungstown.org

J CAFE: Exploring Art: Industrial Influences
Join our Art Gallery Curator, Katelynd Gibbons, for a review of some of the notable art of our region from the 18th and 19th centuries through the contemporary era. Engage in discussion about how different artists have been influenced by industrial connections, and explore the range of impacts the industrial past has had on cultural identity and art history. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 13
Time: 12 -1 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $8/Member | $10/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195

Liz Rubino Studios Presents JUST DANCE!
Students will learn choreography to pop music hits while working with various styles of dance such as hip-hop, break dance, and contemporary. Students will be filmed at the end of the three days to receive a digital download of their dance numbers to practice at home!

Date: Dec. 5, 6 & 7
Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
Cost: $22/Member | $30/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195

Hanukkah Party
Come celebrate the Festival of Lights at the JCC! We will learn about Hanukkah, spin the dreidel, light the menorah, and eat some latkes too! Plus you don’t want to miss a special concert by American Jewish rock musician, Rick Recht!

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 5
Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
Free event and everyone is welcome!
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

BBYO Open Recruitment
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To find out more contact any member you know or City Director, Emily Blau 330 746-3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

Local Chapters:
Dodi Li BBG #69 Girls, grades 8 – 12
Sigmund Nisensohn AZA (Siggy) #169 Boys, grades 8 – 12

Fall Youth Tennis Clinic
1st Session runs Nov. 12-Dec. 17
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JCC School of Dance
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School of Music
The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown School of Music. This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC!
Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more.
To register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar’s Office: 330 746-3250 Ext. 195.

PERFORMING ARTS

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

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

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

For more information on the Early Learning Center, contact Jennifer Bracken, Coordinator of Early Learning, 330 746-3250 Ext 125 or jbracken@jewishyoungstown.org

Hours: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Featuring newly renovated Infant, Toddler & Preschool classrooms and Prekindergarten readiness program

Our Programs

Ladybugs - Infants : 6 weeks - 12 months
Busy Bees - Children 12-20 months
Caterpillars - Children 20-26 months
Butterflies - Children 26-36 months
Fireflies - 3 year olds
Starfish - ages 3 & 4
Dolphins & Sea Turtles - Prekindergarten

Otters - School Age Care

Features:
• 6 weeks to prekindergarten
• Age-appropriate curriculum
• “Loving Literacy” book sharing program
• Preschool swim lessons
• Gymsters for toddler and preschool students
• The Valley’s best outdoor playground

FITNESS

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

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

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The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine  
November 2017
Men have returned from Vietnam, but more than 58,000 died there. A million were wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq. And now we've learned that American troops have been killed in Niger — a nation only five years old in 1965.

In the 1960s, Peter, Paul, and Mary were singing Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" But in 2017, we still must ask, "How many deaths will it take till we learn that too many people have died."

The Colts are now in Indianapolis. The Detroit Lions still play on Thanksgiving Day, but this year they'll be on the field with the Minnesota Vikings.

And in 2017, there will be two more Thanksgiving games — as if football fans needed any more excuses to avoid the holiday dinner's preparation and clean-up.

Most Thanksgiving dinners are still traditional, but many Americans will want to be sure that the turkey, and the assorted side dishes are prepared from organic products. Some even choose a totally vegetarian dinner.

Some of us will go over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house, but many more are expected to fill airports and clog highways — as getting home for the holidays remains a priority, even if whose home we go to this year is a subject of debate.

The sidewalk Santas will still be there. But peace on earth seems distant at best — and not just in other nations of the world.

Mass shootings terrorize our own people.

Religious zealots twist the fundamentals of their own faiths to justify murder.

American ideals of liberty, justice, the pursuit of happiness, fairness, equality, mutual respect, caring for our fellow human beings are being challenged as never before.

But yes, we are still here — whether by divine providence or luck — and we must dedicate ourselves as never before to fight for those ideals.

On another historic November day – Nov. 19. 1863 – Abraham Lincoln, our greatest presidents, gave the American people a challenge that must not be forgotten.

*It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

On this Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, 2017, let us rededicate ourselves to the great tasks remaining before us.

And remember our prayer for peace —

“May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease, When a great peace will embrace the whole world.

Then nation will not threaten nation, And humankind will not again know war.

Let love and justice flow like a mighty stream. Let peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea.

And let us say: Amen.”
The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown presents

**PJ Library Hanukkah Concert**

December 5, 2017

6:00PM

All families are welcome!

Tickets are FREE

For more information call Emily Blau at 330-746-3250 Ext.152

or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org

The JCC of Youngstown

505 Gypsy Lane

Youngstown, OH 44504

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JCC - CULTURAL ARTS (cont’d from p. 13)

**Date:** Friday, Dec. 8

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Location:** JCC Multi-Purpose Room

**JCC FUNDRAISER**

**Gift Wrap Volunteers Needed!**

Join us for the annual JCC Gift Wrap Fundraiser at the Southern Park Mall. Proceeds benefit the JCC Scholarship Program.

**Sunday, Dec. 17 - Sunday, Dec. 24**

Four volunteer shifts available daily:

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. • 12 - 3 p.m. • 3 - 6 p.m. • 6 - 9 p.m.

Reserve your spot online at jccyoungstown.org/volunteer

**JCC RENTALS**

The JCC is the perfect place to host your next party, meeting or corporate event. With several venues to choose from, the JCC can accommodate most function large or small throughout the year.

Our Multi-Purpose Room seats up to 250 people and has an adjoining commercial kitchen, state-of-the-art audio visual system, overhead motorized theater screen, and more.

For bookings and more information on rentals, contact Kelli McCormick, 330 746-3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org
Works of John Folchi on exhibit at Thomases Family Gallery

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery will present the art of John Folchi in an exhibit titled “Industrial Subtleties” from Nov. 30, 2017-Jan. 17, 2018. Based in New York, artist John Folchi explores the intricate details of our industrial surroundings through realistic oil paintings, shedding light on the overlooked colors, textures, and surprising beauty of objects deemed solely utilitarian.

Members of the community are invited to the opening reception on Thursday, Nov. 30 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery is located in the main hall of Jewish Community Center of Youngstown, on the first floor adjacent to the multi-purpose room. The gallery hosts six – seven exhibitions per year, highlighting the work of regional artists.

Each exhibition runs for approximately 6 weeks, with an artist reception at the beginning of each show. At least one exhibition per year focuses on a Jewish cultural connection.

Jewish book clubs offer much more than intellectual activity

Some might say that reading is a solitary pleasure. Curling up with a good book in front of a warm fire is a wonderful way to while away the hours.

But while the act of reading may be a solitary activity, discussing what you’ve read with others makes such literary endeavors even more enjoyable.

The local area has three book clubs whose principal focus is on books with Jewish themes and/or books by Jewish authors. Members meet in local restaurants, in people’s home or at the JCC.

Explains Miriam Davis, “I came to my first book club at Phyllis Barolsky’s house at least 25 years ago, maybe 30. What I like about book club is that we read books I never would have chosen for myself.” She adds, I like being in a Jewish book club because mostly we have similar perspectives and find the books and characters we experience interesting. We have read many Holocaust stories and because we are all impacted by it, we are drawn to the subject until we can’t take anymore for awhile.

Bett Clebone says, “We moved here in 1986 from Columbus, OH. Phyllis Barolsky invited me to join the book club back when we all took turns hosting dinner ‘book club’ each month. Why did I join? The women were smart, entertaining and choose thoughtful, reflective books that provoked varied discussions and still do.

For Dr. Mari Alschuler, another newcomer, “It’s wonderful to talk books, plots, and writing with intelligent, well-read, interesting women.” She said, “I’ve been so warmly received by the members of my Jewish women’s book club.”

Suzyn Schwebel Epstein says, “So many of my friends are members of this Book Club…” She adds, “Not only do I enjoy reading and discussing the books with my acquaintances; but also, the camaraderie over dinners we share is satisfying, educational, and entertaining.

“Besides the camaraderie, I am inspired to read and listen to all com-

(Continued on next page)
Book clubs (continued from prior page)

Clubs are supported by the Jewish Book Council — which sponsors National Jewish Book Month.

Each year, Jewish Book Council selects 16 titles, both fiction and non-fiction, from the breadth of Jewish literature.

The books—current, classic, and everything in between—are carefully selected for their quality, their potential for interesting conversation, and the variety that they represent. These titles will be presented in a guide with information on each book and discussion questions.

This book club model gives each participating book club the flexibility to craft their own reading experience, choosing how many of the suggested titles they wish to read and in what order. Book clubs will also have the option of connecting with selected authors through the JBC Live Chat program whenever possible.

Learn more at the organization’s website — https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/bookclub/national-jewish-book-club

JSO expanding at YSU

With a new adviser, Jewish Studies Professor Jacob Lebendz, the Jewish Student Organization looking for new members and new partners.

The Jewish Student Organization at YSU offers opportunities for students to build community and Jewish life on campus. Interested students should contact the group’s faculty advisor, Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, at jlabendz@ysu.edu or (330) 941-1603.

Organizations seeking to partner with the YSU-JSO are also invited to be in touch. Visit the group’s Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/758305217534654/.

Temple El Emeth

Fiesta Cocktail Party & Raffle

$6000 in Cash Prizes!!!

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$150 admits TWO to the Party and ONE entry for the raffle

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Israel’s judo warriors take the ‘gentle way’ in pursuit of athletic glory

By Andrew Tobin

TEL AVIV (JTA) – Israel’s national judo team put on a tutorial in sportsmanship last week in Abu Dhabi.

Despite being snubbed by opponents and officials alike, the athletes won five medals and treated the tournament and their opponents with respect. Moshe Ponte, the president of the Israel Judo Association, said the team was guided by the Japanese meaning of the word “judo” itself: the “gentle way,” or using the strength of one’s opponents against them.

But if you don’t think that sounds like the Israeli way, you’re not alone.

“The medals are a finger in Abu Dhabi’s eye,” Israel’s Culture and Sport Minister Miri Regev said Thursday, picking a decidedly un-judo-like metaphor after the first day of the three-day Abu Dhabi Grand Slam. Israel won, she said, even though their opponents tried to hide the Israelis “in the dark.”

Regev was referring to Abu Dhabi’s ban of Israeli symbols at the tournament. The Israeli flag did not appear during medal ceremonies, and the national anthem was not played for Israel’s gold medalist. Israel and the United Arab Emirates do not have relations.

The news of Israelis racking up medals at the tournament — and videos either of their opponents scurrying away during the handshakes or of one Israeli winner plaintively singing the words of Israeli national anthem despite the ban — set off torrents of Israeli pride and indignation.

And in Israel, it set off a debate: Should its athletes stay away from tournaments in regions where they are sure to be snubbed, or take part and try to shame (or even charm) their hosts into recognizing them?

Throughout the UAW tournament, the Israeli athletes quietly found ways to highlight their national identity. Tal Flicker, who won gold Thursday in the men’s under-66 kilogram category, sang the Israeli anthem “Hatikva” while the International Judo Federation’s anthem played in the hall. The federation’s flag, not Israel’s, hung above him.

After winning the bronze medal in the over 100-kilogram category, Israel’s Or Sasson, who also won bronze at the Rio Olympics, pointed to the bare patch on his uniform where the competitors from other countries had their national flag.

“As you can see, I don’t have the flag,” he said. “But my heart is always, always with the State of Israel. I hope I made you proud, and I will always continue to represent you with pride.”

At the end of at least two matches, athletes from Arab countries, one from Morocco and the other from the United Arab Emirates, refused the outstretched hands of the Israelis who defeated them. One of the Israelis, Tohar Butul, went on to win bronze in the men’s lightweight category.

Moshe Ponte, the president of the Israel Judo Association, said he and his team take pride in representing Israel. But first, he said, they are athletes, which is why he agreed to go to the tournament even knowing the limitations that would be put on his team. He said Regev, a fervent nationalist, had left the decision to him, but she chose not to accompany the team once Abu Dhabi’s conditions became clear.

“It was a hard decision,” he told JTA, saying he was guided by judo’s “gentle way” philosophy. “I did what was best for my athletes.”

Meanwhile, in Israel, some questioned Ponte’s decision to go to the tournament.

Itzik Shaso, a columnist for Israel’s popular Yediot Aharonot newspaper, on Sunday outlined the divide in public opinion between the “patriots,” who support boycotting the tournament, and the “pragmatists,” who are displeased with the conditions but welcome the chance to make a statement on the mat.

“According to [the patriots], the elevator music that played instead of the anthem for gold medal-winner Tal Flicker was indeed embarrassing, and the [federation] flag on the athletes’ backs indeed looked like some scribblings, but if they are letting us slam some goyim on the mat without the United Nations condemning it, wouldn’t it be a shame to waste the opportunity?” Shaso wrote.

Regev acknowledged both viewpoints when she greeted the team on its return Sunday night to Ben-Gurion Airport, where she waved the Israeli flag and sang “Hatikva” with the team.

She said once Ponte decided to go to the tournament, she demanded he bring back home medals.

“I fight everywhere for the flag and the anthem,” said Regev, who raised eyebrows at the Cannes film festival in May when she wore a dress emblazoned with an image of Jerusalem’s skyline. “Ponte decided to go [to the tournament], and I told him to win against all those who boycott us.”

Similarly, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said that her ministry had not been involved in negotiations over the tournament given Israel’s lack of diplomatic relations with Abu Dhabi. But she nonetheless touted the team’s participation as a sign of Israeli power.

“The judo delegation left without the involvement of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, since Israel has no diplomatic relations with Abu Dhabi,” she said in a statement Thursday. “The time has arrived that the Arab countries will understand who their friends are in the world and who are the enemies.”

Writing for Israel’s Walla! Sport website Saturday, reporter Yaniv Tuchman accused his fellow Israelis of enjoying being the victims a little too much.

“It is doubtful that all those who eagerly read about the exploits of our ath-

(Continued on next page)
Gabe Kapler, ex-major leaguer with a Jewish star tattoo, is named Phillies manager

(JTA) — Gabe Kapler, a major league outfielder for 12 seasons and a coach for Team Israel in the World Baseball Classic, was named manager of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Kapler, who played for seven teams, has been the head of player development for the Los Angeles Dodgers organization since 2014.

“I’m equal parts honored, humbled and excited by the opportunity with the Phillies, an elite franchise in a city rich in history, tradition, sports excellence and with amazingly passionate fans,” Kapler said in a statement Monday.

Kapler, 42, is Jewish and has a tattoo of a Jewish star on his left leg and another that reads “Never Again” — a reference to the Holocaust — on his right leg.

He coached the Israelis during the 2013 WBC’s qualifying period and was invited to travel through Israel with the national team earlier this year. Kapler had never been to Israel before and called the visit an “extraordinary life experience,” adding that his trip to the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum there left him “emotional for several days after.”

In 2006, Kapler was one of four Jewish players on the Boston Red Sox roster along with Kevin Youkilis, Craig Breslow and Adam Stern.

Kapler is known for his interest in sports science and sabermetrics, the empirical analysis of baseball made famous in the book and movie “Moneyball.” He will become the third-youngest manager in the league after Kevin Cash, 39, of the Tampa Bay Rays and Andy Green, 40, of the San Diego Padres.

He succeeds Pete Mackanin as manager for the Phillies, who finished last in the National League East this season with a 66-96 record and have not made the playoffs since 2011.

Judo medalist (continued from previous page)

letes could identify Tal Flicker on the street,” he wrote. “It’s just another opportunity to rise up. To be angry. Most importantly, to be a victim. ‘Look at how miserable we are, what we are forced to go through, what other country must face such challenges, bless this nation for how good it is.’”

While righteous outrage may be good politics, the judo team’s performance in Abu Dhabi seemed to produce results. On Saturday, the United Arab Emirates top judo official publicly apologized to Ponte for the refusal by his athlete to shake his Israeli competitor’s hand. Ponte said the same official privately promised to do what he could to make sure the team could display its flag and hear its national anthem next year.

Ponte said the team, overall, was treated very well by its hosts. By comparison, last time Israel competed in the Abu Dhabi Grand Slam, in 2015, Ponte said, no one even shook his hand. He attributed the change at least in part to what happened on the mat. The team won three more medals this year than last time, and the gold forced the anthem issue.

“I think winning makes a difference,” he said. “At this point, it’s worse for them to discriminate against us than not.”

Ponte said he hoped Abu Dhabi would change its rules as promised. But he said regardless, Israel would be at the competition gathering points to qualify for the 2020 Olympic Games. In Tokyo, he said, Israeli would be able to see their flag and hear their anthem.

“If one of my athletes would fail to qualify for the Olympics because we refused to come to Abu Dhabi, then you’d really see people angry,” he said, laughing. “Israelis will see the flag and hear the anthem in Tokyo, and that’s the most important thing.”

Astros’ Jewish hero

Crescent City Jewish News — The Houston Astros won the World Series for the first time in its 56-year-old franchise late on Wednesday night with a 5-1 Game 7 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers. One of the post-season players heralded for his outstanding play was third baseman Alex Bregman, the former LSU standout.

Mr. Bregman, 23, who was born in Albuquerque, N.M., is the great-grandson of Russian-Jewish immigrants. As a youth, he attended Reform temple Congregation Albert, the oldest Jewish institution in the state.

Bregman’s walk-in single in Game 7 ended the second-longest game in World Series history on Sunday night, when both teams were deadlocked 12-12 in the tenth inning. Houston went on to win 13-12 the next day, Monday, after five hours and 17 minutes.

Bregman scored a run and was credited with several excellent defensive plays in the seventh and deciding game played at Dodger Stadium.
Marc Chagall’s Belarus hometown opens first synagogue in 100 years

JTA) — The hometown in Belarus of the late artist Marc Chagall saw its first opening of a synagogue in over a century.

The Jewish community of Vitebsk, is located 155 miles northeast of the Belarusian capital of Minsk, last month celebrated the inauguration of the new synagogue at an event attended by city officials and faith community leaders from the Christian Orthodox and Catholic churches, the Belta news agency reported.

Vitebsk’s rabbi, Malkiel Gorgodze, affixed a mezuzah to the doorframe of the new synagogue, which was built with municipal support near the city’s Chagall museum. The new synagogue, Ohel David, is built of the red bricks for which Vitebsk — one of Belarus’ most beautiful cities — is known internationally.

Boasting a capacity of several hundred worshippers, the synagogue’s unusual design has one of its corners towering above the other three and a white streak accentuating the outline of its roof. Both facets making up the elevated corner have a single large and round window with a Star of David suspended in its frame.

“Vitebsk is a historically Jewish city,” Leonid Tomchin, the chairman of the Jewish community of Vitebsk, said at the event, which drew a crowd of several hundred people.

Tomchin noted that at the beginning of the 20th century, more than half of the city’s population was Jewish, with 64 synagogues in Vitebsk.

“Today there is only one, unfortunately, but even this synagogue can and will be a center of Jewish life,” he said.

The vast majority of Jews who lived in what is today Belarus were murdered in the Holocaust. Today the city has a few dozen Jews. The new synagogue replaced an apartment-sized place of worship that was too small to accommodate all worshippers during holidays, Tomchin added.

Chagall, a Cubist painter known for combining many Jewish symbols in colorful works described as naïve and featuring dreamlike scenes, worked in France before immigrating to the United States to escape the Nazis. He died in 1985 at 97.

Separately, the Jewish community of the city of Simferopol in Crimea celebrated the inauguration of its first chief rabbi after its annexation in 2014 by Russia. The new rabbi is Yehezkel Lazar, who is a son of Berel Lazar, a chief rabbi of Russia.

Lazar, a Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi, enjoys good ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian annexation of Crimea from Ukraine following the toppling in a revolution of its president, whose opponents said was a corrupt Russian stooge, is not recognized by the international community. Many Crimean Jews — there are about 10,000 living on the peninsula — welcomed becoming Russian citizens.

“Unfortunately, in Simferopol there is neither a Jewish kindergarten nor a school,” Yehezkel Lazar told Ria Novosti. “There will be in the future, and a large center, with a synagogue, a kosher restaurant, Jewish shops and educational institutions.”

As asked by Jewish News International if he worried about the political message sent by his appointment, Lazar said he “hadn’t thought of that. The future is in the hands of the Almighty. We hope that everyone understands that we have no political goals […]

If we wanted an easy life, we would have remained in America or Israel, where everything is good.
Discoveries show Jerusalem’s transformation after destruction

By Adam Abrams

(JNS) Israeli archaeologists last month unveiled the results of large-scale excavations that lend unprecedented insight into the transformation of Jerusalem around the time of its destruction during the Second Temple period more than 2,000 years ago.

The discoveries—including massive portions of the Western Wall unseen for 1,700 years and an ancient Roman theater—were made in excavations conducted during the past two years in Jerusalem’s Old City. The findings were disclosed at a press conference held by the Israel Antiquity Authority beneath Wilson’s Arch in the Western Wall Tunnels.

The newly revealed eight stone courses of the Western Wall had been hidden beneath 26 feet of earth and were perfectly preserved after being excavated. The Roman theater contains approximately 200 seats and, according to archaeologists, required a “great deal” of investment in its construction.

As the IAA team awaits the results, Lieberman said she believes the arch “has been standing in its place since the Second Temple period.” She bases her assessment on how Wilson’s Arch relates to the other architectural elements at the excavation site.

“One thing is clear, there are five openings that look like five little rooms,” said Lieberman. “The theater-like structure [that was uncovered in the dig] blocks the entrance to two of them.”

This, she said, “means the theater definitely has to post-date the pillar of the arch and the arch itself.”

Archaeologists also found plaster from Jewish ritual baths “on the other side of that same pillar…which means it has to be from some time between the 1st and 2nd century,” said Lieberman.

Lieberman believes the future holds discoveries that could date even earlier than “everything that has been exposed up until now,” speculating that artifacts from the First Temple period could be found.

“Time after time,” said Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, rabbi of the Western Wall, “the amazing archaeological findings allow our generation to actually touch the ancient history of our people and Jewish heritage, and its deep connection to Jerusalem.”

Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Tehillah Lieberman at the newly discovered ancient Roman theater in Jerusalem.

Mount compound of the Second Temple period that remains intact today.

The arch, which stands above the Western Wall’s foundations, is named after 19th-century explorer Charles William Wilson, who identified it in 1864. It is constructed from enormous stones, and is the only remaining arch from a series of similar arches that formed a large bridge leading up to the Temple Mount compound from the west.

“When we started the excavations, there were three opinions regarding the age of Wilson’s Arch,” Lieberman said.

“We wanted to see which opinion was correct,” she said. “One opinion held that the arch originated from the Second Temple period. If Wilson’s Arch really is from the Second Temple period, it means that it’s the only complete structure standing today in Jerusalem from that time.”

According to Lieberman, all other known structures dating back to the Second Temple period, including the Western Wall, have signs of destruction. On the other hand, Wilson’s Arch “is complete from its foundation all the way to the top of the arch and its connection to the Western Wall,” she said.

To verify that the arch dates to the Second Temple period, archaeologists sent samples from inside the arch and its connecting pillar for carbon dating tests.

“We’re still waiting for the official results,” said Lieberman. “The excavation isn’t finished yet, and I hope that as it goes on, we’ll be able to give a more accurate date.”

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Elsie Berger

Elsie Berger, age 97, died Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017. Born in Lynchburg, Ohio, she lived in Canton from the age of 3 and graduated from McKinley High School in 1937.

After earning a teaching certificate from Kent State University, she taught English and math in Canton City schools, was an executive secretary at the Pennsylvania Railroad during World War II, sold real estate, and for 18 years owned Herns Ladies’ and Children’s ready-to-wear store with her husband. The youngest daughter of Rebecca and Ben Adelman, she married Leo Berger in 1942.

Elsie enjoyed sewing, knitting, playing bridge and bingo, and creating crafts. She volunteered at Aultman Hospital (recognized as volunteer of the month) since 1955 and at Mercy Medical (recognized as volunteer of the month and the year) since 1958. She also volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, for the Brownies, the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, McDonald’s Downtown, and the Ohio State Teachers Association, March of Dimes, McDonald’s Society, the American Heart Association, March of Dimes, McDonald’s

She was recognized for volunteering with the Blanche Motts Award, the JCPenney Golden Rule Award, Red Cross’s Volunteer Couple (with her husband) Award, and Aultman’s Wall of Fame. She was a member of Shaaray Torah Synagogue, Hadassah, and the Ohio State Teachers Association. She moved to Youngstown, Ohio, in 2016.

Elsie was predeceased by her husband, Eli Berger, in 1977, and by her sisters Helen (Dr. Lee) Scholnik and Ida (Sam) Figler. She is survived by daughters Roberta (Dr. Stuart) Sears of Cleveland and Jeannie (Gerald) Peskin of Youngstown, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Arnold Funeral Home in Canton on Oct. 17.

Contributions in Elsie’s honor can be made to the charity of your choice.

Shirley (Rales) Berk

YOUNGSTOWN — Shirley (Rales) Berk passed away at Heritage Manor on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017, a few days after celebrating her 90th birthday with her family.

She was born Oct. 12, 1927, in Akron, to Leon and Mary (Kodish) Rales.

After meeting the love of her life, Eli Berk, they enjoyed 55 years of marriage.

Active in many local charities and important causes throughout her life, Shirley was known as the “Sunday School Kindergarten Teacher” at the former Temple Emanuel. She earned a teaching certificate from Akron University and retired from Mahoning County Social Services.

She was predeceased in death by her husband, Eli Berk; and is survived by her son, Dr. H. Ronald (Dr. Nancy) Berk of Pittsburgh; daughter Marcia Shall of Norfolk, Va.; four grandchildren, Adam (Kamilla) Shall, Lindsey Shall, Daniel Berk and Hunter Berk; and one great-grandchild, Leon Shall.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 27 in the Itts Memorial Chapel at the Anshe Emeth Cemetery on Granada Avenue.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Heritage Manor for their exceptional care.

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

Ariel Erlij

(JTA) — Five of the fatalities in the terrorist truck-ramming attack in New York City on Tuesday afternoon were Argentine tourists celebrating the 30th anniversary of their high school graduation, including one Jewish businessman.

At least eight people were killed and about a dozen injured when a truck rammed into a crowd on a bike path in downtown Manhattan in what Mayor Bill de Blasio called “an act of terror.”

According to Argentina’s Foreign Ministry, the victims are Diego Enrique Angelini, Ariel Erlij, Hernán Diego Mendoza, Alejandro Damián Pagnucco and Hernán Ferruchi.

Sr. Erlij, 48, is a Jewish steel mill owner from the city of Rosario in central Argentina. He had personally arranged the reunion and had paid for the trips of at least two other members of the group. He lived with his family at the Kentucky Country Club in Funes, in province of Santa Fe in northeast Argentina.

He was also a director of the Metropolitano Industrial Park in Pérez.

Last year Mr Erlij had excitedly announced a major investment in a second industrial plant in Ramallo, a district of the Argentinian capital, Buenos Aires.

Misaskim, an American Orthodox Jewish not-for-profit organization that provides services for the care of the dead, is working with the New York City Medical Examiner’s Office to ensure that Sr. Erlij’s body is handled according to Jewish custom, the Yeshiva World News reported.

“Argentina reaffirms its strongest condemnation of terrorist acts and violence in all its manifestations and reiterates the need to deepen the fight against this scourge,” the Argentine Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

President Mauricio Macri tweeted twice about the terrorist attack, first saying that he was “deeply moved by the tragic deaths this afternoon in N.Y.” and offering to assist the relatives of the Argentine victims. The second tweet said: “Again we make a call for peace, for an end to these horrors.”
Lung Association stresses importance of cancer screening

Lung cancer is the nation’s leading cause of cancer deaths, and every year 7,195 Ohio residents are diagnosed with the disease.

During November, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, the American Lung Association’s Lung Force initiative is highlighting the new availability of a lifesaving tool – lung cancer screening.

One reason why lung cancer is so deadly is because by the time you have symptoms, it may already have spread and become more difficult to treat.

Lung cancer screening with a low-dose CT scan is a powerful tool to diagnose lung cancer in individuals who are at high risk at an early stage, when it is much more likely to be curable.

An estimated 9 million Americans are considered at high risk for lung cancer, and if only half of those at high risk were screened, more than 15,000 could be saved. Despite this lifesaving opportunity, fewer than 5 percent of high-risk Americans have been screened for lung cancer.

“The toll lung cancer takes on our families, friends and neighbors in Ohio and across the nation is truly devastating,” said Emily Lee, Vice President – Mission Services, American Lung Association. “With the availability of lung cancer screening, we have the opportunity to find the disease earlier and save lives. However, to make this lifesaving opportunity a reality, we must do more to raise awareness of both lung cancer and screening.”

According to the American Lung Association’s LUNG FORCE initiative, the top four things everyone should know about lung cancer screening are as follows:

**Low-dose CT Scan**

A low-dose CT Scan is the only tool that reduces the lung cancer mortality rate for those at high risk. Low-dose CT scan is a special kind of X-ray that takes many pictures as you lie on a table that slides in and out of the machine. A computer then combines these pictures into a detailed picture of your body. It is painless and quick.

**Not for everyone**

Screening is not recommended for everyone. Screening is recommended for those considered at high risk for the disease. To learn more about your risk, take the lung cancer screening eligibility quiz at SavedByTheScan.org and speak to your doctor if you think you may be at risk.

**Screening awareness**

Awareness of lung cancer screening is critically low. Despite the lifesaving potential of screening, 84 percent of those who qualify are unfamiliar with the low-dose CT scan, according to the American Lung Association’s 4th annual Lung Health Barometer. To raise awareness about lung cancer screening, the American Lung Association’s Lung Force initiative has partnered with the Ad Council to launch the “Saved By The Scan” public awareness campaign – urging everyone to learn more about lung cancer screening.

**Covered by health plans**

Screening is covered by most healthcare plans. Lung cancer screening is now covered by Medicare and most healthcare plans for those considered at high risk. However, according to the Lung Health Barometer, only 15 percent of those who qualify for screening are aware that it is covered by Medicare and most healthcare plans at no cost.

The American Lung Association’s Lung Force unites women to stand together against lung cancer and for lung health.

Only a force of many can take on lung cancer, the #1 cancer killer of women in the United States.

**Consider these facts:**

- Every five minutes, a woman in the U.S. is told she has lung cancer.
- The number of women dying from lung cancer each year has nearly doubled over the past 30 years.
- Anyone can get lung cancer.

The Lung Force works to change people’s minds about what it means to have lung cancer—so that everyone understands their risks. We raise our voices for innovations in research that will lead to earlier detection and more personalized treatments—so that everyone has a fighting chance.

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Israel researchers discover Alzheimer’s trigger

Israeli researchers have discovered that a specific protein is severely reduced in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s.

Alzheimer’s is a neurodegenerative disease caused by brain cell death. Currently there is no cure, but according to researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), we now know what may trigger it.

Dr. Debbie Toiber, of the BGU Department of Life Sciences, and her team discovered that a specific protein — Sirtuin-6 (SIRT6) — is severely reduced in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients. SIRT6 is critical to the repair of DNA, the deterioration of which “is the beginning of the chain that ends in neurodegenerative diseases in seniors,” she explains.

Dr. Toiber and her team are examining DNA damage as the cause of aging and age-related diseases. DNA in each cell breaks down due to natural causes, such as metabolism and the usage of the DNA to produce proteins. She discovered that as a person ages, the amount of the SIRT6 protein in the brain declines. In fact, according to Dr. Toiber, “In Alzheimer’s patients, it is almost completely gone.”

The blood-brain barrier prevents us from simply being able to inject the protein into the brain to replenish its supply. Dr. Toiber is currently working on finding a way to increase the expression of the protein into the brain.

When the DNA is damaged, Dr. Toiber elaborates, it may lose important information. “If a cell feels it is too dangerous to continue with this damaged DNA, it may activate a self-destruct mechanism. If too many cells do this, the tissue with the dying cells will deteriorate, such as the brain.”

DNA damage is inevitable on some level by simply living, with the environment causing additional damage. “We repair it and continue going on. But the repairs are not perfect and some DNA remains unrepaird. As you get older, unrepaired DNA accumulates.”

Dr. Toiber acknowledges that healthy habits like good diet and exercise might make a difference in our DNA health. She points out that engaging in sports and even working past retirement can challenge the body in positive ways, preparing your cells to react more readily and thus be more likely able to repair themselves.

Even so, you can’t avoid the effects of aging entirely. “You have to remember that half of everyone over the age of 95 will get Alzheimer’s,” she says. “It is not something genetic or environmental. That may influence it a little bit, but when there is a 50-50 chance of getting Alzheimer’s, it demonstrates that it just happens over a lifetime.”

She concludes, “We should be focusing our research on how to maintain production of SIRT6 and improve the repair capacity of the DNA damage that leads to neurodegenerative diseases.”

This may be the key to preventative and personalized health care.

Together with supporters, AABGU is helping Ben-Gurion University of the Negev foster excellence in teaching, research and outreach to the communities of the Negev, sharing cutting-edge innovation from the desert for the world. Visit aabgu.org to learn more.

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Photo/Ben Gurion University

Dr. Debbie Toiber

Photo/ BGU

Photo/Ben-Gurion University

Photo/Ben Gurion University

Visit aabgu.org to learn more.

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South Philly’s hippest bakery has a Yiddish name

By Joyce Eisenberg and Ellen Scolnic

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — Opening a Jewish bakery with a Yiddish name in an Italian neighborhood sounds crazy, but it didn’t take long before Essen had a line of regular customers lining up for its fresh-baked challah on Fridays.

Tova du Plessis opened Essen, which means “to eat,” in South Philadelphia in April 2016 after stints as a pastry chef at some of this city’s top restaurants.

She set up shop on East Passyunk Avenue, a once-blue collar stretch that has undergone a food renaissance in recent years. These days, you can find Filipino, Nordic and French restaurants from top chefs alongside old-school red-sauce eateries like Marra’s, which has been in business since the 1930s. Intimate and cozy — there are just three small tables inside — Essen brings a Jewish, Eastern European accent to the avenue.

Jewish foods are having something of a renaissance across the United States, particularly in Philadelphia. Eateries from Zah the Baker in Miami to Shelsky’s of Brooklyn to Wexler’s Deli in Los Angeles are turning out fresh, modern takes on Jewish classics, with everything from pickles to gefilte fish receiving the “artisanal” treatment.

Here in the City of Brotherly Love, Michael Solomonov, the inventive chef behind Zahav, the Israeli restaurant often credited for popularizing Sephardic-style food in America, and Abe Fisher, a restaurant focusing on Ashkenazi food (among others), is something of a celebrity, having been awarded the foodie title of a renaissance across the United States, particularly in Philadelphia. Eateries from Zah the Baker in Miami to Shelsky’s of Brooklyn to Wexler’s Deli in Los Angeles are turning out fresh, modern takes on Jewish classics, with everything from pickles to gefilte fish receiving the “artisanal” treatment.

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Tova du Plessis opened Essen in South Philadelphia last year.

So du Plessis switched gears and enrolled at the Culinary Institute of America in Northern California’s Napa Valley to pursue a degree in baking and pastry arts. “It takes a different kind of person to be on the baking and pastry side,” she said. “It’s much more exact than the culinary arts.”

It was there that du Plessis first met Michael Solomonov.

“His food was phenomenal and I was intrigued by Zahav,” she said. “I was amazed that there was an Israeli restaurant in Philadelphia – not kosher and not marketed just to the Jewish community – that was doing so well.”

Solomonov invited du Plessis to intern at Zahav, where she worked as a line cook, and later hired her to open a kosher restaurant, Citron and Rose, in the Philadelphia suburbs (it has since closed).

“I was excited about the project,” she said. “We were reviving Old World cuisine but making it modern.”

“Michael inspires me,” she added.

“He’s embracing his heritage and not really feeling embarrassed by it. Kugel and chopped liver aren’t high end, but foods with that much memory attached to them are special – and you can put your modern stamp on it.”

Similarly, now in her own kitchen, du Plessis enjoys tinkering with recipes, especially those for bread.

“You can make little tweaks in the mixing, proofing, shaping and baking and come out with a very different product,” she said. “Every culture has its bread. There’s Indian naan and Middle Eastern pita. For Jews it’s challah.”

The challah of du Plessis’ childhood, however, was big, round and filled with raisins, which she didn’t like. She remembers being annoyed at having to pick each one out, so it’s no surprise that she has updated her mother’s recipe.

“I spent a lot of time working on it to get it where I wanted,” she said. “At Essen, I actually use honey in my challah, which gives it a way better flavor.”

Du Plessis also makes more savory varieties: one crusted with poppy, sesame and pumpkin seeds, and another topped with zaatar, a blend of Middle Eastern spices and salt.

Whether sweet or salty, du Plessis emphasizes that Jewish food connects Jews to their traditions.

“Food has an emotional component,” she said. “It plays a huge role in keeping people engaged and involved, and helps us retain our Jewish identity.”

Seeing as she owns a heimische bakery that turns out treats like danish and rugelach, it’s probably no surprise that du Plessis’ most beloved Jewish foods are the desserts of her childhood. Her mother only baked babka for special occasions — du Plessis makes it every day in her bakery. Her chocolate halvah babka has earned the highest praise; it’s a delicious example of how she has updated a classic.

Of course, with training anchoring her in French technique, du Plessis couldn’t have a bakery that did not sell croissants. Along with the traditional version, she makes one spiced with zaatar.

“I wanted the bakery to represent me – of course it has to have a Jewish slant – and to make products I really love,” she said. “I’m not a purist; I’m not trying to make old Jewish recipes. I see them more as inspiration, as a jumping-off point.”