(Top left) After 41 years of service to the Jewish Community, Gary Weiss is retiring soon. (See story on page 17.)

(Top right) The 2017 Inaugural event featured the humor of Joel Chasnoff, author of The Crybaby Brigade." Florence Harshman and Claudia Moss are having their copies of the book signed by Mr. Chasnoff. (See story on page 4.)

(Lower left) Once again, the Christian evangelical community celebrates the State of Israel and the Jewish people. (For more details, see page 22.)
Starting the New Year off right

By Rabbi Franklin Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

By the time you receive this edition of the Jewish Journal, we will have just completed the 10-day period of the High Holidays known as the “Asaret Y’mei Teshuvah,” or the Ten Days of Repentance. Having just ushered in the New Year 5778, we are asked by our tradition to consider how we can improve ourselves, morally and spiritually, in the year ahead.

Abigail Pogrebin, author and a former producer of “60 Minutes,” embarked on an entire year of research, observance, and writing about every ritual, fast, and festival in the Jewish calendar.

Although she grew up with some basic holiday rituals, Ms. Pogrebin realized how little she knew about the origins, purpose, and current relevance of the vast array of Jewish feasts, celebrations and commemorations. This immersive exploration, first chronicled in a popular series for the Forward, led to the publication of her latest book, My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew. It is a fascinating look into the modern-day meaning of our oldest holiday traditions.

What a concept! Have you ever imagined how your spiritual life could be heightened if you made a commitment to fully understand and observe every Jewish holiday in the calendar for one full year? It would undoubtedly be a transformative, rejuvenating (no pun intended) experience. Ms. Pogrebin does a masterful job of gleaning the deeper values and lessons which lie just beneath the surface of every Jewish holiday. Her book is a valuable treasure trove of morally edifying and spiritually uplifting wisdom which has the power to take your religious life to a higher level, what we call in Hebrew, “Laalot b’Kedushah” to “ascend in holiness.”

The unfortunate state of affairs is that for many of us, our understanding of the Jewish festivals has remained at a childhood level. Don’t you owe it to yourself to explore the depth of the precious heritage which we have inherited from our parents and grandparents?

If your answer is yes, then a great start is to read this wonderful book. Abigail Pogrebin spoke at Chautauqua over the summer about My Jewish Year, and one of our congregants who heard her called me up and told me she was amazing.

Dear friends, we’ve made a great beginning by observing Rosh Hashanah. Now let’s keep up the momentum and perhaps we’ll see you at Rodef Sholom for Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah — and beyond!

Throughout the year I will discuss via sermons, bulletin messages and articles in the Jewish Journal, the lessons outlined in this well-written, witty and humorous book.

Together let’s make 5778 Our Jewish Year! Shanah Tova and G’mar Chatimah Tovah, may each of us be inscribed for blessing and good in the Book of Life.

Let it Rain

By Rabbi Dario Hunter
Ohev Tzedek- Shaarei Torah

Rain is vital to a desert people as a parched landscape may mean a lack of sustenance. Arid conditions might also mean strife or warring with neighbors over limited resources. The effort to survive in a harsh climate compels preparation, sacrifices and indeed prayers for favorable weather.

In regards to the upcoming holiday of Sukkot, the Talmud tells us that traditionally 70 bulls were to be sacrificed to Hashem for the 70 nations of the world so that rain may fall all over the earth. This fits an equation we understand well from Torah, that loyalty to Hashem equals blessings. But it also fits what we logically understand as human beings to be true — that work (including sacred work) begets prosperity.

The upcoming holiday of Sukkot is deeply connected to agriculture; in fact the sukko (or booths) built for the holiday hearken back to the simple dwellings lived in by farmers during harvest season.

The sukko also represent the booths of the children of Israel lived in during our journey through the desert after Hashem delivered us from bondage in Egypt. It is a holiday that celebrates our uniqueness as a people by underlining our particular relationship with G-d. But it also underscores what we share with all humanity by drawing attention to how all human beings are in need of Hashem’s grace for sustenance.

While we are no longer compelled to make animal sacrifices, one of the sacrifices we bear a responsibility to make is to relinquish the barriers within ourselves to understanding circumstances and cultures different from our own. It is tough labor of a spiritual nature to put aside the “us vs. them” and accept the idea of, confident in our uniqueness but appreciative of the things all humans share. Nonetheless, we must offer to Hashem, the te-nacious charging “bulls” that are our capacity for prideful exclusion and indifference to the fate of others.

At present, there is a national dialogue developing about the place of those some might deem “others” in our society. Some may choose to place labels that equate to “foreigner” or “stranger” upon these fellow human beings but we cannot deny that, as the Torah repeatedly reminds us, we too were once strangers in Egypt.

All humanity at one point or another experiences alienation and disappointment. We can choose to make the entire world a desert or we can wish prosperity upon all and thereby uphold our common blessing.

In struggling to reshape our understanding of how we relate to other peoples and faiths, we plant the seeds for the end of strife, warfare and injustice. This is the true measure of our ‘harvest’ as a people – the distance we have moved the world farther towards peace, harmony and understanding.

May we live to reap that harvest and may we witness Hashem spreading his sukkah (shelter) of peace over all humanity.

Israeli balloon helped protect Pope Francis on South America visit

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Pope Francis’s security detail used an Israeli-made observation balloon to protect the pontiff during his visit to South America.

The balloon proved to be more reliable than the unmanned air vehicles typically used and cost only a fraction of the price to operate, Ynet reported Monday. Two of the three Masses led by the pope in Colombia two weeks ago were accompanied by the device, which is made by the Israeli company RT Aerostats Systems.

“We have recently added a few upgrades to the balloon that secured the pope,” an RT official told the Israeli news website. “In addition to advanced day and night cameras, the balloon can automatically identify suspicious movements, better zoom in on targets we want to follow, and maintain an overview of the entire area even while focusing on a specific target.”

The balloon, which is regularly used by the Israeli military and police, also helped secure the pope’s past trips to Africa and Israel. Police in Bogota and Medellin leased the device and transmitted its video footage directly to their headquarters.

It helped scan the large crowds, the rooftops in the area and other spots that cannot be seen from the ground.
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Nov. 3 (Shabbat) 5:57 p.m.
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See an error in the Journal? Please let us know at the above email address.

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.

Please note: Oct. 25 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Nov. 2017 issue, which should be in readers’ homes on Nov. 8.
Hirsh explains need to be involved

Michelle Hirsh, co-chair of the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America, called on the Youngstown Jewish Community, “to recognize our Jewish Values, to celebrate our heritage, and to be inclusive of those who tend to get overlooked, human beings with faces and names. She said, “listen not with your ears, but with your heart.”

At the Inaugural event, Michelle Hirsh told of her pride when her four-year-old son Matthew brought his piggy-bank money to their Federation’s annual Hanukkah event. When a reporter asked the little fellow why he was donating his money instead of buying a new toy, Matthew replied — with “the biggest most proud smile on his face,” as his mother describes it — “to make sad people happy.”

With story after story, Ms. Hirsh gave reason after reason for members of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation to give to the annual campaign and to increase their pledge if possible.

She told of visiting the Houston Jewish community and seeing first hand the Hurricane Harvey devastation — how the JCC, preschools, day-schools, even the largest conservative synagogue would need to be completely replaced. But, Ms. Hirsch said, “Because our national federation system is so strong, all of our Jewish communities outside Houston were there to act fast and immediately provide resources to help respond.” She added, “Construction crews, mold remediation, supplies, hot kosher meals, even child psychologists — [evidence] we are always there for each other.”

Inaugural event: a tradition and an important obligation

For the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, perhaps the most important occasion of the year is the Inaugural Event for the Combined Jewish Appeal. This year was no different. Two speakers brought their talents and stories to the audience of at the DeYor Center for the Performing Arts in Youngstown.

Comedian and author Joel Chasnoff was the keynote speaker, and Michelle Hirsch, co-chair of the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America provided personal insights to the role and importance of Federation work.

As he ended his service as campaign co-chairman, Jeff Simon thanked his fellow campaign co-chair Sam Shapiro for “not only being an asset to our community through all his board service … and refining [Mr. Simon’s] views on philanthropy and living generously.

He introduced Dr. Mark Perlman, the 2017 campaign chair elect and recognized the “wisdom, leadership, and guidance” of outgoing Federation President Atty. Alan Kretzer as he will be relinquishing the presidency to Richard Marlin. Dr. Perlman

Keynote speaker brings laughs to DeYor

Joel Chasnoff is a comedian — though his humorous presentation makes clear the important of Israel and the Federation.

In his visit to the Valley, Mr. Chasnoff was pleased he spent the entire day touring the campus and the community with Bruce and Suzyn Schwabel Epstein who were the co-chairs of the 2017 Inaugural Event. He said, “I learned that you have four synagogues — and you’re all members of all of them.”

To the audience’s laughter, he joked that Conservative women are now obligated to wear a talis — if they want to.” But noted that there were no Chabad women in the audience. “They’re home giving birth.”

Mr. Chasnoff explained that he has several half-Jewish cousins who were Bar Mitzvah, but they only got checks for $9.00.

Clearly, if you weren’t Jewish, the jokes would fly by you.

Currently Mr. Chasnoff lives in Israel with his wife and four children.

When he served with the IDF — the subject of his book The Crybaby Brigade, he learned that nobody ever apologizes. He asked the audience to “Imagine an army where everybody shouts at each other all the time. ‘And no one ever apologizes.”

Israel-Russia trade leaps by 25%

(JTA) — Trade between Russia and Israel has grown this year by 25 percent, officials from both countries revealed, amid complications with other Russian trading partners.

The first six months of 2017 saw increased trade between the nations of about $380 million over the corresponding period last year.

Zeev Elkin, the Israeli Cabinet minister responsible for environmental protection and issues connected with Jerusalem, announced the figures earlier this week at a conference in Moscow about Russian-Israel relations.

“‘There is still great potential for increase in trade and there is much work ahead of us,” Elkin said in reference to ongoing talks since 2013 on signing a free trade agreement with Russia.
Mitzvah Day 2017 provides an opportunity to learn about how we can make a positive difference to the world in which we live by giving our most valuable possession — our time!

Guest speaker, Rabbi Robert A. Nosanchuk, Senior Rabbi of Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple in Cleveland, will discuss implementing Judaism’s teachings of Tikkun Olam, — to repair the world — and will inspire participants to pursue social justice through social activism.

Opportunities to volunteer for 2017-2018 will also be available!

Following the speaker, participants will work together to fill packages to give to people in our community.

Ms. Palumbo will periodically pick them up and distribute them.

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Lions of Judah

The Gefilte Manifesto, New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods aims to bring Ashkenazi culinary traditions into the modern era — even with instructions for making healthful pickles and sauerkraut. The book will be reviewed in the November Journal.

At their annual dinner, held this year at the home of Judy and Sam Roth, the Lions of Judah were not only entertained by the presentation of Jeffrey Yoskowitz co-author (with Liz of the Gefilte Manifesto, but also enjoyed recipes from the book, prepared by Mr. Yoskowitz and Jeffrey Chrystal who catered the event.

The Lions of Judah are the most dynamic philanthropic Jewish women in the world. They are strong women of all ages, comprising an organization of (Continued on p. 14

Toiletries for those in need

Linda Palumbo is asking members of the Jewish Community to bring home from their travels the small plastic bottles of shampoos, conditioners, lotions, toothpaste, etc. from hotels to be donated to people throughout the Mahoning Valley who don’t have the means to buy these items.

It’s also possible to ask dentists and/or hygienists for samples of toothpaste and toothbrushes?

The items can be dropped off at any area Temples or the JCC in designated bins.

Ms. Palumbo will periodically pick them up and distribute them.
For more than 30 years, Akiva Academy has ensured an outstanding education for the community’s children. Originally, the K-12 school was envisioned as Jewish day school, but increasingly a need was seen for a values-enriched program that would be open to children of all faiths.

Renae Scharf, co-president of the Commission for Jewish Education which oversees Akiva as well as the Maimonides School of Jewish Studies, said, “Akiva is a place that remains dear to me even though my children have not been students there for a number of years.

Mrs. Scharf added, With its warm and welcoming environment, Akiva was a perfect place our young daughters to begin their educational careers. Akiva shaped much of their Jewish identities and provided a solid academic foundation that has served them well in high school.”

CJE Director Tirtza Kohan said, “When all the students were Jewish, we took it for granted that a ‘Jewish education’ is what we do. “ Still, she said, “Parents who bring their children here are committed to the Judaic and Hebrew curriculum regardless of their own faiths.”

Some members of the Jewish community have expressed concern about the changes in the student body within Akiva. Mrs. Scharf said, “I know people often voice opinions about the population shift that has occurred over the past few years at Akiva. Truly, Akiva is more ethnically and religiously diverse than ever, with Jewish children remaining in the minority.”

Mrs. Scharf sees this as Akiva’s greatest strength and opportunity. She said, “With visions of the nightmarish scenes from Charlottesville still in my head, I thank God that places like Akiva exist. Racially, religiously, and ethnically diverse places where children are taught not to hate, not to simply tolerate, but to respect and value differences in people, cultures and traditions.

“Any Jewish day school can successfully teach Hebrew and Judaica to Jewish children. It takes an exception-

Matan Norani, a new instructor at Akiva Academy from Israel teaches 7th and 8th grade Hebrew.

Dr. Labendz joins YSU faculty as director of Holocaust, Judaic studies

Jacob Ari Labendz has been named the new Clayman Assistant Professor of Judaic and Holocaust Studies and the director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University.

Dr. Labendz grew up in New Jersey and spent a gap year in Israel before attending Brandeis University, where he received his B.A. in linguistics and cognitive science, summa cum laude.

In speaking of his direction toward Jewish studies, he said, “In some ways it’s been natural. I was raised in a very religious home. I saw that Jewish studies was a way to take Jewishness seriously.”

His career path happened by chance, he said. “I met Prof. Jack Sasson, the founding director of Vanderbilt’s Program in Jewish Studies, at a breakfast. He told me that if I got a Ph.D., there’d be a place and scholarship for me.”

After receiving his degree at Brandeis, he spent four years in the Czech Republic. He said, “I worked for a wonderful Jewish cultural organization, Bejt Praha.”

He later took a job in Prague directing a Jewish-themed study-abroad program for students of American Universities. Between returning to the United States and entering graduate school, he managed that program from the United States and launched additional programs in Prague.

Shortly after his return in 2004, he entered Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned an M.A and Ph.D. in history. Dr. Labendz came to YSU after completing a post-doctoral teaching fellowship in the Jewish Studies Program at Penn State University during the 2016-17 academic year.

Why come to YSU? Dr. Labendz said, “Frankly it was the job.” He add-
This year’s theme: Akiva students learn “why be a mensch”

Being a mensch adds years to your life and joy to your days. It is the key to success in health, love, relationships, a work, at home, and in life. Mensches are happy, content, prosperous, and well liked. “Best of all, being a mensch is contagious! Just watch and see the changes you make in yourself and those around you just by being honest, courteous, and considerate.

The Mensch Pledge

I pledge not to judge people by the way they look, their appearance of their ethnic group.

I will be careful not to generalize, and I will always try to see the inner person beyond the visible look.

I will try to give people the benefit of the doubt and see the goodness in each one.

Let’s create a new reality of patience, tolerance, willingness, and togetherness.

Together we can.

Chabad comes to Kent State

Chabad comes to Kent State University with Rabbi Moshe Sasonkin and his son Levik Rabin.

The young couple opened a campus Chabad in May where they will serve Kent State’s small Jewish student body of 1,200.

As on so many American campuses, anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head at the public research university as well.

According to the AMCHA initiative, which is dedicated to fighting anti-Semitism on American college campuses, five instances of anti-Semitism at Kent were reported in recent months.

The Sasonkins are working to counter that, touting, “Be a proud KS-JEW” to inspire Jewish students to take pride in their identity. They look forward to Kent State’s campus Hillel leaders who have welcomed them warmly.

Jewish Studies professor Chaya Kessler sees Chabad’s arrival on campus as a “sign of growth and interest. It’s a beautiful thing.”

This new development, Professor Kessler believes, will pique students’ curiosity about Judaism. “Chabad has a visible presence which I hope will lead to more students being interested in taking courses in Jewish studies topics.”

Lecture to focus on forgotten lessons of Jewish activism

Shaul Kelner, associate professor of sociology and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt University, will discuss forgotten lessons of Jewish activism on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 5 p.m. at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor (Steel Museum), 151 W. Wood Street, Youngstown.

Prof. Kelner’s lecture, which is sponsored by YSU’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, will focus on how American Jews mobilized to fight for human rights in the [former] USSR and saved American Jewry in the process.

American Jews spent much of the Cold War era rallying to protect Jews trapped and persecuted in the Soviet Union. Their efforts succeeded in paving the way for a mass exodus of more than 1.5 million people. But rousing American Jews to take action was no easy task and resulted only from the tireless work of numerous activist groups, including the nation’s first Soviet Jewry Movement organization, founded in Ohio in 1963.

How did activists wake American Jews to the issue of Soviet Jewish oppression? How did they mobilize synagogues, schools, community centers and philanthropic federations to embrace the cause as their own? How did they build the separate efforts of thousands of local groups into a coordinated national movement? And how, in the process, did they succeed in inspiring and sustaining Jewish engagement for three decades? Prof. Kelner will explore the structural and symbolic dimensions of the American Soviet Jewry Movement’s mobilization strategies, drawing lessons for activism and community-building today.

Past director of Vanderbilt’s program in Jewish studies, Prof. Kelner’s research focuses on the sociology of contemporary American Jews and the intersections of culture, politics and religion in Jewish life. He is completing a book about the cultural consequences of the American Jewish community’s Cold War-era mobilization for Soviet Jewish emigration rights.

An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship program, he has been a Fellow of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Institute for Advanced Studies and of the University of Michigan’s Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. His first book, Tours That Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage and Israeli Birthright Tourism, NYU Press 2010, won awards from the Association for Jewish Studies and the American Sociological Association.

Refreshments will be served. For questions, contact Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, jlabendz@ysu.edu or 330 941-1603.

Dr. Max Altman earns Ph.D.

Max A. Altman, formerly of Youngstown, has received his Ph.D. in educational policy and administration from the University of Michigan’s school of education. He is the son of Neil and Denise Altman.

In 2005, Dr. Altman graduated from Cheney High School as valedictorian. Among his many awards during his high school years was receiving the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student award for the state of Ohio.

In 2009, he earned his bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

He is married to the former Katherine Steiner from Maumee. The couple has relocated to Oahu, Hawaii where Dr. Altman is employed as a researcher for McREL International, an educational consulting organization. His wife is enrolled at the University of Hawaii seeking a masters degree in directing.
In Oregon, an old Jewish community with a new Jewish museum

By Patricia R. Kelvin
Editor, Jewish Journal

When I lived in Oregon 35 years ago, I had no idea that the California gold rush of 1849 had also brought mining to Jackson Creek in Oregon that same year. And where the miners were, so were Jewish merchants supplying groceries, mining equipment and dry goods.

My community had no synagogue. Occasionally a rabbi would come to the area, serving as a chaplain to Jewish patients at the nearby Veterans Administration Medical Center. During those visits, the few Jews in the community were invited to join the services. Otherwise, it was necessary to drive to the synagogue in Eugene, some 70 miles away.

However, by 2005 Oregon had 36 congregations throughout the state, including 17 in Portland, which also has two Jewish day schools, a Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation, a Jewish facility for the elderly, a Jewish family counseling service.

And now it has a Jewish museum and center for Holocaust education.

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education is to interpret the Oregon Jewish experience, explore the lessons of the Holocaust, and foster intercultural conversations.

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education features, along with core exhibitions, national, and international changing exhibitions that showcase Jewish contributions to world culture and ideas, issues of Jewish identity, and the forces of prejudice.

OJM Che also offers programs, films, lectures, and concerts cover a wide range of topics relating to Jewish art, culture, and heritage, which stimulate dialogue about identity, culture, and assimilation.

Education programs embrace the Jewish experience and explore the lessons of the Holocaust. The organization is the steward of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial, located in Washington Park, and of the Archives and Artifact Collection documenting the Oregon Jewish experience. Tours of the Oregon Holocaust Memorial are free and available by appointment.

The museum also features its own Jewish deli “Lefty’s Cafe” which offer onsite seating and with coffee by local Nossa Familia Roasters.

Visit Lefty’s Cafe at 724 NW Davis Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.ojmche.org.

Oregon’s Jewish population of about 40,000 provides many opportunities for Jewish study for young people who have thought about study at one of Oregon’s many colleges and universities.

Jewish students participate in Hillel at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University and Jewish Student Unions at Lewis and Clark College, Reed College and Portland State University. The University of Oregon, Portland State University and Reed College have Jewish Studies programs.

So parents need not fear if their kids leave home for a green environment, that their Jewishness will stay with them.

The Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education’s Inaugural Exhibition features the work of Russian Jewish artist Grisha Bruskin, whose visually stunning large-scale tapestries, nine feet by seven feet, are united by themes that reference Kabbalistic and Talmudic teaching, Hebrew Bible narratives, and the folkloric traditions of Russia.
3rd Jerusalem Biennale to feature 200 Jewish artists, increased global flair

By Adam Abrams/JNS.org

The 3rd Jerusalem Biennale for Contemporary Jewish Art will run from Oct. 1-Nov. 16 in Israel’s capital, featuring work from more than 200 Israeli and international artists who have creatively addressed a diverse array of Jewish content.

Since debuting in 2013, the Jerusalem Biennale has aimed to introduce a diverse audience to modern Jewish art and artists. This year’s event explores the theme of “watershed” from various angles, such as Jewish identity, history, immigration and refugees.

The biennale’s founder, Jerusalem native Rami Ozeri, spent two years at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design studying how to channel Jewish elements into his work. During a trip to Germany in 2010, Ozeri discovered the Berlin Biennale and was inspired to bring a similar event to Jerusalem.

This year’s biennale is an upgrade from previous years due to the quality of the exhibitions as well as “how international the biennale really is,” Ozeri told JNS.org. In 2013, the festival “had around 60 participating artists, and only 10 of them were from outside Israel,” he said. This year’s group of 200-plus artists contained roughly equal percentages of Israeli and foreign-born participants, with the global presence coming from the U.S., South America, Europe, Russia and India.

“This [international representation] will give us more interpretations of what contemporary Jewish art can be,” said Ozeri.

The biennale organizer described the event’s exhibitions at the Old City of Jerusalem’s Tower of David Museum, including Lili Almog’s “The Space Within,” which he said explores “the presence or the non-presence of the female body in public space.”

The artist, Ozeri explained, takes this theme to an extreme by covering female figures in fabric “from head to toe” and placing them in different surroundings in the public domain. The images created utilizing this technique appear to show a silhouette in the shape of a covered woman, creating a barrier in the urban landscape and raising the question, “What does it mean to have the female body absent from the public sphere?”

The other biennale exhibit featured at the Tower of David, “Alternative Topography” by Israeli architect-artist Avner Sher, examines tension between the permanent and the ephemeral in the spiritual and urban geography of Jerusalem.

Sher, the son of a Holocaust Survivor, told JNS.org that when his father learned Sher wanted to study art at the Bezalel Academy, “it was terrible for him because he did not see it as a practical way of life.”

“My father forced me to learn at the Technion (Israel’s technology institute in Haifa) and I became an architect,” he said. “[But] when I became an architect I went to learn art, so I have worn both hats for many years.”

Sher said throughout his life, he felt he should be an artist and not an architect, but now he works “with both things very well.”

Regarding his creative process, the artist expressed his deep interest in the relationship between destruction and reconstruction, and attributed his technique of “scratching and burning” cork to his fascination with the opposing processes.

“[It] is a very interesting method for creating chaos,” he said. “The process has a strong connection with the cork itself, which does not even burn in a forest fire.”

(Continued on p. 10)
For divers, constructed reefs have become an attractive alternative to natural coral reefs

The Tamar Reef, an artificial reef project begun in 2006, is a collaboration between BGU researchers and Jordan to restore the local reef culture in the Red Sea. Students and faculty from both countries work together in studying the artificial reef and how it affects the marine ecology in the area. The researchers examined diving habits and behavior around Eilat’s natural and artificial reefs. According to study, the average diver density at the artificial reef was higher than at the two nearby natural knolls, and the Tamar reef effectively diverts divers from natural knolls.

BEER-SHEVA, Israel — Sept. 5

Artificial, human-made reefs can be more attractive to divers than nearby natural coral formations and can help mitigate potential reef damage, according to a new study by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev researchers.

The paper, published in the Journal of Environmental Management, examines artificial coral reefs as “recreational ecosystem services,” offering a new methodology to evaluate the aesthetic, behavioral and attitudinal aspects of which artificial reefs around the world can be evaluated.

“This new approach takes into account divers’ preferences and needs alongside physical preservation of natural reefs,” says Dr. Yaniv Belhassen of BGU’s Department of Hotel and Tourism Management on the Eilat Campus. “Artificial reefs are only effective if divers continue to be drawn to them.”

Artificial reefs, concrete structures, sunken ships, and even submerged subway cars are increasingly being used around the globe to attract recreational divers, for both environmental and commercial reasons.

The Tamar Reef, an artificial reef project begun in 2006, is a collaboration between BGU researchers and Jordan to restore the local reef culture in the Red Sea. Students and faculty from both countries work together in studying the artificial reef and how it affects the marine ecology in the area. Special nurseries were established to regenerate lost coral species and augment coral diversity. Small fragments developed into large corals and were planted on the artificial reefs.

The researchers examined diving habits and behavior around Eilat’s natural and artificial reefs. According to study, the average diver density at the artificial reef was higher than at the two nearby natural knolls, and the Tamar reef effectively diverts divers from natural knolls. Secondly, the study found that regarding attitudes toward natural versus artificial reefs, divers consider the artificial reefs more appropriate for training, but they feel less relaxed around them. According to the research, the sunken ship, Satil, is Eilat’s most popular dive spot.

Prof. Nadav Shashar of the Department of Life Sciences and his student, Meghan Rousseau, from South Africa also contributed to the study.

“With the opening of the Eilat Ashkelon Pipeline Company beach to the public, where it is mostly artificial reefs in the form of pylons, one can hope that the natural reefs in the nature reserve will indeed improve,” says Prof. Shashar. According to a recent report on the status of the Gulf of Eilat, the natural reefs have not been holding up well in recent years.

This study was partly supported by the Schechter-Schwab Charitable Fund and by a grant from the Schulich Ocean Studies Initiative.

About American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev plays a vital role in sustaining David Ben-Gurion’s vision: creating a world-class institution of education and research in the Israeli desert, nurturing the Negev community and sharing the University’s expertise locally and around the globe. Together with supporters, AABGU will help the University foster excellence in teaching, research and outreach to the communities of the Negev for the next 50 years and beyond.

Visit vision.aabgu.org to learn more.

AABGU, which is headquartered in Manhattan, has nine regional offices throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.aabgu.org

Jerusalem art (cont’d from p. 9)

Sher explained that once every nine years, when a cork oak is harvested, “the tree is cut down…its bark is harvested for the cork, but the tree is still alive. I thought this process is quite similar to us, the Jewish people, who have been through so many traumas, but we are still alive.”

“What I’m doing is scratching, burning and making total chaos on this piece of material and then trying to build a new world,” said Sher, who has been working with his scratching-and-scorching process for about 15 years.

Using this technique, Sher created his 2017 biennale exhibition, which features a series of maps and images on cork — all involving the Old City of Jerusalem — and depicting the various energies and conflicts that have inhabited the area during the course of millennia.

Sher’s exhibition also uses his architectural expertise. The artist constructed an exhibition space that doubles as a sukkah, made entirely from wood and cork, atop one of the walls of the Tower of David Museum. The structure, he said, features “a wonderful view into the Old City and new city of Jerusalem.”

“The exterior walls of the sukkah are covered with drawings,” Sher said, “and inside the sukkah, there are many written notes in various languages with requests for God, like [the notes] people place in the Western Wall.”

Avner Sher’s Jerusalem Biennale exhibit, “Alternative Topography.”
By Jesse McClain

When we see small, seemingly trivial events and laws making the headlines or being enacted, we often dismiss them as unimportant. We take no action on them nor do we become upset about them. However, sadly, this is how most major events and laws related to the Holocaust came into being.

Once Hitler, became chancellor of Germany, the practice of Nazi ideology became more frequent and more evident. It was, by 1933, one of the strongest parties in Germany, even though, reflecting the country's multi-party system, the Nazis had won only a plurality of 33 percent of the votes in the 1932 elections to the German parliament (Reichstag).

Once in power, Hitler moved quickly to end German democracy. He convinced his cabinet to invoke emergency clauses of the constitution that permitted the suspension of individual freedoms of press, speech, and assembly.

Special security forces — the Gestapo, the Storm Troopers (SA), and the SS — murdered or arrested leaders of opposition political parties (Communists, socialists, and liberals). The Enabling Act of March 23, 1933, forced through a Reichstag that was already purged of many political opponents, gave dictatorial powers to Hitler.

Also in 1933, the Nazis began to put into practice their racial ideology. The Nazis believed that the Germans were “racially superior” and that there was a struggle for survival between them and inferior races. They saw Jews, Roma (Gypsies), and the handicapped as a serious biological threat to the purity of the German (Aryan) race, what they called the master race.

Jews, who numbered about 525,000 in Germany (less than one percent of the total population in 1933) were the principal targets of Nazi hatred. The regime identified Jews as an “inferior” race and employed the oldest trick in the book — pick a common enemy and blame him for all that is wrong in society, whether the economy or the loss of a war — to promote hatred of Jews among the German population.

Specifically, the Nazis spewed hate-mongering propaganda that unfairly blamed Jews for Germany’s economic depression and the country’s defeat in World War I (1914-1918). In 1933, new German laws forced Jews out of their civil service jobs, university and law court positions, and many other areas of public life.

In April 1933, laws proclaimed at Nuremberg made Jews second-class citizens. These Nuremberg Laws defined Jews, not by their religion or by how they wanted to identify themselves, but by the religious affiliation of their grandparents.

Between 1937 and 1939, new anti-Jewish regulations segregated Jews further and made daily life very difficult for them. Jews could not attend public schools; go to theaters, cinema, or vacation resorts; or reside or even walk in certain sections of German cities.

Often in life we dismiss the “small” things and the “small” stuff. However, what we see as small stuff today often becomes large, and once large, difficult if not impossible to reverse or eliminate. With the holidays coming up, we should be aware that the Nazis used these days to implement a purge or initiate a decree which subjugated people of the Jewish faith and heritage, stressing that their holidays were anything but sacred or protective.

We should relish the fact that in America we can practice our faith, any faith, without fear of persecution, and remember those who on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, faced what Lawrence Langer termed “choice-less choices.”

This concept is so imbedded in Holocaust stories and events, when the many victims of the Nazis were forced to make difficult and terrible lose-lose decisions. As we remember the victims of the Shoah during this holiday season, let not any of us not sweat the “small stuff” in the hopes that we never have to make a choice-less choice.

Jesse McClain brings Holocaust story to Main Library

Jesse McClain, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation’s Holocaust education specialist, will share the experiences of Holocaust survivors Henry Kinast and the late Bill Vegh, of blessed memory, at the Main Library on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear Mr. Kinast’s inspiring story and view the traveling exhibit which features eight panels of photographs and narratives about his life including his imprisonment in Buchenwald. Mr. Kinast will attend the event, which is for teens and adults.

The 26th Annual High Holiday Food Drive continues until Monday, Oct. 16. Bring non-perishable food and toiletry items to area synagogues, Akiva Academy, or the Jewish Community Center.
Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

Jenna must summon the strength and courage to give her a chance at a fresh start, while her fellow waitress tells the story of Jenna—a waitress and expert singer. Inspired by Adrienne Shelly’s beloved film, “Waitress” begins with the Resistance and puts into action plans to save the lives of hundreds from what has become the Warsaw Ghetto. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 18
Time: 12-2:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
Cost: $8/Member | $11/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

**Movie & Lunch Bunch: Florence Foster Jenkins**

In the 1940s, New York socialite Florence Foster Jenkins (Meryl Streep) dreams of becoming a great opera singer. Unfortunately, her ambition far exceeds her talent. The voice Florence hears in her head is beautiful, but to everyone else it is quite lousy. Her husband St. Clair goes to extreme lengths to make sure his wife never finds out how truly awful she is. When Florence announces her plans for a concert at Carnegie Hall, St. Clair soon realizes that he’s facing his greatest challenge yet.

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 8
Time: 12-2:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
Cost: $8/Member | $11/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

**JCC Journeys**

**Waitress**

Inspired by Adrienne Shelly’s beloved film, “Waitress” tells the story of Jenna—a waitress and expert pie maker. Jenna dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town’s new doctor may offer her a chance at a fresh start, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness. But Jenna must summon the strength and courage to rebuild her own life. This irresistible new hit features original music and lyrics by five-time Grammy® nominee Sara Bareilles. “It’s an empowering musical of the highest order!” raves the Chicago Tribune. Dinner on your own. Space is limited. Price includes cost of ticket and transportation.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 22
Location: Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 11 a.m.
Showtime: 1 p.m. (run time is 2 1/2 hours)
Return to the JCC: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $65/Member | $85/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195 by Oct. 6.

**The Color Purple**

This Tony-winning musical arrives fresh from Broadway for this acclaimed production’s first US tour. This iconic musical follows Celie, a young woman living in early 1900s America and is based on the book by Alice Walker. Both heart-warming and heart-wrenching, you’ll find yourself moved by her tale as much as you are by the show’s incredible music. The 2015 Broadway production won two Tony Awards including the coveted Best Revival of a Musical. Dinner on your own. Space is limited.

Price includes cost of ticket and transportation.

Date: Sunday, Nov. 19
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Leave JCC: 11 a.m.
Showtime: 1 p.m. (Run time is 2 hours, 25 minutes)
Return: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $71/Member | $95/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

**An Evening at the Opera: A Performance by Merav Eldan**

Join us as we welcome Israeli born mezzo-soprano Merav Eldan, who will perform a beautiful selection of well-known arias from operas by Mozart, Rossini, Bellini, and more. She will also feature popular songs from the classic musicals of Bernstein and Gershwin, as well as songs by the great American composer Aaron Copland.

Miss Eldan, made her American debut at The Cleveland Institute of Music with La Zia Principessa in Puccini’s “Sister Angelica.” She recently performed with the Jerusalem Symphony and has also performed with the Case Western Reserve Baroque Orchestra.

Miss Eldan has been awarded 1st prize in the Darius Milhaud competition at the Cleveland Institute of Music and in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Ohio State competition. A light dinner will be served.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 10
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Location: JCC
Cost: $11/Member | $15/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

**Adult Cookie Decorating**

Join us for to learn the basics of cookie decorating from Cindy Velt of Cindy’s Canfield Cookies and Sugar Love Studios. Learn the beginning techniques of decorating with royal icing that ends in delicious and colorful cookie creations to take home and enjoy! Price includes instruction, a dozen cookies, tips, bags, and meringue powder to mix a fresh batch of icing.

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 1
Time: 5:15 - 8 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $35/Member $47/Non Member
RSVP at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

**Forgotten Jewish Foods with Chef Jeremy Umanksy**

Did you know that foods ranging from ham to foie gras have Jewish roots? Did you know that latkes have been around since before Jews had even heard of or seen a potato? Join Cleveland based Chef Jeremy Umanksy on a journey through time and rediscover forgotten Jewish foods. You’ll kickbitz and nosh on unique and delicious foods that haven’t been enjoyed since before your great grandparents were born. Price includes food tasting and recipes to take home. Space is limited.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 2
Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $8/Member | $11/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195 by Friday, Oct. 20.

**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
YOUTH PROGRAMMING

BBYO Open Recruitment
Attention all 8th graders! Now is your time to get active in Youngstown’s AZA and BBG chapters.
Join today and take advantage of the best deal in the country!
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 Nisenson AZA (Siggy) #169 Boys, grades 8 – 12

Art Education and Exploration
Our JCC Art Gallery Curator, Katelyn Gibbons, will help children explore the world of art with a “creepy” twist in honor of Halloween. In this three-day program, we will look at nature and exhibitions from the JCC art gallery for inspiration to write short stories, create “monster mash-ups” and more!
Date: Oct. 24, 25 & 26
Time: 10:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
Cost: $15/Member | $20/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext. 195.

Build and Play Lego® Program
Join us as we have fun building Lego® sets together in small groups!
Date: Nov. 7, 8 & 9
Time: 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
Cost: $19/Member | $25/Non Member
R.S.V.P. at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 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 are 55 minutes long with the exception of junior lessons which are 30 minutes long.

Triple Threat Troupe
Triple Threat Troupe is a two semester training and performance troupe for ages 9-24 (special acceptance may be made for a younger, but experienced student) in voice, drama and dance. Semester sessions are held on Sundays, and the troupe works on creating a year-end performance together. Each semester, TTT students will receive four private voice lessons (combo of in-person and online), two dance workshops, one acting and vocal workshop, one audition workshop (with Fall headshots), one theatre specialty workshop (such as stage combat, improvisation, etc.), and they will be eligible to take part in any performance opportunities including national performances (Walt Disney World, NYC Cabaret Performance, etc.). Refer to pricing at jccyoungstown.org

New Faces of Cabaret Performance
This season students will be heading back to New York City to perform at one of the city’s top cabaret venues! This experience is rare, and not easy to come by. All students will perform a solo as well as group numbers. This performance trip is not limited to LRS students, however those who are not students will be required to take four private voice lessons. New Faces of Cabaret rehearsals are not rigorous in terms of time but students are expected to work on their own at home when not in group rehearsals. This performance is not limited to certain ages, however will require an audition.
The performance trip will take place in late April or early May 2018, and the performance commitment must be made by Oct. 1.

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

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.

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
For more information on fitness programs, contact

Shelia Cornell at 330 746-3250 Ext. 182 or Scornell@jewishyoungstown.org

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!

Personal Training Benefits
• Personalized safe and effective fitness programs
• Achievement of goals in a short time period
• Improved muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility

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(Continued on p. 15)
Lions of Judah (cont’d from p. 4)

thousands of global activists who care deeply about the Jewish future.

Lions of Judah play a vital role in creating social justice, aiding the vulnerable, preserving human dignity and building Jewish identity.

They demonstrate our dedication to the Jewish community by contributing of our time and resources. Each woman makes an annual donation to the Jewish Federation that reflects her capacity to give. In most communities, the threshold annual commitment is $5,000.

Remarking on the declining numbers of Jewish delis in the United States, Mr. Horowitz asked, “What will happen to my cultural heritage if there are no more delis?”

His answer inspired his website and the cookbook.

Dr. Labendz (cont’d from p. 6)

“I believe there should be a place for scholars in the leadership of and within the Jewish community. I’m impressed with the space they’ve made for this in Youngstown.”

Dr. Labendz said he’s been impressed by his helpful and dedicated colleagues and by the local Jewish community that reached out to him with a warm and friendly welcome.

“Learning a new institution has its challenges,” he said. “So right now, I’m trying to listen and learn.”

“However, as a scholar who values teaching and instruction, I look forward to the opportunities I know I’ll have here,” he said.

“I’m in the process of reconstructing and rethinking the Judaic and Holocaust Studies minor, along with the courses we offer therein, whether mandatory or optional,” he said.

“I hope to integrate further the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies into cultural and scholarly life both at YSU and within the broader Youngstown community. I see a bright future for it alongside and in collaboration with other themed centers and departments at YSU. Jewish studies traverses so many fields and, inasmuch, can have impacts that are at once local and global.”

He explained that after Charlotte, his expertise in anti-Semitism made it possible for him and his colleagues to help students think through what they see around themselves, “to ask what is racism, how does it work, what has allowed this to happen? “

“In addition, he said, “It’s important to the university and to me to boost relationships with other academic institutions. Because going abroad was absolutely transformative to me,” he said, “I want to build interesting affordable transformational study abroad opportunities for YSU students as well.”

The Center of Judaic and Holocaust Studies at YSU is dedicated to teaching and promoting research on all facets of Jewish culture and history.

The center places a special emphasis on the experience of the Jewish people during the Holocaust and promotes the lessons of tolerance and genocide prevention. It offers academic courses at the introductory and advanced level in Jewish history, religion, culture and languages. The center also offers community outreach educational programs. (See story on page 7.)

Dr. Labendz lives in the area with his partner Meg Kramer, a writer who creates digital content as a communications consultant.

Akiva Academy (continued from page 6)

al place, supported by a community with exceptional vision to teach Hebrew and Judaica to all children and in so doing drive home the very timely message of peace, tolerance and love for all people. Akiva practices Tikunik Olam every time the doors open. There can be no greater mission for any Jewish organization,“ she said.

“Today, the non-Jewish families are excited about the holidays. Through learning about the holidays, we introduce them to music, culture — such as foods — and history.

Mrs. Kohan says, “Character development is important, which is why we emphasize Jewish values.

She said, “We Want them to think — it’s a process even though it doesn’t happen immediately.”

In the coming school year, activities will focus on Israel’s 70th birthday. Mrs Kohan said, “We’re going to have mutual programs with the Jewish state. On Dec. 10 our students will sing together with Israeli students at the Weizman School in Akko, through Partnership2Gether.

Mrs. Kohan said Akiva students will do more Skyping with Israel, and in April, there’ll be Israeli dancing and a carnival.

This year Akiva students and their families will see renovated lunchrooms, to facilitate more floor room, and more technology in the lunch rooms as well.

New Israeli teacher

Matan Norani has only been in the area since mid-August, but already he’s getting used to the weather, the more professional and organized Akiva — “not everything is on the teachers’ shoulders, unlike in Israel” he said, getting a phone, a Social Security number, buying a car, and a opening a bank account.

In Israel, Yaroni taught at a three-year HS in Herzlya. taught Bible, Jewish philosophy. Two hours a week, he allowed the students to talk about anything they wanted, whatever needed to be taken up such as going to the IDF (as all young Israelis — with some exceptions — enlist) They talk about news and politics. He said his position is somewhat like an American home room teacher.

After staying in London for six months, Mr. Naroni wanted the opportunity to teach abroad — especially Hebrew and Judaic studies.

The Akiva opportunity came just at the right moment.

He is a teacher shaliach — an education emissary from Israel. Initially, he said the kids seemed more respectful than his Israeli students and definitely wanting to learn.

He said he was amazed that so much was set up for his arrival, including everything in his new apartment.

Free trade agreement (cont’d from p. 5)

Temur Ben Yehuda, chairman of the Israeli Russian Business Council that co-sponsored the Moscow conference, cited primarily the attractiveness of Israeli businesses to Russian counterparts and vice versa in explaining the increase in trade between Russia and Israel.

“We are not only conducting dialogue on increasing trade, we are also signing major agreements between Israel and Russian firms, including Watergen, Assuta and many others,” he said.

The increase comes amid tightening cooperation between Israel and Russia on security issues connected with Syria, where the Russian government is engaged in propping up the beleaguered regime of the country’s president, Bashar Assad. Its involvement in Syria has complicated Russia’s relations with Turkey, which has aided some forces fighting Assad in Syria’s civil war dating to 2011, and soured trade between those nations.

Separately, Russia’s trade with the European Union and the United States has also suffered due to sanctions imposed by the West over its invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and annexation of land.

During that period, Russia’s relations with Israel, which have remained neutral both on the Syrian issue and Ukraine, have noticeably improved, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveling to Moscow at least five times in the space of one year.
AQUATICS

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.

**Cost**: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

**Indoor 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 rookie swimmers trying to learn the basics to seasoned swimmers 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**

**Cost**: $82/Member | $110/Non Member

**Youth Swim Team**
Join us in our indoor pool for a non-competitive six week swim program focusing on technique and endurance.

**Practices will be held**
Monday-Thursday — 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Session**: Oct. 16 – Nov. 23

**Cost per session**: $75/Member | $150/Non Member

**Towel service available for $10 per child per session**

**Register online at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250**

**Water in Motion**
This lighter version of water aerobics will condition the cardiovascular system and muscles. The routines are designed to be low impact yet stimulating. No swimming ability required.

**Date**: Mon. & Wed.

**Time**: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Kicking up the Waves**
Put on your dancing shoes and let’s make some waves in this one-of-a-kind class in the pool! Enjoy dancing to a variety of line dances, including both classic and newer routines.

**Date**: Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m.

**Cost**: $40 per child

**Register online at jccyoungstown.org**

**AQUATICS**

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chryzal at 330 746-3250 Ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

**Aquatic Classes**

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

**Date**: Saturdays, 9:30-10 a.m.

**Cost**: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

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**AQUATICS**

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chryzal at 330 746-3250 Ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

**Aquatic Classes**

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

**Date**: Saturdays, 9:30-10 a.m.

**Cost**: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

**Water in Motion**
This lighter version of water aerobics will condition the cardiovascular system and muscles. The routines are designed to be low impact yet stimulating. No swimming ability required.

**Date**: Mon. & Wed.

**Time**: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Kicking up the Waves**
Put on your dancing shoes and let’s make some waves in this one-of-a-kind class in the pool! Enjoy dancing to a variety of line dances, including both classic and newer routines.

**Date**: Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m.

**Cost**: $40 per child

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**Moms always know the way to the ER**

By Mary Lou Finesilver

No matter how old they get, your kids are just that — your kids. You love and will do anything for them, and there is never a time when you say, “OK, I’m done.”

I’m only done when I am no longer of this earth. Someone else will have to be the substitute for me when there is an accident or incident. Until then, I am it and happy to be it, always. There is always some emergency that comes up, and to the hospital or doctor we go.

We start with falling off a stepstool at about age two, right after baby sister is taking her first steps, and maybe we are showing her how to climb. Never did hear how that happened.

Then there was a nice simple (?) tag football, and somehow we had a broken ankle because someone fell on it. Back to the hospital.

My time frame may be off a little; it’s a lot to keep straight.

Then there was the ice skating incident. Everyone was having a ball. My son was skating rings around the girls, and he was also playing a little hockey. Everyone was helping the youngest to skate, and she was doing OK until she slipped, fell on her knees and someone tripped over her and broke her leg.

Now Daddy didn’t think it was broken, and I believe it was one of those times we actually had words, and back to the hospital.

Then there was a nice simple (?) tag football, and somehow we had a broken ankle because someone fell on it. Back to the hospital.

Then the time that someone was shaking hands with a “friend” a little too vigorously and broke the hand. Back to the hospital.

The latest was a little trip with a shoe and, you guessed it, back to the hospital. Thank the good Lord, everyone has recovered sufficiently to lead productive and happy lives.

Being a mother does not mean just giving birth but also being there in times of crisis. At least most of the time. Sometimes circumstances keep us away, but I am happy I can still do for my kids and be there for them, when they want me or need me. I wouldn’t trade this job for anything in the world.

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**Sisterhood meeting coming up**

El Emeth’s next Sisterhood meeting takes place on Oct. 10, with a board meeting at 10:45 and lunch and program at 12 noon. It will be “Pizza in the Hut” for Sukkot with a speaker from the Youngstown Rescue Mission.

We are asking for donations of new or gently used small winter items, such as gloves, hats, and scarves for adults or children that will be given to the speaker for the Rescue Mission. You will receive $1 off your lunch if you bring an item to donate. Reservations are a must by Oct. 5.

Holly Small, Torah Fund chair, is asking that members remember to send their Torah Fund donations to Temple El Emeth. Torah Fund supports scholarships for those students studying to be rabbis, cantors, and educators in the Conservative movement.

We are, once again, reinstating our Honorable Mensch’ program of $54 to help sponsor our Sisterhood luncheons. This donation may be in honor of someone or something or in memory of a loved one. Checks may be sent to the Temple office.

A big thank you again from all of us to Paula Ferguson for a great play this month, and we are looking forward to the next one in April. Kudos to Paula for a great opening meeting in September. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

Your Program V.P.s

**Ellen Weiss and Phyllis Perlman**
Services

Morning Minyan services are held each Thursday at 7:30 a.m.
Shabbat services are held every Saturday at 9:45 a.m. Rabbi Dario Hunter leads a Torah study session after each service.

Sukkot

First Day of Sukkot: Thursday, Oct. 5. Services begin at 9:45 a.m. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office (330 758-2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com) by Oct. 9.

Erev Simchat Torah

Join the festivities as we celebrate the never-ending cycle of Torah with special aliyaot, singing, dancing, and, of course, hot dogs! We will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12. Weather permitting, we will take our parade outdoors. All are welcome! R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office.

Shemini Atzeret

Thursday, Oct. 12. Services begin at 9:45 a.m. Yizkor will be recited around 11 a.m.

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 reconvening under the leadership of Rabbi Dario and will continue to meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm. While this class has been ongoing for some time, our study is at a point where we will revisit each of the middot; this is an excellent 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 tefillah, 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.)

El Emeth plans for fall

Sukkot

Temple El Emeth will have Erev Sukkot services on Wednesday, Oct. 4, Brunch with the Rabbi at 5:45 p.m. Services will also take place the first two mornings, Oct. 5 and 6 at 9:30 a.m. Rabbi Schönberger will host his annual Sukkot luncheon at the Synagogue on Saturday, Oct. 7 following services that morning. R.S.V.P. for lunch by calling the Temple office.

Services the closing days of Sukkot will take place on Oct. 12 and 13 at 9:30 a.m. Yizkor will be on Oct. 12 at approximately 11:15 a.m.

We will celebrate Simchat Torah with a service and celebration on Thursday evening, Oct. 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Torah parade will start at 7 p.m., and Klezmer musicians Walt Mahovlich and Steven Greenman will be with us to enhance our celebration. Prizes will be awarded to all children during the Torah Parade. We will also be honoring our Chatan Torah, Alice Franklin, and our Chatan Bereishit, Lisa and Randy Mirman. Refreshments provided by Sisterhood will follow the service.

Shmoozing with Shmulik

Shmoozing with Shmulik will meet on Monday, Oct. 23 at 10:30 a.m. Join Sam Kooperman and friends for some fun in Yiddish. All are welcome to attend.

Jewish Christian Dialogue

Jewish Christian Dialogue will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at the Synagogue. Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the lecture beginning at 1 p.m. This year’s theme is “Setting the record straight — misconceptions of Judaism and other religions.” Rabbi Joseph Schönberger will start the year by presenting the Jewish view of this theme. All are welcome to attend.

Services

A Kiddush luncheon will follow Shabbat morning services on Saturday, Nov. 4. Services begin at 9:30 a.m. with lunch immediately following at noon. November birthdays will be celebrated. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office for lunch.

Brunch with the Rabbi

Brunch with the Rabbi will have its first session of the year on Sunday, Nov. 12. Minyan is at 10 a.m. followed by brunch at 10:30 a.m. Following brunch, Rabbi will give a Jewish War Veterans presentation. Reservations may be called into the office by Nov. 2 at 330-759-1429.

Daily Minyans are 5:45 p.m. including Saturday afternoon, and 7 a.m. on Fridays. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.

October 2017 The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
Celebrations

Connie Nudell and Robert Pritchard Jr.

Connie Nudell of Baltimore, MD will be marrying Robert Pritchard, Jr., on Oct. 7.

Dr. Nudell, the daughter of Stan and Jody Nudell, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and earned a doctorate in physical therapy from the medical school of the University of Maryland. Currently, she manages a clinic and is a physical therapist with a specialty in concussions.

The groom, son of Robert and Jeanie Pritchard, Sr., of Park’s Glencoe, MD, graduated from Virginia University of Technology. He is an architect.

The wedding will take place at the Grand in Baltimore. The couple will honeymoon in Hawaii.

Kate Elizabeth Burrill and Ari Kessler

Kate Elizabeth Burrill and Ari Kessler are engaged.

Miss Burrill is a daughter of Mark and Carol Burrill and granddaughter of Don and Jean Burrill and Norma and Linford Brown.

Mr. Kessler is the son of Chaya and Sandy Kessler of Boardman, and the grandson of Mollie and Gerry Kessler, of blessed memory, and of Anna and Meyer Shtamfeyter, of blessed memory.

The bride-elect is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, and Teachers College of Columbia University in New York. She currently works on the faculty at the USC International School, teaching English as a second language.

The future groom is a graduate of The Ohio State University and also of the Teachers College of Columbia University.

Nadav Meir Kessler

Mazel Tov to Ben and Rachel Silver Kessler on the birth of a boy, on July 10, at 7:49 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs, 1 5oz. and measured 18 inches.

Their son’s name is Nadav Meir—Nadav means generous and Meir means giving light, and was the name of Ben’s Saba (grandfather). The “dav” part of Nadav is for Rachel’s great grandfather, David.

Ben’s parents are Chaya and Sandy Kessler of Boardman. Rachel’s parents are Cynthia and Vic Silver of St. Louis, MO.

Ben, Rachel and Nadav live in Strongsville, OH, outside Cleveland.
Avi Kelvin Leonard

Congratulations to Melissa and Taylor Kelvin Leonard, of Bexley, OH, on the birth of their son, Avi Kelvin Leonard, on June 7. He weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19.5 in. long. Proud grandmother is Patricia Kelvin of Poland, OH.

Taylor is a music teacher for the Big Walnut School District in Sunbury, OH. Melissa is education and quality director for APSI, Inc. in Columbus, a non-profit organization advocates for outcomes that promote dignity, respect, and enhanced quality of life for individual persons with developmental disabilities.

He currently works for the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s education wing, the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles; as well as continuing to play piano around town.

Their wedding is scheduled for Feb. 18, 2018, at the University Club of Pasadena.

Suzanne Davis and Justin Brown

Murray and Linda Davis of Boardman are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Davis, to Justin Brown, both of Lakewood. He is the son of Jeff and Diane Brown of Liberty.

The couple plan to marry on June 9, 2018, at the Corinthian Banquet Hall and Event Center in Sharon, PA.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Ohio State University with a master’s and education specialist degree in school psychology. She is employed at Elyria Community School as a school psychologist.

The prospective groom is a graduate of the Columbus Culinary Institute at Bradford School. He is employed with Guckenheimer as a sous chef.

Mr. Brown’s grandparents’ are the Elizabeth and the late Ronald Franks and Richard and Barbara Brown.

Ms. Davis’s grandparents are Rhoda Davis and Bill Davis (of blessed memory) and Betty and Mike Pitinii (of blessed memory).

When they have the opportunity, the couple enjoys spending time at the Lake Erie beach with their dog Gizmo.
Senior Spotlight

Ken Bielecki takes over at JFS

After more than 30 years of service to those in the Jewish Community of greatest need, Alvin Weisburg is retiring.

Stepping into his position is Ken Bielecki, who brings his own years of experience as a counselor, social worker and as the former workshop director of the Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Bielecki graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Warren, received his B.S.W in social work from Youngstown State University, and in 2005 earned a Master in Science in Social Administration.

Mr. Bielecki said learning about Jewish culture makes him “feel blessed to be part of the community.” His first Jewish experience was joining the seder with Our Gang, the program that provides individuals with various disabilities to join together and form friendships while participating in recreational and social activities.

After his first few months at JFS, Mr. Bielecki said “it’s eye-opening to see all we do at JFS.”

For example, 700-800 Kosher meals, prepared in the Heritage Manor kitchens are delivered each month through the JFS-sponsored Meals of Wheels program.

“This is such an energetic place to be,” the new director said. “In the future, I’m looking forward to focusing on future programming — to see what programs are needed, especially as Jewish community is aging, but also in the community at large.”

His philosophy is to “meet the person [in need] where he’s at.” He said, “What brings me happiness is the personal conviction to bring what’s right to that person.”

Mr. Bielecki and his wife Jennifer live in Niles with their 3 1/2-year-old son Alexander.

RSVP offers volunteer opportunities

Men and women 55 and older who are looking for a volunteer opportunity need only call the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program to find a wide range of choices that can be especially suited to them.

According to Deborah Cunningham, RSVP program coordinator for Mahoning and Trumbull counties, whether a person might be home-bound or have limits regarding time or transportation, there are still “jobs” that can bring joy to the volunteer or the individuals she or he is helping.

“I was called by a military veteran who wanted to help other veterans with transportation needs,” she said. “I was able to pair him with another vet who was limited in getting around.”

“While a lot of older people have connections in the area, there are many who don’t,” explained Ms. Cunningham. “So hearing from a home-bound senior who wanted to reach out to others in a similar situation gave both a reason to look forward to getting out of bed in the morning.”

RSVP volunteers serve in schools and health care facilities. Some work with children in the Foster Grandparent program. Others are part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mahoning County, and the Taft Grows Green 4H Garden.

Earth Angel Farm is another example of a site for which Ms. Cunningham hopes to find volunteers. She said, “EAF offers a wide variety of wellness activities, including agricultural and horticultural therapy for adults with physical, emotional, or developmental challenges.”

For further information, contact Ms. Cunningham at 330 480-0432 or by email to dcunningham@fcsohio.org.

More about the programs in Ohio is available at http://fcsohio.org/program/retired-senior-volunteer-program/.

Volunteer opportunities are also available through JFS.

At Levy Gardens, tenants come first

Levy Gardens is an open, faith based facility sponsored by the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, and generously supported by the local Jewish community. Levy Gardens is committed to serving the assisted living needs of Youngstown area seniors.

Located on an 18-acre campus that provides a wide variety of services and resources for every stage of life, the facility blends the independence of gracious living with the comfort and security of on-site support for activities of daily living (such as bathing, dressing, and grooming, scheduled transportation, and medication management), as needed.

Residents consider themselves a very friendly and supportive group that enjoys social engagement, being part of activities such as art and exercise programs and enjoying events on-site and off-site to encourage social interaction and companionship.

Beautiful common areas display donated artwork and artwork created by the residents.

Apartments at Levy Gardens have different layouts and include all utilities except phone service.

Three delicious kosher meals and snacks are served daily. A shared communal room is available for games and events and two Jacuzzi spa tubs and an exercise room help residents maintain fitness.

Have you been vaccinated?

The Centers for Disease Control estimate that two-thirds of those over 65 have never had a shingles vaccine and more than four in 10 haven’t had a tetanus shot in the past 10 years.

If you have not had these life-saving vaccinations — even if you hate going to the doctor, it’s time to call for that appointment now.

County health departments can also provide vaccinations.
Transportation solutions when you can’t drive yourself

Judy Drives

Judy and Bob Pazol have been driving private passengers to and from the three major airports, the Cleveland Clinic, Niagara Falls, as well as many other locations, with safety and courtesy, for the past 28 years.

So for those who don’t want to leave a car at the airport, or need a safe ride for a medical procedure at the Clinic or elsewhere, a call to “Judy Drives” can solve transportation problems.

They have received referrals from many local hotels, motels, businesses and satisfied customers in the area.

Contact Judy@Pazol.com; mobile: 330 518-5839; home 330 759-3839. Mention this article for a 10 percent discount.

Editor’s disclaimer: When I needed someone to drive me to the Cleveland Clinic for cataract surgery, a non-Jewish friend recommended that I call “Judy Drives.” I can recommend their service wholeheartedly.

WRTA

Mahoning County seniors and disabled residents can get door-to-door service on the bus.

If you are certified Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-eligible; or 65 years and older to or have difficulty using fixed-route bus service.

You can be picked up at your home and be brought to your destination. Call 330-744-8431.

JCC welcomes seniors

The Jewish Community Center prides itself on offering a warm, welcoming environment for our mature members.

The Center offers exceptional senior programming including fitness classes, aquatic classes, “Lunch and Learns,” and much more.

Many members have formed lasting friendships with someone they met in class or in our fitness center.

Most Medicare senior advantage programs offer free Silver Sneakers memberships which are accepted at the JCC.

Gary Weiss leaving very big shoes to fill

Gary Weiss describes his 41 1/2 years at Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens, and Jewish Family Service as a roller coaster — ups, downs, and in-betweens.

He says he’s persevered through many changes, many leading to today’s over-regulated industry which is not always for the benefit of the elderly.

Mr. Weiss said, “Serving Jewish elders has been wonderful professionally and wonderful personally.

He remembers that day 41 years ago when he came in to meet the leaders of the new Jewish home. “And then, Stanley Engel and Phil Levy offered me the job.

“Now he said, I served with all 17 lay presidents

“I came as a kid of 25 and ‘I’ll leave at 66 1/2 as a kid.”

In the early years of the home, the average was in the 70s. Now residents are more likely in their 80s and 90s with many more medical infirmities, more chronic conditions.

He is very happy for the community that the Human Services Board select Cristal Vincent as the new Human Services CEO.

He said, “Cristal is a dedicated, hard-working professional who will do whatever it takes to bring personal care to the residents.”

“I always made it a point to get to know every tenant and resident, their families, and the staff,” Mr. Weiss said.

“Now, although technology rules the word, hands-on care is what’s most important to our elderly,” he said.

“During my time here, I think my biggest accomplishment was the consistent effort to always do the right things for our elderly.” He said, “That’s what always drove me.”

He wanted to add the importance of the commitment made by the entire professional and paraprofessional staff to the residents. “The outside community may not know how far these fine people are willing to go way beyond the norm.

Gary will be celebrated at retirement party this month.

Senior Spotlight

Ellen and Gary Weiss celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Heritage Manor in 2015.

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.

A number of convenient and well-appointed break rooms are also available throughout our building.

For bookings and more information on rentals, contact Kelli McCormick, 330 746-3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org.

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Deborah L. ‘Dee’ (Schwartz) Ozer

ST. LOUIS PARK, MINN. – Deborah L. “Dee” (Schwartz) Ozer, 94, passed away on Sept. 21, in St. Louis Park. She had a long, happy, and productive life.

She is survived by her three children, Allan P. Schwartz (Jane Rockier), Glenn J. Schwartz (Lenore Rockier), both of Minnetonka, Minn., and Janet R. Udell (Bruce Udell) of Sarasota, Fla. Deborah was blessed with eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Deborah was preceded in death by her husband of 29 years, Jack Schwartz, as well as Jere Lustig (19 years), and Irving Ozer (15 years).

Deborah loved to tell everyone that she was blessed with three wonderful marriages.

She is also survived by two sisters, Hilda Manello and Ruth Briefman. Their youngest brother, Hyman Berman, died in 1968.

Deborah partnered with her husband, Jack, in several businesses for the first part of their marriage. She was later employed as the chief administrator of the Youngstown Area Jewish Services and the Jewish Federation of Greater Youngstown for 18 years.

Deborah was preceded in death by her husband of 29 years, Jack Schwartz, as well as Jere Lustig (19 years), and Irving Ozer (15 years). Deborah was the last surviving member of the Foundation Committee for the construction of the Youngstown Jewish Community Center in 1954. Even after she retired and relocated to Chicago in 1978, she founded the Jewish Seniors Organization there.

Deborah became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple E’Emeth at the age of 80. She was selected for The Woman of Valor Award by the Youngstown Area N’Amat Organization in 2003. She will be greatly missed by all of her family and those who knew her.

Her life will be celebrated in Youngstown, where she resided for the majority of her life. A service was held in the chapel at Temple Emanuel Cemetery in Coitsville, on Tuesday, Sept. 26. Shiva was held that evening at 3477 Cardinal Drive in Youngstown.

In lieu of flowers or candy, Deborah would have appreciated contributions to the Kent State University Hillel House or any other charitable organizations of your choice.

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

Finding your Jewish ancestors

Interested in a Jewish genealogy society in the Youngstown area? Join us on Sunday, Oct. 15 at Congregation Rodef Shalom, 1119 Elm Street, Youngstown.

Ken Bravo, president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies will be speaking at 10 a.m. on “The Nuts & Bolts of Jewish Genealogy” with time for questions and answers followed by a brunch at 11 a.m.

There is no charge for attendance, but reservations are required R.S.V.P. to Marcia Levy, mlevyrd@aol.com

Christian Ohio celebrates Israel

On Sunday, Oct 26, at 7 p.m., Christians from the community of faith in Ohio come together for “Ohio Celebrates Israel” at Victory Christian Center, 3899 McCartney Rd. Coitsville, OH 44436.

Organizers say it will be a powerful night of solidarity with the Jewish people and a wonderful celebration of the nation of Israel. Participants can add their voices to those of others in this region in expressing their love and support for Israel and the Jewish people.

In this moment in Israel's history, don't want to miss this opportunity. It promises to be an exciting night, with many leaders and members of the Jewish Community present as special guests. Speakers and guests will include representatives from Israel, as well as civic leaders from the region.

The evening is free and open to the public, and a special offering will be taken for Israel.
Senator Harry Michelakis Meshel

YOUNGSTOWN – Funeral services were held on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church for Senator Harry Michelakis Meshel, 93, who passed away peacefully on Sept. 4, 2017.

Harry was born June 13, 1924, in Youngstown, to Evangelos Michelakis and Rubini Markakis Michelakis Meshel.

He wasn’t born into power and influence, nor were they bestowed upon him. He had to work for them.

Growing up in the Hoover depression, in an industrial city, he had less of the common measures of wealth. His family lost his boyhood home because they could not afford the 12 dollar a month rent.

This hardship might lead one to think of these as disadvantages, or at best, limiters to one’s path in life. That’s where the uniqueness of Harry Meshel comes into play. The depression made him self-reliant and mindful of the condition of others, never losing sight of where he came from and what shaped his generosity and view of the world and those who lived in it.

He was a graduate of the original McGuffey Elementary School in Youngstown and an honor graduate of East High School.

After graduating from East, as it was with so many others of his time, he was passionate to serve his nation. Standing in his way were both his brothers, Philip and George, who were already serving in World War II, making him ineligible for the draft. While trying to enlist in the U.S. Marines, he was asked to join a new unit of the U.S. Navy called the SeaBee’s [Sea for the letter C and Bee for the letter B which both stood for Construction Battalion (CBs)]. Their mission would be the secure landing sites for disembarking soldiers and Marines, build runways, and to build and repair bridges.

In 1943, Harry was shipped off to the South Pacific. It was in this theater where the senator distinguished himself by earning two Bronze Stars with Battle Stars in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Already resourceful and self-assertive, the war gave Harry an understanding of adversity beyond the hard times of his youth. He felt what it means to leave home and all that is familiar, to have all communication with family and friends cut off and what it takes to survive with the long ing such separation brings.

These hardships honed a will that served him well after the military, driving him to be the first in his family not only to attend Youngstown College, but also to graduate in three years. He had the confidence to live alone in New York City, earn an MBA from Columbia University and return to begin a storied path.

Harry had been an open-hearth laborer, press and furnace operator in our mills. For six years he was a division manager of an investment firm, from 1958 to 1964, as real-estate salesman and broker, and a business and social science adjunct faculty member for 20 years at Youngstown State University and at Ohio University.

During this era, he became executive assistant to the mayor of Youngstown from 1964 to 1968. In 1969 he assumed the duties of Urban Renewal director for the city and was appointed trustee for the Mahoning Valley Health Planning Association in 1969. In 1971, he was elected Ohio State Senator of the 33rd district, serving until 1993.

Ever a renaissance man, Harry was also the international supervisor for 15 years of the International Boxing Commission. During his tenure, he organized the first Showtime televised fight in China, along with his fights in Israel.

He was Democratic Party Chair from 1993 to 1995, president for five years on the Mill Creek Metro Parks Board of Commissioners, and for nine years as a YSU trustee.

While state senator, Harry wielded significant power and influence. Often fighting from the minority position, Harry won leadership roles in the senate and beyond. He was very clear as to what he would do and how he would lead. He would always do what's best for his constituency and he would lead with strength.

The professional positions held as state senator to shape and mark a life of responsibility and generosity are, Democratic Minority Leader (1985 to 1990), President and Majority Leader (1983 to 1984), Democratic Minority Leader (1981 to 1982), Assistant President Pro Team (1976 to 1980), Chairman Senate Finance Committee (1974 to 1980) and National President of Democratic Legislative Leaders (1983 to 1984).

Mr. Meshel was a past recipient of the Guardian of the Menorah. Suzyn Schwebel Epstein, his good friend and fellow Guardian recipient said that he told her, “Of all the awards I have ever received, the Guardian is the one I am most proud of.”

Bonnie Deautch Burdman, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, said, “The Jewish community and the entire Mahoning Valley lost a giant with the passing of Senator Harry Meshel. Harry was a staunch supporter of the State of Israel. With a special affinity for the country, he visited Israel seven times.

Ms. Burdman added, “He was a strong advocate in Columbus for the issues of importance to our communities throughout the state. For me personally, Harry was both a mentor and a friend who always knew the right way to approach any challenge to its logical conclusion. I have learned much from Harry and will always treasure his counsel.

May his memory be for a blessing.”
With the High Holidays rapidly approaching, it is time to review the events of the past year with consideration of what was achieved and where we possibly could have done better, acknowledging sincere gratitude to Gd and our parents for the miraculous gift of life and the opportunity to set plans and personal goals for the forthcoming year.

For myself, I also consider my good fortune to be able to share my life with my wonderful family and friends. Considering what is happening elsewhere in this world, I am extremely thankful for the blessings I enjoy.

These blessings include membership in Congregation Rodef Sholom, where I have additionally enjoyed the pleasure of president of the congregation to participate, in addition to weekly Shabbat services and assorted holidays, seven wonderful Bar/Bat Mitzvahs this past year with Henry Miller’s event forthcoming in April. As my son Joshua’s Bar Mitzvah was celebrated this past June, I had the opportunity from within the Rabbi’s study to observe our good fortune as a congregation to enjoy the dedication and inspirational work of our multitalented Rabbi Muller which culminated in uniformly excellent performances.

The Rabbi has noted Joshua’s frequent attendance at services, along with his family, of course. Yes, there is the commandment.

However, it needs to be stated that the motivation to attendance are the beautiful services conducted by our Rabbi in concert with baritone Bill Ambert and pianist Kathy Miller. Of course, Joshua also greets his friends, as we do, especially at Onegs prepared in a delicious fashion by Kandy Rawl.

As I learned as a child to look forward to Shabbat services at my grandparents’ home in Malden, MA, then later at Temple Israel in Providence, RI, so Joshua and my wife, Toni, have learned to enjoy Shabbat at Rodef Sholom!

For this, I am eternally grateful to the Rabbi and his staff, as well as to the entire congregation, and wish all a healthy and happy new year.

L’Chaim,
Arthur Greenbaum, M.D.
President

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Social Action Committee plans for the year

**150 + One to Grow On**

The Rodef Sholom Tzedek (Social Action) Committee seeks the participation of the entire congregation to carry forth the wonderful experience that was our year-long celebration of the synagogue’s 150th anniversary. We view this year as 150 + “One to Grow On.”

Every month, starting, we will collect one specific item for charity. The goal is to collect at least 150+1 of each item or group of items. Please bring the following new items to temple during the designated month to the table that will be placed for this purpose outside Tamarkin Chapel.

**April:** sanitary/feminine items — Rescue Mission, Beatitude and Sojourner

**May:** toiletries (shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.) — Aware, Joshua’s Haven (Sharon, PA)

**June:** toilet paper — Rescue Mission, Joshua’s Haven (Sharon, PA)

**July:** dog and cat food and cat litter — Angels for Animals

**August:** Random Acts of Kindness

Perform one random act of kindness during the month of August and send a brief email to marialschuler@gmail.com describing what you did.

In addition to the above, we would like to create a “Caring Community,” by requesting congregants to visit the elderly. If you could use a visit, or know someone who would appreciate it, please call Darlene Muller at (330) 759-4576. Darlene will let Nancy Burnett know who would like a visit, and then Nancy will invite congregants to participate.

We hope you will consider joining the Tzedek Committee! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 18, 12-1 p.m. in Handler Hall.

The JCRC is sponsoring a community-wide Mitzvah Day on Sunday, Oct. 22.

Mari Alschuler and Nancy Burnett
Co-Chairs