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ON THE COVER

L'Shana Tova!

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greetings, recipes,
and more.*

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see pages 16-29

JCC swim team has successful year

see page 13



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

August 28 7:44 p.m.
September 4 7:32 p.m.
September 11 7:20 p.m.
September 12 *8:18 p.m.
September 18 7:08 p.m.
September 20 7:05 p.m.
September 25 6:57 p.m.
September 26 *7:54 p.m.

**Light from a preexisting flame*

October 2 6:45 p.m.
October 3 *7:42 p.m.
October 9 6:33 p.m.
October 16 6:22 p.m.
October 23 6:12 p.m.
October 30 6:03 p.m.
Daylight Savings Time ends
November 6 4:54 p.m.
November 13 4:47 p.m.

MAILING LABEL



LISA'S LONG VIEW

Builders of community

A Message From Lisa Long
Federation Chief Executive Officer

We talk about mission. We talk about impact. We talk about budgets, strategy, and growth. But we don't always talk about how the way we show up for one another shapes the very community we are trying to build. The tone in our meetings, the questions we ask, the way we challenge ideas, the way we respond in moments of disagreement — all of it matters.

Jewish communal work is not just a job. For many professionals, especially those who are part of the Jewish com-

munity themselves, this work is deeply personal. It is identity. It is responsibility. It is, at times, all-consuming.

In Jewish tradition, we are taught in *Pirkei Avot*: “*Al tifrosh min ha'tzibur*,” do not separate yourself from the community. We often think of this as a call to participate. But it is also a reminder that once we are part of a community, we are responsible for how that community feels and functions.

Another teaching in *Pirkei Avot* reminds us: “*Chacham lev yikach mitzvot*,”

the wise of heart take hold of opportunities to do good. Leadership is one of those opportunities. Every question we ask, every comment we make, every reaction we have is a chance to either strengthen or strain the people doing this work. Strong organizations are not built solely on strategy; they are built on trust and the belief that the people in the room are capable, committed, and trying every day to move the community forward.

Judaism does not ask us to avoid hard conversations. In fact, *Pirkei Avot* teaches: “*Eizehu chacham? Halomed Mikol Adam*.” Who is wise? One who learns from every person.

Leadership requires thoughtful questions, accountability and high standards. But leading also requires how we ask questions, like are we creating space for learning and growth, are we assuming positive intent, are we helping people succeed? Because accountability delivered with partnership builds stronger organizations. Accountability delivered without it can have the opposite effect.

Every organization carries history, suc-

cesses, challenges and lessons learned. Leadership calls us to focus not only on where we've been, but on where we are going. Again in *Pirkei Avot*, we are reminded: “*Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hibatel mimena*.” It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to walk away from it. This work belongs to all of us. And it requires all of us — professionals and lay leaders alike — to approach it with a shared sense of purpose.

One person does not create the culture of an organization. It is built collectively, interaction by interaction, conversation by conversation. When people feel respected, trusted, and supported, they do their best work. And when people do their best work, the entire community benefits.

That is the kind of community I am working toward. One that is thoughtful, collaborative, and reflects the very values we hope to uphold. Because in the end, the question is not just what we build but how we build it and how we treat one another along the way.



NANCY'S NOTES

Memories

By Nancy Burnett

My grandmother, Rubie Dean Buchwalter, was born in 1885. Early in life she was a school teacher in a one-room school house in Lordstown, Ohio. Following her marriage, she and her husband moved to Warren, Ohio, where he opened a business and they raised two daughters.

My cousin once told me we came from a long line of strong women, and I think she was right. My grandmother was one of the first women in the county to own her own car — much to my grandfather's dismay. (He thought they were “new fan-

gled” and would never catch on with the general population.) She used that car to drive to California on dirt roads with two female friends.

She was a proud suffragette and a founding member of the local Home Culture Club, a group of like-minded women who met monthly to deliver well researched and “scholarly” papers on topics of national interest — projects which required frequent trips to the Warren Public Library as there was no Google.

Following the death of her husband in

1946, she gave up her home and moved in with her two daughters, one in Warren and one in Cleveland, where she shared her time equally with each family and helped raise her five grandchildren.

She was a story teller who regaled us often with tales of her youth. Our favorite was listening to stories of Lambie, their pet lamb, who used to hop stiff legged through their kitchen and exit to dine on my great-grandmother's flower bed. She could recite the names of the presidents in order (there weren't so many then) and would point out all the constellations in the sky.

At this time of year, fond memories come flooding back to me as I think of all the lessons she taught us. In particular, I remember a poem she shared with us annually — a poem I have now recited annually to my children and which they in turn recite to their children. It is a poem written in the late 1800s by the American poet George Cooper.

I share it now with you in the hope it will find its way into many more families in the future and with the sincere hope

that we each pass on memories of those who lived productive yet unremarkable lives — and whom we loved.

The Leaves and the Wind

By George Cooper

“Come little leaves,” said the wind one day,
Come o'er the meadow with me and play;
Put on your dresses of red and gold,
For summer is gone
and the days grow cold.

Soon as the leaves heard the wind's
loud call,
Down they came fluttering, one and all.
Over the brown fields they danced
and flew,
Singing the glad little songs they knew.

Dancing and whirling, the little
leaves went,
Winter had called them, and they
were content;
Soon fast asleep in their earthy beds,
The snow laid a cover lid over their heads.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

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October 19 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Hanukkah Issue. Submissions may be edited for length and/or clarity. The Jewish Journal does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.

The Jewish Journal is now accepting opinion columns. Send submissions to journal@jewishyoungstown.org as a Word document. Include name and contact information. Acceptance is at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for clarity.

Mezuzah ceremony marks new chapter for Schwartz Holocaust and Antisemitism Resource Center

By Liron Daniel

*Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
Israel engagement/program coordinator*

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation recently celebrated the hanging of a *mezuzah* at the entrance of the newly renovated Schwartz Holocaust and Antisemitism Resource Center, located within the Jewish Community Center.

The ceremony brought together community members, educators, JCC staff, and students from the Early Learning Center at the JCC. Rabbi Seth Sternstein of Temple El Emeth led the blessing and affixed the *mezuzah* to the doorway, marking the center as a place dedicated to Jewish learning, remembrance, and community engagement.

A *mezuzah* contains a handwritten parchment inscribed with verses from the Torah, including the Shema prayer. Traditionally placed on the right doorpost of Jewish homes and Jewish communal spaces, it serves as a reminder of faith, values, and the connection between everyday life and Jewish tradition.

For the young children who attended, the ceremony offered a meaningful introduction to Jewish customs and heritage. Through age-appropriate explanations and participation in the event, students learned about the significance of the *mezuzah* and the importance of preserving Jewish traditions across generations.

The Schwartz Holocaust and Antisemitism Resource Center serves as an educational resource for the community, providing programs, materials, and opportunities for learning about the Holocaust,

Jewish history, and contemporary antisemitism. The *mezuzah* hanging symbolized not only the completion of a renovation project but also the center’s ongoing commitment to education, memory, and Jewish continuity.

As community members gathered around the doorway, the ceremony served as a reminder that every entrance can represent a commitment to learning, understanding, and passing Jewish values from one generation to the next.



Liron Daniel, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Israel engagement/program coordinator, explained what a mezuzah is.

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Second annual car show held



Adult Day Services at Heritage Manor held its second annual classic car show in June. Meant to celebrate Father's Day with clients, it included food, live music, an ice cream truck, and prizes. A blue Cutlass took

first place, a black Bonneville second, and a red Chevelle third. ADS clients voted on the winners. Pictured from left is Sandy Jones with her granddaughter Jessica Edwards, an LPN at Levy Gardens Assisted Living.

L'SHANAH TOVAH!

Wishing you the blessings of good health, fortune, and happiness throughout the coming year.



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High Holidays and the midterms

By Yankel Golden

*President & Rabbi
Children of Israel Congregation*

As we approach the upcoming midterm elections, many people see them as a time of accountability. Whether or not you follow politics, the idea that growth begins with honest self-reflection is one we can all appreciate. This time offers those in leadership an opportunity to reflect on the past, recognize what worked, acknowledge shortcomings, and decide how to best move forward.

In many ways, this serves as a mashal (parable) for the Jewish High Holidays.

While Rosh Hashanah is often called the Jewish New Year, our Sages teach that it is much more than that. It is Yom HaDin—the Day of Judgment. The Mishnah teaches that on Rosh Hashanah every person passes before Hashem to be judged for the coming year. It is a reminder that our lives matter, our choices matter, and that every day presents us with an opportunity to become a better version of ourselves.

The key message is that although judgment is a central part of this season, it is

always accompanied by hope.

Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Hashem gives us the opportunity to reflect, repair, and return. By returning to Hashem through prayer, charity, and acts of kindness, we strengthen our relationship with Him and with the people around us.

The Rambam teaches that the world hangs in a delicate balance, where even the smallest mitzvah or act of kindness can tip the scales toward the good. It may seem like a small thing, but one mitzvah, one heartfelt prayer, or one sincere act of kindness can make a difference—not only in our own lives, but for all of Klal Yisroel (the Jewish people).

This High Holiday season, I pray that each of us will take that first step: to open our hearts to Hashem, reconnect with our loved ones, strengthen our bond with the Jewish people, and, perhaps reconnect with ourselves.

May this be a year of health, peace, blessing, and spiritual growth for you, your family, and the entire Jewish people.

May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Best Wishes For A

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New Year*

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Please visit coiyoungstown.org for our High Holiday schedule and announcements. We look forward to welcoming you and your family this High Holiday season.

Our Mission

Children of Israel is dedicated to sustaining traditional Jewish life and meaningful connection within the Youngstown Jewish community. If you would like to support this mission, please consider making a donation by scanning our QR code.

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Preparing for the prayers



By Rabbi Courtney
L. M. Berman

One of the gifts of Jewish prayer is that it welcomes our questions alongside our faith. The High Holy Days, especially, invite us into conversation — with God, tradition, and ourselves. This

conversation can be comforting or challenging, and often it is both.

If you're coming to services this year, whether you attend every week or only once a year, I would like to offer one suggestion: Don't worry about agreeing with every word you read.

The High Holy Day prayer book contains some of the most beautiful poetry in Judaism. It also contains some of the most difficult. We encounter prayers that speak of judgment, of the Book of Life, and of our very destinies. For many modern Jews, these passages raise more questions than answers. And yet, rather than diminishing the experience, those questions can become part of the prayer itself.

Our tradition has never expected every Jew to understand every prayer in the same way. In fact, many of our greatest commentators spent centuries debating what these words really mean. The prayers themselves have endured not because every generation interpreted them identically, but because every generation found something worth wrestling with.

Take "Unetaneh Tokef," one of the best-known pieces of liturgy of the season. It speaks in powerful images about life and death, blessing and hardship. Whether we hear those words literally, metaphorically, or somewhere in between, the prayer asks us to con-

front something we often spend the rest of the year avoiding: the reality that life is precious because it is finite.

At the same time, the prayer reminds us that while we cannot control everything that happens to us, we also are not powerless. The familiar words — *teshuvah*, *tefillah*, and *tzedakah* — teach that repentance, prayer, and acts of generosity can lessen the severity of the decree. However we understand that line theologically, it points us toward the timeless truth that we always retain the ability to shape the people we become.

Years ago, psychiatrist and Holocaust Survivor Viktor Frankl wrote "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." [1] Those words echo an important truth of this season. We cannot choose every circumstance of our lives, but we can choose how we respond. We can choose compassion over resentment, gratitude over bitterness, hope over despair. In the language of Deuteronomy, we can continue to *choose life*. [2]

This year, as you open the *machzor*, I encourage you not to just rush through the pages trying to keep up. Let a phrase catch your attention. Sit with a question that makes you uncomfortable. Read a prayer more than once. If a passage doesn't reflect exactly what you believe, ask what it might be trying to teach you or what conversation it strives to begin.

The High Holy Days are not an examination where there is one right set of answers. They are an invitation to honest reflection, meaningful conversation, and spiritual growth. If you come with an open heart, you may discover that the prayers have more to say than you remembered.

*L'shanah tovah u'metukah,
To a good and sweet new year.*

[1] Viktor E. Frankl, "Man's Search for Meaning" (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006), 75.

[2] Deuteronomy 30:19 from Parashat Nitzavim, words we will read on Yom Kippur morning at OBS

CONGREGATION
OHEV BETH SHOLOM

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REGISTRATION is now open!

Use this link to register:

<https://benevolate.com/form/obs/religious-school-registration-2026-2027>

First day of Religious School is Sunday, September 27 with a welcome back Sukkot program.

Contact RabbiJessie@ohvethsholom.org with any questions.

OHEV BETH SHOLOM'S High Holidays | 2026 - 5787

Cemetery Services

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Rosh Hashanah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner | 5:30pm (RSVP required)

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service | 8pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

**Rosh Hashanah Family Service | 9am

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service | 10am

Tashlich Service | 1pm (at Crandall Park)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service | 10am

Family Apple Picking | 1pm (Location TBD)

Yom Kippur

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

**Kol Nidre Dinner | 5:30pm (RSVP required)

**Kol Nidre Service | 8pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

**Yom Kippur Family Service | 9am

**Yom Kippur Morning Service | 10am

Study Session | 1pm

Free Hour | 2pm - 3pm

Afternoon Service | 3pm

Yizkor | 4:30pm

Neilah | 5pm

CONGREGATION
OHEV BETH SHOLOM

Havdalah & Break Fast immediately following the conclusion of Neilah

Most services will have an online option

**Babysitting available with RSVP (ages 2-6)

Additional optional activities for religious school aged students (ages 6+) offered during the 10 am Rosh Hashanah morning service on September 12 and the 10 am morning service on Yom Kippur.

Ohev Beth Sholom's High Holiday Family Events



Family Services | 9am

- Saturday, September 12
- Monday, September 21

This service is designed for families with children from birth up to 4th grade, however all are welcome. It will be led by Rabbi Courtney Berman & Rabbi Jessie Locketz.



Student Aged Activities | 10am

- Saturday, September 12
- Monday, September 21

Families who are staying for the 10am service have a few options. Students are welcome to join their parents in the sanctuary for the service. Or, new this year, Rabbi Jessie will be leading additional activities in the Religious School wing for students (ages 6+). Students can join her for part of the morning or the entirety of the service.



Family Apple Picking | 1pm

- Sunday, September 13 | Location TBD



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Four reasons for Jewish self-respect at Rosh Ha-shanah



Rabbi Seth Sternstein
Temple El Emeth

We have just witnessed the Michigan primaries in which the leftist, self-proclaimed antizionist, democratic socialist candidate squeaked out a victory over the “centrist” Democrat candidate. We have just seen the House vote to cut off aid to Israel, which more than 100 Democrats supported. We also hear politically-far right broadcasters continue their diatribes against Israel, and Jews in America. As has always been the case throughout Jewish history, Jews are caught in the middle.

Our response, in the past, to these provocateurs, has usually been cautious and tepid. Many Diaspora Jews believed that we should continue to act deferentially, and not rock the boat. Ultimately — the hopeful thinking went — antisemites will be convinced of our goodness, and will moderate their animosity towards us.

With the tremendous rise in antisemitism here and abroad, we run the risk of diminishing Jewish self-respect. Reports indicate that many Jews are afraid of expressing their Jewishness publicly. They are afraid to voice their solid support for Israel. They may even begin to develop negative feelings about their, or their fellows’ Jewish identity. We therefore need a good strong dose of *chizzuk*. *Chizzuk* means strengthening the Jewish psyche. With a new Jewish year approaching, we would do well to think about casting aside, in the coming year, the odious comments of those who wish to belittle, demean, and excoriate us. This coming year ought to be one in which we exhibit pride in who we are, what we represent, and how Israel — our national homeland — showcases the best of our peoples’ self-determination. In short, it is time to stop apologizing for who we are, how we act,

and how our Jewish national leaders conduct themselves.

Fellow Jews who maintain that antisemitism would greatly diminish “if only the Israeli government would change” are mistaken, and suffer from four intellectual deficiencies.

First, insisting that Israel is a democracy “just like America” is neither helpful nor necessary. Nowhere does our tradition demand that we establish a democracy as our form of government. Yes, many democratic practices fit nicely within a Jewish framework. But, we are not commanded to grant each and every person the exact same rights. In fact, we are commanded to rid the land of vicious attackers, who, if not removed, will remain a “thorn in our side.” Those non-Jews who live in Israel and respect Jewish law as it applies to them are quite welcome to remain and prosper with everyone else. The Torah, itself, refers to these people as “*ger toshav*” — resident aliens — who must be treated respectfully and fairly. We are not obligated, however, to extend courtesies of any kind to those who seek to injure, kill, or expel our people.

Second, Jews are not “occupying” Palestine. Quite the contrary. Since the time of Abraham and Sarah, 3,800 years ago, Jews have always lived in Judea, Samaria, and other parts of the country. That makes us the “indigenous people of the area.” Indigenous, despite forcible removal of large numbers of Jews by the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Romans. Indeed, only after the year 632 CE did Islam become a force which sought to dominate the Middle East. Even moderate Islam treats Jews as *dhimmi*, or second class citizens, who must pay a heavy *jizya*, or “protection tax.” This is to say nothing of those violent Islamists who wish to rid Israel of Jews. We do not have to issue a mea culpa for stealing anyone’s land. It is Jewish land, and anyone who wishes to live peacefully will benefit from the Israeli health, education and welfare systems which tower above so many other neigh-

Four reasons continued on page 45

TEE holds annual meeting



Temple El Emeth held their Annual Congregational Meeting recently. Included were committee reports and the installation of new board mem-

bers and officers. Pictured from left is outgoing President Jeffrey Marlin and incoming Co-Presidents Dr. Harriet Schor and Lisa Mirman.

Youngstown Mayor speaks at synagogue



Temple El Emeth hosted Mayor Derrick McDowell at a Synagogue dinner recently. McDowell spoke about his vision for the city of Youngstown’s

future. Pictured from left are Rabbi Seth Sternstein; McDowell; Nettie McDowell; and Lisa Mirman, El Emeth president.

TEE honors office manager



Temple El Emeth recently honored its office manager, Nancy Sanders, at a Shabbat service and luncheon for her 30 years of devoted service to El Emeth. Tributes were given by Rabbi Seth Sternstein, President Jeffrey Marlin, and Past President Sam Roth, who read a mes-

sage to Nancy from Dr. Howard Kramer who was president of El Emeth when Sanders became office manager. Sanders is shown here with her husband, Bryan, her sister, and some of her children and grandchildren. A special gift and plaque of recognition were also presented to her.

Cantor Charles Taub to serve as cantor for high holidays



Cantor Charles Taub

Temple El Emeth is pleased to announce that Cantor Charles Taub will serve as High Holiday Cantor this year.

Originally from Ontario, Canada, Cantor Taub studied at the University of Toronto, Ner Israel Yeshiva, and Or Chaim Yeshiva in Toronto. He brings a wealth of cantorial experience, having served congregations across Canada, Israel, and the United States.

Blessed with a rich, warm, full-bodied baritone voice and a dynamic, engaging presence, Cantor Taub inspires worshippers through both his musical talent and his heartfelt leadership.

Cantor Taub and his wife, Miriam, are the proud parents of five children and eighteen grandchildren.

L'Shana Tova

from Temple El Emeth!

Wishing you and your loved ones good health,
happiness and peace in 5787

We invite you to join us in person
or by live streaming for our
High Holiday services featuring
Rabbi Seth Sternstein and Cantor Charles Taub.

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2026 HIGH HOLIDAY EVENTS AT TEMPLE EL EMETH

- Saturday, September 5,** Selichot program and service
- Friday, September 11,** Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner by paid reservation and Service
- Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13,** Rosh Hashanah services
- Sunday, September 20,** Tailgating Tashlich at Liberty Park
- Sunday, September 20,** Kol Nidre dinner by paid reservation and Service
- Monday, reservation September 21,** Yom Kippur service and Break the Fast by paid reservation
- Wednesday, September 23,** Adult Sukkah Decorating with Coffee and Donuts
- Saturday, September 26,** First day of Sukkot services
- Sunday, September 27,** Second day of Sukkot services followed by BYODL (Bring Your Own Dairy Lunch) to eat in the Sukkah
- Saturday, October 3,** Shimini Atzeret Services and Yizkor
- Sunday, October 4,** Simchat Torah Celebration and brunch

Please call the Synagogue office for specific times and details of events and services. Security is present at all events and will check names of people attending at the entrance.

MITZVAH DAY 2026

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- Akiva Sock Drive
- Personal Hygiene Drive
- November 2-20

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To register as a volunteer contact Melissa at 330.746.3250 ext. 159 or mbateman@jewishyoungstown.org.



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
OF THE YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION

Laura Silverman



Mazel tov to Laura on becoming one of the newest members of the Logan's Landing Project board of directors. Laura holds a degree in sociology from The Ohio State University and has called the Youngstown area home

for the past 20 years. As the mom of a five-year-old son on the autism spectrum and twin daughters heading off to college, she understands firsthand the challenges many families face navigating school systems, therapies, and accessing services. Laura has worked as both a substitute teacher and school office staff member, experiences that gave her a deeper appreciation for the unique needs of every child and family. She has been inspired by Logan's Landing's mission and has enjoyed participating in park meetups and seeing the impact of their communication boards and safety initiatives throughout the community. Logan's Landing Project's mission is to create a more inclusive world for children with autism and sensory needs. They work to break down barriers through education, advocacy, and hands-on support.



LET THIS BE THE YEAR YOU JOIN B'NAI B'RITH

The B'nai B'rith Aaron Grossman Lodge #339 of Youngstown Ohio wishes you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

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Art Einzig
YAJCA Director

Several weeks ago, I received a call from Steven Eppstein, an optician in Hubbard: “Hi Art, I’m calling you about a headstone question — but I’ll have to call you back. I have a call

coming in — bye.”

We missed each other on back and forth calls, but finally connected. Steven’s story was a fascinating one. One that I had never heard before. I said to myself, “What’s this all about?”

We agreed to meet in two days at Steven’s house — I arrived and Steven led me into his garage, and sitting in front of us was a mysterious marble headstone with carved Hebrew letters, worn, but all letters still legible. Resting on a burlap cushion in a wheelbarrow this weathered marble headstone sat silently, waiting for someone to rescue it, and maybe to find its original home and whose grave it marked some decades earlier. I felt like I was in a scene from the Maltese Falcon with Humphrey Bogart at that moment.

We found seats in the garage on that perfect Spring morning sipping iced tea in the company of our unknown, newly found friend, our mysterious headstone, just a few feet away from us, as if we were including it in our conversation. “Where did it come from? Whose marker was it?” Steven began to tell me how he received this precious piece of Youngstown Jewish history.

“A friend of mine, who knows I’m Jewish, called me to tell me he had a Jewish headstone in his possession. This friend of mine, Dennis Emtage, had this acquaintance, Tanner Sarty, who owns an auto repair garage on Indianola Avenue and as a hobby forages around the Southside with his metal detector finding all kinds of pieces of Youngstown history — but never a tombstone with symbols carved into its face looking like Hebrew letters.”

“He also knew there was a Jewish cemetery at the top of the ravine where the

headstone may have originally been set. Tanner knew his friend Dennis had a Jewish friend — me, and gave Dennis the headstone to give to me.”

That cemetery, just above the ravine, was created in 1897, and is home to about seventy-five graves. It is our historic Knox Street Cemetery, hidden from the rest of the world behind trees. Located off of South Avenue just south of the 680 expressway ramp, one side of the street is home to a short row of neatly kept houses and the other side has a couple of small industrial-like buildings.

Steven continued his story about this recent acquisition. “...When Dennis Emtage brought me the stone, which you can see isn’t exactly light, I knew who to call because I had been reading the cemetery articles in the Youngstown Jewish Journal, and that’s why you’re here today.”

(As a footnote to this story, we’re fortunate to have had these circumstances fall into place. A complete stranger finds a headstone in a ravine, knows its markings are Hebrew and is aware of a Jewish cemetery just above this ravine. Furthermore, Tanner has a friend, Dennis, who has a Jewish acquaintance, Steven, who had read about our cemeteries in past issues of the Youngstown Jewish Journal, and called me.)

After our meeting in the garage, I shared the headstone photos with Chaya Kessler, my “go-to Hebrew expert” first, and then, while in conversation with Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan, I also sent Rabbi Mitch photos. Both responded with almost the same translation of the stone’s Hebrew!

And here it is — the name on the stone beginning with the first line of three lines is “Chana bat Esther.” The second Hebrew line is Yiddish for Sheinfel (or close to it). And finally the birth and death dates, 1899–1910.

So now we have a name and birth and death dates. Our own records do not show any more clues about this headstone or if it once stood somewhere in the Knox Street Cemetery, but we’ll continue to search for “Chana.” Our next steps will be to see if the greater Youngstown Jewish community can yield additional answers, and then we’ll search public records in Mahoning County. Stay tuned as our search for continues — and let us know anything you might know.



Steel entrance arch into the Youngstown Benevolent Association Cemetery founded in 1890 by the order of Benjamin David Lodge No. 58.



The mysterious headstone — without a home.

Logan Ducks have successful year



The Logan Ducks took second place in their division at the championship meet.

The Logan Ducks, JCC's swim team, had their most successful year since Coach Shannon Pecchia came on board.

Participants increased over last year, to 106 up from 80. In 2020 they were just 46.

"I think the reason that participation has increased is entirely to do with our head coach, Shannon Pecchia," said Tara Bishop, JCC wellness & aquatics director. "Prior to her coming in, Logan was having a problem with coach turnover. So, not only is she a fantastic coach, but her presence has offered the consistency that is so important to swimmer development."

The team won three of their seven dual meets. One of the wins was against Poland Swim and Tennis Club, which the team hasn't beaten since 1999, Bishop noted. They also took second place in their division at the championship meet. Hundreds of personal best times were also achieved.

"The additional programs we offer, such as swim lessons, the spring swim clinic, and our Ducklings team help to build the team as well," Bishop said.

She also notes that Coach Shannon has a great philosophy: She firmly believes that the purpose of swim team is to build a foundation of hard work and cooperation, focusing on teamwork in order to achieve personal accomplishment.

"That's what makes swim team so unique," Bishop said. "You're building yourself and striving to become a better, faster swimmer, but there is also a team atmosphere that is so important to build a love for the sport."

"Swim team offers a sense of belonging, confidence, and friendships that can last a lifetime. It's a sport they are able to do for the rest of their lives," Bishop added.

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CWB educator spotlight: Brian Bugos, Federation's 2026 Ally of the Year



Melissa Bateman
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
director of community
engagement

This article is part of an ongoing Jewish Journal series highlighting educators who have participated in the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's Classrooms Without Borders Poland Seminar. Through their experiences, these teachers

continue to enrich Holocaust education in their classrooms and communities, ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are preserved for future generations while inspiring students to confront antisemitism, prejudice, and hatred in all its forms.

When Newton Falls High School social studies teacher Brian Bugos first learned about the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's partnership with Classrooms Without Borders, he was searching for new ways to help his students better understand difficult concepts in psychology, sociology, and history. He never imagined the experience would become one of the most meaningful chapters of his 25-year teaching career.

On August 19, at the Federation's Annual Meeting, Bugos received Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's 2026 Ally of the Year Award, an annual honor recognizing an individual or organization outside the Jewish community whose dedication to combating antisemitism, strengthening understanding of Jewish life, and supporting Israel has made a lasting impact. His work both inside and outside the classroom embodies the spirit of the award.

A veteran educator at Newton Falls High School, Bugos teaches American history, government, psychology, sociology, and college credit plus history courses. Throughout his career, he has believed that history is most meaning-

ful when students can connect it to the people and communities around them.

In preparation for traveling to Poland in 2025, Bugos immersed himself in learning about the local Jewish community. He met with several second-generation Holocaust Survivors to hear their families' stories firsthand and better understand the personal legacies carried by local families. After returning home, he continued that learning by touring the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation campus, visiting local synagogues, and exploring two Jewish cemeteries, gaining a deeper appreciation for the community whose history he now shares with his students.

The journey remains vivid in his mind, however, one image has remained with him more than any other. While many visitors remember the vast collections of shoes displayed at Auschwitz and Majdanek, Bugos cannot shake the memory of a child's single red shoe. As the father of daughters, he immediately thought of the little girl who once proudly wore it.

"That red shoe once filled a little girl with confidence and pride," he reflected. "It was stolen from her along with her life by people who refused to value her. I can't get that shoe out of my head, nor do I want to."

For Bugos, that single artifact transformed the Holocaust from incomprehensible statistics into one individual life. It serves as a constant reminder that every victim had a name, a family, dreams, and a future that was stolen. It is a lesson he now strives to pass on to every student who enters his classroom.

Rather than limiting Holocaust instruction to a single unit in history class, Bugos has woven its lessons throughout his psychology and sociology curriculum, challenging students to examine prejudice, the dangers of "othering," moral decision-making, and the value of every human life. His students have participated in numerous Federation programs, including Holocaust Survivor testimony, second-generation Survivor presentations, the Student to Student

program, a screening of "The Cure for Hate," and discussions that encourage students to connect history with their own responsibilities as citizens.

For Bugos, Holocaust education extends far beyond learning historical facts.

"The great bulwark against genocide is democracy—not simply the act of voting, but the belief that every life has value and deserves to exist," he said. "Holocaust education allows us to explore the importance of democracy through the worst possible case study in its failure. By retelling the lives of the victims, we declare the essential value of all people. By studying the antisemitism that led to those events, students learn the dangers of othering."

Those lessons greet students every day as they enter and leave his classroom. Hanging on his classroom walls are two posters inspired by his experience in Poland. One depicts the milk cans used by the Oneg Shabbat group to pre-



Brian Bugos

serve the Ringelblum Archives beneath the Warsaw Ghetto, reminding students that preserving history is itself an act of resistance. The other features Holocaust

Bugos continued on page 45

JCRC and OCCHA team up for 'Lunch of Unity'



The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and OCCHA held a "Lunch of Unity" at the JCC in June. Each organization invited people to participate. The cultural exchange included Israeli food, Hispanic desserts, cultural Bingo, and the

opportunity to learn Israeli and Hispanic dances. The authentic Israeli lunch was prepared by Israeli chef Yuval Rub. OCCHA's senior group provided the traditional Hispanic desserts. Pictured is Liron Daniel, Federation Israel engagement/program coordinator, at the event.



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September 10-October 14

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Please make monetary donations payable to the Second Harvest Food Bank and mail to Jewish Community Relations Council, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504

jewishyoungstown.org/fooddrive

Jewish Heritage Day at Scrappers



The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation celebrated Jewish Heritage Day at a Mahoning Valley Scrappers game in June. Members of the community from Levy Gardens Assisted Living, Heritage

Manor Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, PJ Library, Our Gang, and more enjoyed a kosher-style cookout with hotdogs and veggie burgers. A commemorative T-shirt was available.

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EVERYONE WELCOME

Welcome to a new year at the JCC Early Learning Center! With new administrative leadership and a renewed energy, we are honored to partner with families in guiding our youngest learners. We see every child as a curious, capable explorer. Grounded in core Jewish values like *chesed* (kindness) and *kehillah* (community), our goal is to foster an inclusive, safe, and supportive home-away-from-home where children build a lifelong love of learning, discovery, and connection.



Lippy Scholarship applications due Oct. 26

The Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation is accepting applications for the Sandra Lippy Scholarship Fund for Young Adults. This scholarship fund was created in 1994 through gifts given in commemoration of Sandra Lippy's Bat Mitzvah. The fund assists teens, age 14 and older, in participating in the March of the Living, summer programs in Israel, and Jewish leadership camps/programs. Jewish continuity and the

communal experience is very important to Lippy, who herself studied at an ulpan in Israel. She hopes that this fund will help open the eyes and hearts of young people in the Valley and inspire them to step up to the plate and provide the leadership necessary to maintain a vibrant Jewish community. For an application, visit yajfoundation.org/scholarships. The deadline to apply is October 26.

Federation holds annual Major Donor Appreciation Evening

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation held its 2026 Major Donor Appreciation Evening at the home of Cari Immerman and Dr. Bruce Willner in June.

Guests enjoyed Jewish classics reimagined, dishes inspired by cuisines from around the world, and specialty cocktails crafted with the new Esther rum, all created by Chef Alison Gutwaks of Columbus. Gutwaks is a private chef and Chief Culinary Officer of AliBabka, a business known for creating exceptional cuisine that just happens to be kosher. With over two decades of experience as a chocolatier, caterer, recipe developer, and culinary instructor, her work

has spanned companies in many countries and she has appeared in many publications. Today, Gutwaks curates elevated, custom dining experiences for families and businesses in Columbus and across the U.S.

The speaker for the evening was the newly hired president and CEO of Ohio Jewish Communities, Josh Kramer. In this role, he advances public policy, strengthens partnerships, and promotes the safety and vitality of Jewish communities across the state. Kramer shared a little about his new role and answered questions. The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is part of OJC.



Josh Kramer was the speaker for the 2026 Major Donor Appreciation Evening.

Federation holds annual meeting



Pictured from left are honorees Brian Bugos, Marty Solomon, Alan Mirkin, Ronna Marlin, Rick Marlin, Elliot Legow, Arnie Clebone, Dr. Nancy Wagner, CEO Lisa Long, and Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board President Mark Huberman.

The Annual Meeting of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation was Aug. 19 at the Jewish Community Center's Logan Campus.

Alice Franklin, Mark Huberman, and Suzyn Schwebel Epstein were elected to the Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board for terms ending in 2029.

Awards were presented to:

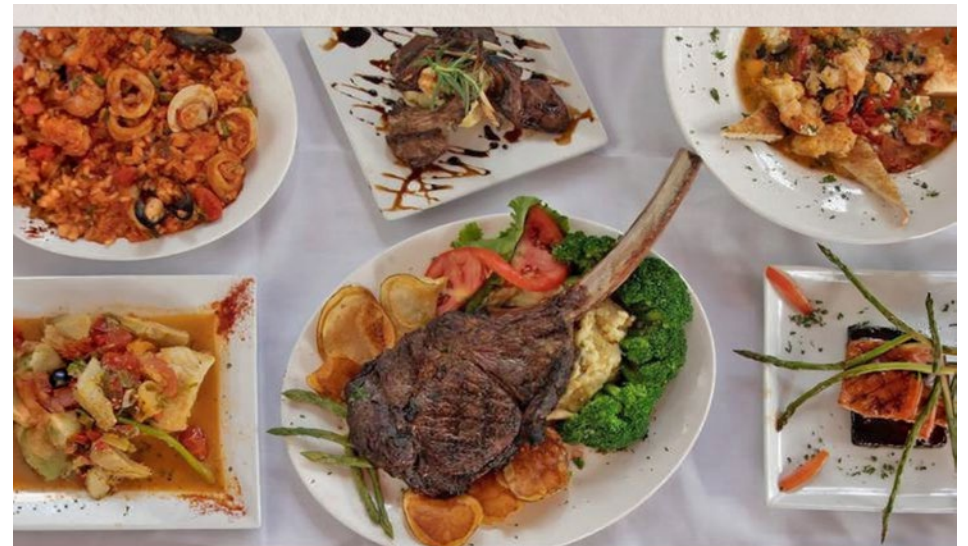
Arnie Clebone - Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award

Myra & Bill Benedikt and Rick & Ronna Marlin - Abe Harshman Leadership Award

Alan Mirkin and Marty Solomon and their families - Marvin & Sara Itts Community Service Award

Brian Bugos - Ally of the Year

Atty. Elliot Legow, outgoing Youngtown Area Jewish Foundation president, and Dr. Nancy Wagner, outgoing human services advisory board chair, were recognized for their service.



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Alan Mirkin and Marty Solomon and their families receive Itts Community Service Award

This year's recipients of the Marvin and Sara Itts Award are Alan Mirkin and Marty Solomon and their families for their part in the formation of the Altshuler Akiva Academy, Goldstone-Mirkin Family Middle School at the Suzi Solomon Campus building. This award is given to a person or persons or an organization that made a noteworthy contribution of constructive value to the social, educational, civic or philanthropic betterment of the community.



Alan Mirkin grew up on the North Side of Youngstown. He attended the preschool at the Jewish Community Center. He was a camp counselor. His father-in-law ran a business across the street from the JCC for years, a business Alan ultimately took over.

"So this building in this neighborhood has been in my blood literally since birth," he said. "That's such a great thing, you know? And now to be able to be in a position where I can give back is wonderful to me."

He's served as JCC President multiple times, as well as Youngstown Area

Jewish Federation President.

"The place is in my blood," he said.

Alan donated the building at 520 Gypsy Lane that housed the business his father-in-law started and he took over to the Federation and wholeheartedly approves of the decision to use it to expand Akiva Academy.

"I always knew that eventually I would give [the building] to the Federation," he said. "I'm just really, really glad that I can help solidify the presence on Gypsy Lane."

He hopes Akiva thrives. When he was growing up in Youngstown, there were about 8,000 Jews living here. That number has shrunk.

"My goal is to just make sure that there's a Jewish presence in Youngstown," he said.

He appreciates the renovations, noting that it's a "cool" building. While it's not the same as it was, it has the same feel, he said.

"So you're paying tribute to the neighborhood," he added.

He doesn't feel he deserves the award, but he's appreciative none-the-less.

"I did nothing," he said. "I wrote a check. To me, that doesn't deserve an award. That's our obligation. But I am very grateful. It's always nice to have recognition."

He added, "And the other thing is, Marty's wife died when she was very young. My wife died before her time, and the fact that we're able to memorialize two really wonderful people is a good thing. That's amazing."

He and his wife Lori had three children, Kenneth, Kari, and Andrew. They all attended Akiva Academy.

"So that's kind of cool to see that the school is still around after so many years," he said. "And how lucky are we

that we are able to, as a community this size, to have a school of that quality?"

Alan also has two grandchildren.



Marty Solomon has always believed education is important. So when he saw an article in the Jewish Journal about the project to expand Akiva Academy he knew he wanted to be involved.

"I've always been interested in education," he said. "I've supported various educational efforts in different places across the country, particularly in communities where we reside."

He and his first wife, Suzi, who passed away in 2002, both grew up in Youngstown. They had one son Jeffrey, who has three children, Andrew, Brandon, and Shira. They all grew up in Youngstown, and were educated here.

"All of them, one time or another did attend Akiva," he said. "My first wife was very involved with the grandchildren, as you would expect, and interested in their education," he added. "And so, we've had involvement with Akiva over the years."

When the educational wing for the

growing Akiva Academy was added to the Jewish Community Center in 1987 he was chairman of the building committee.

"The educational environment, I think, is quite important," he said. "Not just having a shiny new building, but to have all the modern technology and having the best atmosphere. And of course, none of that is worth anything unless you have good teachers."

His favorite part of the new facility is "the whole thing."

"It seemed like it was well thought out, well designed" he added. "All they need is the students and the teachers to be dedicated, kids come in that want to learn, and, teachers that want to teach. If they're successful in that, they'll be totally successful."

Receiving this award was unexpected, he noted.

"I've done a lot of volunteer work in Youngstown over the years," he said.

He was involved with almost every organization, sat on boards, and served as president.

"I did it because it was my community, and I wasn't the only one that did these kinds of things," he said. "I had friends that were involved. We were all on boards together and committees together. We did things together. We helped our community, we helped our families."

Marty has known the Mirkin and Goldstone families his whole life, and his father built the original building that houses the new middle school facility.

Others could have been recognized for their work on the project, he said, but he thinks it's nice he and Alan Mirkin are being honored.

"I think it is wonderful, and I'm very humble about it," he said.

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Arnold Clebone recipient of Esther Marks Volunteer Service Award



to service, *tzedakah*, justice, and righteousness, and to encourage others to follow in her example.

Arnie serves as a board member for the Aaron Grossman Lodge and is a past president. He currently serves on the board of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Cemeteries Association. He served on the board of the Ohio Jewish Communities and on the Jewish Community Center advisory board. He served on the board of directors of the Mahoning-Youngstown Community Action Partnership. He was Vice Chairman, of what was then the Youngstown Edison Incubator, when it received its initial funding for what became the Youngstown Business Incubator. He was also involved with the funding and establishment of the Common Wealth Kitchen Incubator.

"I think there needs to be people that fill these positions; there needs to be community participation," he says about why he volunteers. "I mean, it's

a necessary thing...and they need the input and the feedback. I think it's important."

Arnie gets satisfaction in filling a role when he volunteers.

It's been a learning process, he notes.

"Because I am a complainer," he added. "And once you get into it, you can see what the issues are, and it is not just an easy thing to fix something."

He feels if others volunteer, they'll see that, too.

"They can get a good grasp of why things aren't what they are, and why you have to listen to different sides," he said.

Though not a volunteer posi-

tion, Arnie is also a Liberty Township Trustee, a position he's held for nine years. He is committed to making Liberty Township an even better place to live, work, and start a business, and believes that revitalizing the Belmont Avenue corridor is an important part of achieving that goal.

"Belmont Avenue is the face of Liberty," he said. "I believe that continuing to improve the corridor will help attract new residents, businesses, and investment, strengthening our community and helping ensure Liberty remains a great place to live, work, and build a future."

Marks Award continued on page 47

Arnold Clebone isn't sure why he was chosen for the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award, but the work he's done shows the reason.

This award is given in memory of Esther Marks to honor her dedication

Brian Bugos named Ally of the Year

Bugos is the subject of this issue's article that's part of an ongoing Jewish Journal series highlighting educators who

have participated in the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's Classrooms Without Borders Poland Seminar. See page 14.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!



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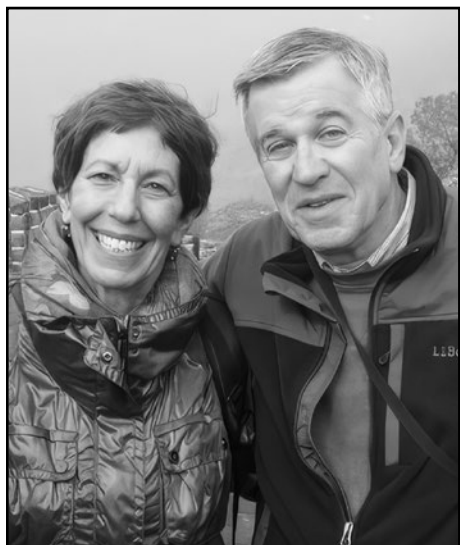
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Benedikts and Marlin's receive leadership award

The Abe Harshman Leadership Award is given annually to recognize a person or persons' leadership and service to the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its agencies. This year's recipients are pillars of our community and while we mostly think of them as units, they have contributed to a tradition of leadership on their own as well. The 2026 Abe Harshman Award is presented to Bill and Myra Benedikt and Rick and Ronna Marlin.



Myra and Bill's connection to the Jewish community has been shaped by family, values, and years of involvement. The couple met while attending the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation, Myra moved to New York City, while Bill moved back to his home town in New York where he worked as a teacher during the day and studied for his MBA at night. The couple then married and moved to Cincinnati, eventually ending up in Youngstown, Myra's hometown, through a family business opportunity.

Bill and his brother-in-law, Howard Sniderman, continued to build the family business. And Bill stayed on through two different ownerships, totaling upwards of 35 years.

For Myra, community involvement was something she grew up with. "My parents were always involved growing up," she said. "My mother was the first president of the Jewish Center, and she

was the president of Hadassah. It was sort of in my DNA too. My father was involved in the temple, but not so much, you know, like chairing committees or anything like that. But he was always an active participant. My mother was just one of those doers."

Growing up in a smaller community, Bill didn't have a lot to do with the local Jewish community outside of some Sunday school attendance. In the beginning of his time in Youngstown, Bill recalls Stanley Engel taking him out to a bar on Belmont Avenue where they talked.

"So, we talked and we talked, and one of the Cafaro boys was there, it was Bill Cafaro actually. And in the middle of our discussion, Stanley solicited him for more money. He had given a pledge, but Stanley wanted more money, so he talked to him about more money. And anyway, after that conversation, I decided that I would take some [Youngstown Area Jewish] Federation pledge cards, and then in the process, I learned about the agencies, and that was my start," Bill recalled.

Bill said, once he became involved, he stayed involved for decades through the Federation, its agencies, and the temples.

Myra served as chair of the Federation and described leadership as being part of something bigger than herself. Bill said leadership gave him "skin in the game" and allowed him to help support the community he cared about. Together, the couple shared the same values and were able to support one another in their leadership roles.

Among their most meaningful experiences was Myra's trip to Ukraine, at the time part of the USSR, and Israel, with Sam Kooperman, where she saw firsthand the strength of Jewish peoplehood and connection across generations and borders. Bill pointed to one of the more difficult but important moments of his leadership, when he helped guide a transition in Federation leadership. Even though it was not an easy part of his leadership, it was important and needed

handled with care. He later worked with Paul Schwebel to form the Youngstown Area Jewish Cemeteries Association, to ensure that the Jewish community would continue to thrive in the future.

Now living in New Jersey, Myra and Bill are enjoying time with their daughters and six grandchildren while still staying active and looking ahead. They say they got more from community involvement than they gave, and their advice to others is simple: get involved, because the community depends on people who are willing to step up.



Rick and Ronna Marlin's story starts in Pittsburgh. She went to school at the University of Pittsburgh and earned a Master's degree in audiology. He attended the University of Michigan and earned a degree in pharmacy. The two met at a mixer in Pittsburgh, where a Pitt sorority and law fraternity were gathering. Ronna was in the sorority, and Rick had been invited by some of his friends in the law fraternity. Ronna said she heard music, saw Rick talking to her sorority sister, and went home that night saying she was going to marry him. They were married a year later in the Tree of Life synagogue.

"He told me that he was going to be moving to Youngstown, and I didn't believe him. So, my mother said. Go ahead, you'll be back in six months, and 49 years later, we're still here. That's the

truth," recalled Ronna.

Rick was working with his cousin Alan Goldstone, of what was then called Allen's Drugtown. Allen's Drugtown became Allen's Pharmaserv, and Rick built a long career in pharmacy serving as Director of Professional Relations, Director of Pharmacy, and Pharmacist in Charge, and later continued as an independent consultant. He also taught at Youngstown State University as a lecturer in upper level Pharmacology.

Ronna worked in a couple of different roles before finding her role in the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation for 22 years at Levy Gardens as Program Coordinator. She has been active for many years at Temple El Emeth, where she served on the board in various positions, was Sisterhood President twice, and was co-president of the temple. She served on the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Adult Board, and also received the Aaron Grossman B'nai B'rith Volunteer Award.

Both have been deeply involved in Jewish communal life. Ronna served on the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's JCRC board, and Rick served as President of the Commission for Jewish Education, as President of the Federation board, and as a member of the Federation investment committee. He has also been active for decades at Temple El Emeth and is currently president of the Youngstown Area Jewish Cemetery Association.

Rick has also served as president of the Ohio Pharmacists Association and the Eastern Ohio Pharmacists Association. Over the years, he has consulted with health care facilities including skilled nursing facilities, hospice, and Belmont Pines Hospital. He was also a founding board member of the Mahoning Valley Epilepsy Fund.

The Marlin's said much of their commitment comes from the example set by their families and their involvement in BBYO. Starting at a young age with BBYO set the tone for the way they build community. If you ask Rick and Ronna

Harshman Award continued on page 45

Outgoing Leadership Award presented to Legow and Wagner



Elliot Legow stepped into the role of Foundation board president when Bruce Sherman approached him about the possibility.

"After serving under Wendy Weiss as chair of the committee I agreed to move up as the chair," he said.

Looking back on his term that's now complete, he says the professionalism of Youngstown Area Jewish Federation CFO Dave Stauffer and working with Lisa Long, and later Courtney Campesi, as Federation Financial Resource Development Directors were highlights.

He particularly enjoyed his lunches out with Lisa and Courtney, "usually to Indian restaurants and introducing Courtney to Indian food," he said.

"When I first started in this role

Elliot was one of the first people Lisa had me meet for lunch," Courtney said. "I really enjoyed getting to know him, hearing about all of his travels with his wife, Christine, and learning about places I can only dream of visiting. He also introduced me to Indian food, which has now become our annual lunch tradition that I always look forward to, and he even gave me a new-found appreciation for opera."

Elliot has been a Shabbat morning service leader at Heritage Manor Skilled Living & Rehabilitation for many years. He was also part of the Senior Living Ritual and Spirituality committee formed by Eric Murray, former Executive Director of Senior Services for the Federation.

During his time as Foundation Board President, Courtney says Elliot was a thoughtful, supportive, and committed leader.

He's volunteered with Ohev Beth Sholom for decades, and is currently Ritual Co-chair. He's Board Chair of Opera Western Reserve, a position he also held in the past, and a member of the WYSU-FM Advisory Committee.

Elliot began work as an attorney in 1978. He's mostly retired at this point, and will officially retire January 1, 2027.

He and Christine enjoy traveling throughout the U.S. and the world. His interests include vegetable gardening, reading, and walking.



Dr. Nancy Wagner served as the Chair of the Federation's Human Services Advisory Board in a term that started before the COVID-19 pandemic, throughout the height of the pandemic lockdowns, and the Heritage Manor Expansion Project. As the Chair, she was the lay leader overseeing Heritage Manor, Adult Day Services at Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens Assisted Living, and Jewish Family & Community Services.

Throughout her six years in that role she was also a member of the Federation Board and the Security, Stanley Engel Fund, Mildred Engel Nurse Scholarship Fund, HR/Personnel, Budget, Capital, Organizational Evaluation and Planning, Levy Gardens, Senior Services Spirituality & Culture, and JFCS Committees.

Nancy is an active member of Hadassah on the national and international levels. She is a member of the Hadassah National Nurses Council and currently serves as the co-chair of the Hadassah Nurse Resource Committee to assist the Hadassah Henrietta Szold School of Nursing at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem with a long-term improvement plan. Currently, she is the President of the Case Western Reserve University Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing Alumni Association.

Nancy had a 30-year career at Youngstown State University in a faculty role then as Director of the Centofanti School of Nursing. She retired in 2023 and continues to be involved at YSU in the role of Professor Emeritus. She has been recognized for her leadership.

"I am most proud of working with the leadership team at Heritage Manor and Levy Gardens to provide a safe environment throughout COVID. While that period was difficult on so many levels for the residents, tenants, and their families, it was a thoughtful process that kept everyone safe. I enjoyed my role as chair of Human Services knowing I was part of a team that impacted lives and meets the needs of those in our Jewish and secular communities," said Nancy.

Nancy enjoys spending time with her husband, Barry, her children and grandchildren, and her cherished friends. Her hobbies include traveling and playing golf.

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**YOUNGSTOWN AREA
JEWISH FEDERATION**

WISHES YOU A HAPPY

Rosh Hashanah

2025-2026



YOUNGSTOWN AREA
JEWISH FEDERATION
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

FINANCIAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

\$1,740,883 in grant funding was received from August 2025 to June 2026 for the Federation and its agencies.

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, along with **Akiva Academy**, broke ground on a new middle school (5th–8th grades). The **\$1.9 million expansion** includes four classrooms, office spaces, and a multipurpose area designed for Shabbat services. This project allows for Akiva Academy to double its current student enrollment. The campaign currently has raised \$1,302,550.

Our 2024 Annual Campaign was a resounding success, raising

\$1,286,814

This achievement was made possible by the unwavering support of more than **368 donors** who support our mission and vision.

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, along with **Akiva Academy**, broke ground on a new middle school (5th–8th grades). The **\$1.9 million expansion** includes four classrooms, office spaces, and a multipurpose area designed for Shabbat services. In the next five years, this project will allow Akiva Academy to double its current student enrollment.



JMEALS

Through the JMeals program, JFCS and JCC provide a critical service for those in need in northern Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull Counties.

Through continued funding from the Trumbull County Senior Levy and Direction Home of Eastern Ohio, JMeals provided nutritious home-delivered meals to eligible lower-income adults age 60 and older in Trumbull and Mahoning counties, helping them remain healthy, independent, and safely in their own homes.

JMeals responded to **more than 100 emergency food requests**, many from older adults or families experiencing unexpected financial hardship, helping individuals and families facing food insecurity.



John, who is a JMeals client, is very impressed by the taste of our meals, saying he can't believe how delicious they are. He also says Mike, who delivers his meals, is a great driver, noting he's relatable, kind, and an all-around nice person to talk with.

JMEALS



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

For a non-Jewish student raised in a household filled with Holocaust denial, our Holocaust education proved life-changing. The stories of Jewish victims and Survivors replaced confusion with truth and transformed indifference into empathy. The student learned to see not statistics, but individual lives, families, dreams, and struggles. By engaging personally with these stories, the student developed a greater appreciation for standing against hatred and intolerance—opening hearts, shaping character, and inspiring the next generation to become more thoughtful, compassionate human beings, one child at a time.



This year's **Yom Hashoah programs** featured the debut of the Abe and Frances Honigman traveling exhibit and documentary film, a moving piece that shares the life and love story of the surviving couple, as well as the inaugural **Zikaron Basalon** (Memories in the Living Room) program.

The JCRC represents the Jewish communities of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys to safeguard the rights of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world.

More than 1,100 students from 15 different school districts attended the annual JCRC-sponsored **lecture with a Holocaust Survivor** who mesmerized all in attendance with her story of survival, redemption, and hope for the future.

Three area teachers and, for the first time, six local high school students participated in the **Classrooms Without Borders trip to Poland** to learn about the Holocaust and Jewish history. The program also welcomed six new schools.

In its **ongoing efforts to combat antisemitism**, the JCRC created a new staff position, Israel engagement and program coordinator, and kicked off the highly successful **Student-to-Student initiative** where local Jewish teens speak to their peers in other schools about their experiences.

Government advocacy remained a high JCRC priority. At the Federal level, the JCRC strongly advocated for **continued support for Israel**, increased security funding for Federation agencies, and capital funding to expand local Federation infrastructure.

JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

JFCS meets the social service needs of the community through diverse programs and services including guardianships, counseling, senior outreach, and home delivered meals.

Through Aging Well programming, caregiver support, technology education, social engagement opportunities, and our JMeals home-delivered meal program, we **served more than 1,200 older adults** while helping them remain healthy, connected, and independent.

JFCS began the process of pursuing **CARF accreditation** for its counseling services. This initiative reflects our commitment to continuous quality improvement, enhanced clinical standards, and expanding access to behavioral health services for the community through nationally recognized best practices.

JFCS strengthened its counseling program by hiring a second full-time licensed mental health counselor, significantly increasing our capacity to serve the growing needs of our community and provide more timely access to high-quality behavioral health services.

Over a decade ago, an individual surviving a traumatic brain injury joined our Guardianship Program with nowhere else to turn. When his latest care facility began to decline in quality care, Guardian Manager, Marc, advocated relentlessly to relocate him to a safe, supportive environment. Today, receiving compassionate care and regular visits, he recently told Marc how grateful he is to have a guardian looking out for him. The individual receives outstanding care for his physical and mental health well being and enjoys taking small trips, outside of the facility with Marc. The individual's brother, who was not able to assume the guardianship responsibility himself, is very pleased with all the services offered to help his loved one.



JCC OF YOUNGSTOWN

The JCC is a full-service community center serving the greater Youngstown area with programs and services for all, rooted in Jewish values.



The JCC had its **largest and most successful camp season ever**. About 490 campers from Kindergarten through eighth grade (an average of over 300 campers/week) enjoyed swimming, art, field trips, and more.

139 students enjoyed programming through JCare and J All Day, **a 51% increase over the previous year**. These programs provide a fun and safe environment for kids after school and during school breaks.

More community members are safer in the water thanks to our swim programs. Our Learn to Swim program was up 40%, swim lessons (private/semi) were up 22%, certification classes were up 20%, and P.A.L.'s was up 35% from last year.

106 swimmers competed on our Logan Ducks swim team, **a 32% increase from last summer**.

The Early Learning Center's Step Up to Quality visit to assess our Gold Rated standing resulted in **a perfect report**. Additionally, a new ELC classroom was opened. **We now have 11 classrooms** providing care and education for our youngest community members.

Suffering a bad injury last year, Jackie knew he needed to find a place to rehabilitate. The J was convenient to his house so he joined. He's discovered the joy of using much of the equipment in the Fitness Center, including the bikes, the treadmills, and weights, as well as participating in Group X classes. The classes are fantastic, he says. He also swims and stretches in the pool. It's my job now, he notes. And it's working – he's getting stronger. He says he's lucky to have the J.



SENIOR LIVING

BY YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION

Senior Living by Youngstown Area Jewish Federation provides care for older adults at various stages of life at Heritage Manor Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, Levy Gardens Assisted Living, and Adult Day Services at Heritage Manor.

HERITAGE MANOR SKILLED NURSING & REHABILITATION

Heritage Manor achieved a **deficiency-free annual survey** from the Ohio Department of Health, recognizing our dedication to excellence in care, safety and resident satisfaction.



Heritage Manor continued enhancing residents' living spaces with **updated dining rooms, new flooring, handrails and artwork**, along with ongoing painting and **outdoor improvements** that encourage residents to enjoy nature and connect with one another. A **kitchen renovation** also began, expanding our ability to provide both kosher-style and fully kosher meals.

Ron first came to Heritage Manor for long term care from another nursing home. He worked long and hard in therapy for two years and was able to return home. Ron recently returned to Heritage Manor after a lengthy hospital stay and was admitted for hospice care. He revoked hospice services and has once again worked hard with therapy in hopes of returning home. "Therapy is great," he said. "I came in on Hospice Care and therapy has really helped me to get back on my feet and work towards my goal to get back home."



HERITAGE MANOR
SKILLED NURSING & REHABILITATION

LEVY GARDENS ASSISTED LIVING

We became compliant with regulations from the local health department and the Youngstown and State of Ohio fire marshals, **ensuring a safe environment** for our tenants.

Members of the community found a home at Levy Gardens after numerous tenants moved to Heritage Manor, **bringing occupancy to 92%.**



My dad lived here for four years and we loved it. The staff was always great and they did a great job of keeping family informed. The apartments are very spacious and the best transition we could have asked for going from living in a house independently. Even after my dad left here the staff continued to visit him in the nursing home just to say "Hi." We couldn't have been more satisfied with my father's time here, a family member shares.



LEVY GARDENS
ASSISTED LIVING

A Mens Club and a Beautification Committee were founded, enriching the lives of tenants. The Mens Club has regular planned outings. The Beautification Committee is responsible for planting and maintaining the flower beds at the entrance to the community. More daily activities were also added.

ADULT DAY SERVICES AT HERITAGE MANOR

A third bus was added to our fleet, allowing us to better serve our client's transportation needs.

Grant money allowed us to add **massage chairs**, a **pool table**, and host a **senior prom**, helping to enhance our clients' quality of life and create meaningful moments of joy.

All staff obtained **First Aid and CPR certification.**

When Federation CFO Dave's father-in-law came to live with the family when his dementia progressed to the point he could no longer live alone, they realized he was spending too much time alone. They introduced him to ADS and "Grandpa" loved it. For my wife and me, the staff became partners in a journey that can be both rewarding and exhausting, Dave says. They treated Grandpa like family and treated us with patience, understanding, and compassion. The peace of mind that came from knowing he was safe, engaged, and genuinely happy is something words cannot fully capture.



ADULT DAY SERVICES
AT HERITAGE MANOR



ANNUAL FEDERATION CAMPAIGN/ALLOCATIONS REPORT

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS We Were Able To Distribute in 2025

Local Causes	National Causes	Overseas Causes
\$2,943,501	\$68,898	\$193,649

\$3,206,048

2024 CAMPAIGN | TOGETHER WE RAISED

\$1,286,814

ENDOWMENT & RESERVE ALLOCATIONS/GRANTS/DISTRIBUTIONS

\$667,018

AGENCIES WITH SURPLUSES | Senior Services & JMeals

\$1,282,309

ANNUAL FEDERATION CAPITAL REPORT REINVESTMENTS IN CAMPUS

TOTAL CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS

\$2,760,820

2025 DONATIONS, GRANTS, AND CAMPAIGN

\$2,241,805

ENDOWMENT & RESERVE ALLOCATIONS

\$577,866

CAPITALIZED ASSETS (Net of Depreciation) | Increase in Book Value

\$1,462,716

ANNUAL FOUNDATION REPORT

TOTAL EARNINGS GROWTH IN PORTFOLIO

\$4,394,297

TOTAL DONATIONS/NEW FUNDS

\$127,706

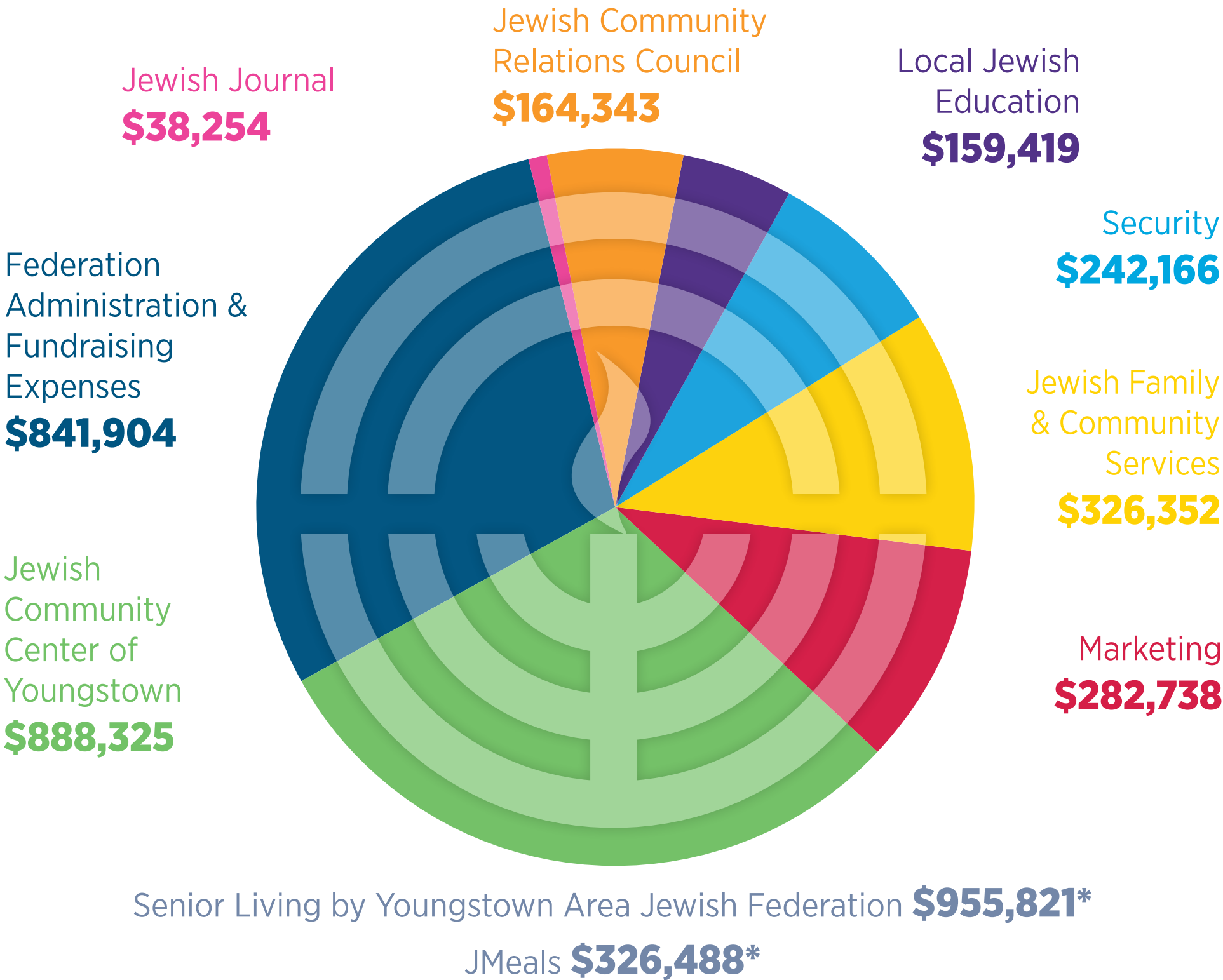
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS | Federation Agencies

\$2,285,603

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS | Organizations Other Than Federation

\$1,109,903

LOCAL AGENCY & DEPARTMENT ALLOCATIONS TOTAL: \$2,943,501



*Represents Surplus from Operations For Local Allocations



A CLOSING LETTER FROM MARK HUBERMAN

After a long career practicing law and mediation, I have learned something that may sound surprising. People rarely change because they lose an argument; they change because someone takes the time to have a conversation.

That's what mediation is really about. It isn't about proving who's right. It's about listening, finding common ground, and building enough trust to move forward together.

As I look ahead to my final year serving as President of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, I know that's exactly what our Federation does every single day.

In a world that too often seems divided by hatred, misinformation and fear, we choose conversation over silence, education over ignorance, and relationships over isolation.

This year brought even more painful reminders that our community cannot take safety, or understanding, for granted. That sentiment rings true here in the Valley as well as in our Partnership Region, in the north of Israel, where our friends and colleagues live under the constant threat of attack.

Faced with these realities, it would be easy to retreat inward. Instead, our community leans in.

This year, through our Jewish Community Relations Council, we joined Student to Student, a program that places Jewish teenagers into local high school classrooms to simply tell their own stories.

They don't begin by talking about history or politics. They simply introduce themselves as new friends, with similar interests to those they're speaking to. It's a simple concept, but sometimes simplicity is powerful enough to change hearts.

The brave teens in our community stand up and show that a Jewish person isn't a

stranger or someone they read about online. It's their teammate. Their classmate. Their friend.

Those conversations didn't just impact the non-Jewish students. They gave our teens something just as valuable, the confidence to proudly carry their Jewish identity into college, their careers, and throughout their lives.

That's how communities become stronger... One conversation at a time.

The same was true when Holocaust Survivor Erika Gold shared her testimony with more than 1,200 local students. One young woman later wrote that hearing Erika's story replaced years of being taught to deny the Holocaust with understanding and compassion. She discovered not only the truth of history, but the responsibility each of us has to stand against hatred.

That's how communities become stronger... One story at a time.

This year we purchased a new Adult Day Services bus. To most people, it looks like another vehicle traveling through the Valley, but to one of our Adult Day participants, it represents independence, friendship, and belonging. As the tenant shared with us, the bus doesn't simply take him to a building, it brings him to a community.

That's how communities become stronger... One ride at a time.

While these stories touched individual lives, we also continued building for our collective future.

We successfully navigated leadership transitions in our Senior Services agencies, investing in our people as much as we invested in our clinical excellence and facility improvements.

Our Jewish Community Center expanded programs for children, families, and seniors, and our Early Learning Center continued to earn a reputation for educa-

tional excellence.

Our Jewish Family & Community Services team quietly met needs every day with compassion and dignity.

This fall, another dream will become reality as the Altshuler Akiva Academy Goldstone-Mirkin Family Middle School at the Suzi Solomon Campus opens its doors. That building stands as a lasting reminder that when a community believes in its children, it believes in its future.

As I prepare for my final year as President, I find myself filled with gratitude. Not simply for what we accomplished, but for how we accomplished it. We listened. We collaborated. We disagreed respectfully when necessary. We found common ground.

Professionally, there is no greater satisfaction than watching people come together

to solve problems that once seemed impossible. As President of this Federation, I have experienced something even better. I have watched an entire community do it.

Thank you to our exceptional professional staff, our devoted volunteers, our dedicated Board of Directors and every donor whose generosity made this work possible. In a community our size, the scope of what we accomplish together continues to be nothing short of extraordinary.

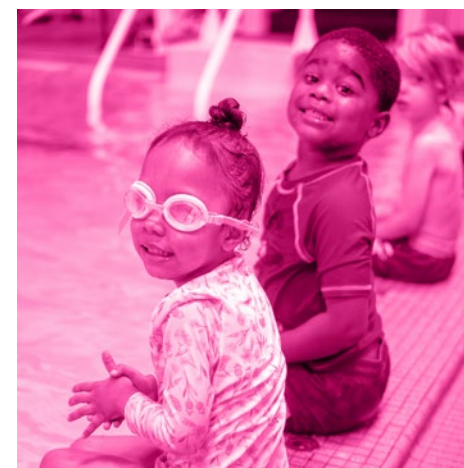
Our tradition teaches us that while no one is expected to complete the work, none of us is free to abandon it. Thank you for allowing me to do my small part.

L'Shalom,

Attorney Mark Huberman

President

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation



RESTRICTED FEDERATION AND AGENCY FUNDS**YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION**

Oscar H. Altshuler Israel Youth Scholarship Fund

Rabbi Dr. Sidney M. Berkowitz and Harrison Berkowitz, his father, Memorial Fund

Barbara S. Drabkin, MD Endowment Fund—In Memory of her Mother, Rose H. Drabkin

Elder Family Endowment

Stanley Engel Memorial Fund to Benefit People

Sara & Marvin Itts Endowment Fund

Sam Kooperman Endowment Fund

Susan Kooperman Memorial Fund

Christine Kraynak Memorial Scholarship Fund

William & Dorothy Lackey Scholarship Fund

Joseph Levy Endowment

Sandra Lippy Scholarship Fund for Young Adults

Esther Marks Volunteer Service Award

Estelle Ortman Endowment Fund

David & Benita Penner Endowment

The Penner Family Endowment

Dr. Ernst & Sally Rose Endowment

E. Segall Youth Scholarship Fund

Howard Segall Endowment Fund

Jere David & Deborah Schwartz Lustig Designated Endowment Fund

Mannie Sherman Youth Scholarship Fund

Thomases Family Endowment

Thomases Leadership Endowment Fund

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation General Endowment

Bert Zusman Scholarships

HERITAGE MANOR

Aged Care Endowment Fund

Mildred Engel Nurse Scholarship Endowment Fund

Heritage Manor Endowment Fund

Evelyn Heyman Endowment Fund

Home for the Aged Building Fund

HS Endowment Fund-Elderly

Bess Joseph Endowment Fund

Florence Kaufman Endowment Fund

Gary & Ellen Weiss Employee Emergency Fund

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Barbara & David Alter Preschool Scholarship Fund

Oscar H. Altshuler Cultural Endowment Fund

Leon & Cecil Gelbman Memorial Endowment Fund

Paul & Yetta Gluck Visual Arts Endowment

Ruth Hollander Cultural Arts Endowment Fund

Daniel Lewis Early Childhood Endowment Fund

Jewish Community Center Endowment Fund

Helen Moyer Endowment Fund for Cultural Arts

Irv & Bea Ozer Memorial Fund

Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Endowment Fund

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Bill Vegh Memorial Holocaust Projects Fund

JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

B. Richard Burdman Family Endowment Fund

Helping Hand Fund

Louis & Sylvia Rosenblum Memorial Endowment Fund

Alvin Weisberg JFS Discretionary Fund

PERPETUAL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN ENDOWMENTS

Anonymous

Bernard & Bernice M. Bloch

Louis & Helen Bloomberg

Marsha Burdman

Benjamin Edner & Florence Edner Kaufman

Cecile “Pinky” Ehrlich

Evelyn Felsenthal

M. Murray & Selma Fibus Memorial

Friedl Fisher

Morris I. & Phyllis J. Friedman Foundation

Vera Friedman

Abe Harshman Memorial Fund

Anita Lavine

Dr. David Levy

Harold & Marcy Libby

Irwin & Esther Marks

Myron & Alice Nadler

Dr. Ernst & Sally Rose

Mannie & Ethel Sherman

Ethel & Nate Sieman

Adeline Sniderman Family

Frances Schwebel Solomon

Irving Venger

Richard & Lois Werner Family

William Wolfort Memorial

Irwin Stovroff & Susan Strella

LIVING LEGACY

Jeanne Fibus LOJE Endowment

Sandra Lippy Endowment

James & Roberta Pazol Endowment

Sam & Judy Roth PACE/LOJE

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Anonymous (2)

Louis & Marlene Epstein

Charitable Remainder Unitrust

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

Anonymous (3)

LION OF JUDAH ENDOWMENTS

Phyllis J. Friedman

Benita Penner

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Broida Family Foundation

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Dr. Milton E. & Frances Florence Harshman

Long Family Fund

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Bert Zusman

Cari Margulis Immerman Fund

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is uniquely built to transform individual generosity into collective impact on a global scale.

Manya Tsitrin

Manya Tsitrin, 91, of Youngstown, Ohio, died on Sunday, July 19, 2026, peacefully and of natural causes.

Manya was born on Dec. 3, 1934, in Kyiv, Ukraine, to Isaac Vishkovetsky and Yester Dubinskaya.

Manya immigrated to the United States in 1979, lived in Youngstown, and worked as a cook for Heritage Manor. She was best known for her delicious cooking and toughness. She enjoyed socializing, taking care of her family, and traveling.

Manya is survived by her daughter, Alla, two grandsons and granddaughters in law, Mark, Tara, Dan and Allison, and great grandsons, Grayson and Porter, along with extended family in Ohio,

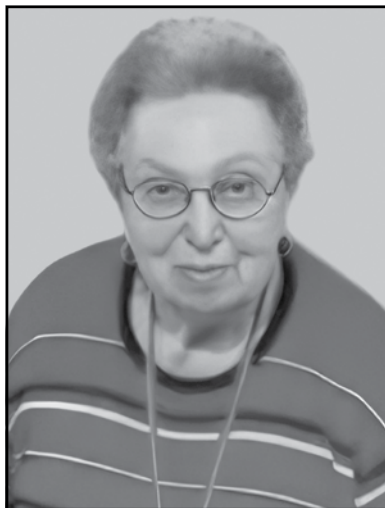
Ukraine, and Israel. She was preceded in death by her husband, Pyotr, parents, and brother, Bob.

Graveside service was held at Temple El Emeth Cemetery on Granada Avenue.

Memorial tributes may take the form of contributions in Manya's name to Heritage Manor, 517 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504 or other charity of donor's choice.

Professional arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King

Funeral Home. Friends and family may view this obituary and share memories and condolences at shriverrallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com.



Daniel W. Levendosky

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Daniel W. "Danny" Levendosky, 75, of Columbiana, Ohio, who passed away on June 27, 2026.

Born on July 6, 1950, in Youngstown, Ohio, Danny was the son of Daniel and Lorain (Sylvester) Levendosky.

Danny graduated from Ursuline High School in 1968. Following graduation, he attended dental laboratory technician school in Washington, D.C. He went on to establish his own dental technician business and laboratory, serving many local dentists in the Youngstown area until his death.

Danny loved the Cleveland Browns, Coors beer, and his mother's homemade spaghetti. He especially enjoyed going out to dinner with his wife, Debbie, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Danny leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife of 54 years, Deborah (Kenneweg) Levendosky, and his son, Doug (Rebecca McConnell) Levendosky,

both of whom lovingly cared for him in his final days. He is also survived by his three daughters, Danielle (Derek) Hunter, Dayna (Josh) Hickman, and Dara (Dani Brigham) Levendosky; four grandchildren, Liam and Connor Levendosky and Tess and Evan Hunter; his sister, Linda (Howard) Froomkin; one niece; two nephews; one great-niece; three great-nephews; and many cousins.

In addition to his parents, Danny was preceded in death by his grandson, Quinn Levendosky.

A memorial service honoring Danny's life will be held at a future date for immediate family.

The family would like to thank the many doctors and nurses at St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital, as well as the Hospice House, for the care and compassion they provided to Danny in his final days.

Professional arrangements were handled by Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.



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HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Dr. Robert “Bob” Udell

Dr. Robert (“Bob”) Udell devoted his life to healing others. A gifted physician, devoted husband, beloved brother, and one of the most generous people anyone could hope to know, he passed away peacefully on August 8, 2026, at 2:50 p.m., after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born on April 12, 1954, Bob dedicated his life to serving others. He earned his medical degree from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery at the University of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, embarking on a career distinguished by compassion, clinical excellence, and an unwavering commitment to his patients.

Bob practiced internal medicine in Boardman, Ohio, before making his home in Merritt Island, Florida, where he continued caring for patients with the same dedication that defined his entire career. He also served as a hospitalist, bringing his exceptional diagnostic skills and calming presence to patients during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. In addition, Bob devoted a year of his career to caring for America’s veterans through the Veterans Administration, reflecting his deep respect and gratitude for those who served our country.

In 1984, Bob was honored as Resident of the Year by the Youngstown Hospital Association, an early recognition of the extraordinary physician he

would become.

Bob was far more than an outstanding physician—he was a true healer. Compassionate, brilliant, and tireless in his pursuit of helping others, he would do whatever it took to get his patients well. His patients adored him because they knew he genuinely cared about them as people, not simply as patients. He possessed an extraordinary ability to diagnose even the rarest and most complex illnesses, often finding answers when others could not. His keen medical mind

was matched only by his kind heart. To countless people, he was not only their physician but also their advocate, confidant, and source of hope.

Outside of medicine, Bob found joy in playing the violin and was an enthusiastic fan of spectator sports. Yet nothing brought him greater happiness than spending time with those he loved. He was a devoted and loving husband to his beloved wife, Barbara, a caring stepfather to Chase, and a loving grandfather to Chett and Carter. He was also a treasured brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. His warmth, humility, and gentle spirit enriched the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Those who knew Bob will remember his extraordinary generosity. There was never a more giving person. Whether sharing his time, his wisdom, his resources, or simply a listening ear, Bob gave freely and without expect-

ing anything in return. His kindness, humility, and selflessness left an enduring impression on everyone he met.

A resident of Merritt Island, Florida, Bob is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; his stepson, Chase; his grandchildren, Chett and Carter; his brothers, Larry Udell, Bruce Udell, and Richard Martin; his twin sister, Susan Martin; his sister-in-law, Janet Udell; and his cherished nieces and nephews, Jeremy Udell, Megan Udell, Rebecca Hull, Josh Martin, Nell Martin, Melissa Berman, Nate Berman, Chad Martin, and Alexandra Martin. He also leaves behind many cousins, extended family members, dear friends, former colleagues, and grateful patients whose lives were forever touched by his care.

A Celebration of Life was held Monday, August 10, 2026, at the Life Event Center at Florida Memorial, Rockledge, Florida.

For thousands of patients, Dr. Bob Udell was the physician who brought answers when there seemed to be none, hope when it was needed most, and compassion at every step. For his family, he was simply Bob—a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose generosity and love knew no limits.

Although his absence leaves an immeasurable void, his legacy lives on in every patient he healed, every life he touched, and every act of kindness inspired by his example. His memory will forever be a blessing.



Lorence S. Schwartz

Lorence S. Schwartz, also known as Lorey or Larry of Lakewood Ranch, Florida, passed away peacefully at Lakewood Ranch Hospice House on July 14, 2026, at the age of 78. Lorence was born on July 17, 1947 at Northside Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of the late Paul and Belle (Farber) Schwartz.

He graduated in 1965 from Boardman High School. After high school he attended Youngstown State University where he became a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity. He enlisted in the army reserves and served from 1968 to 1974. In 1977 he became responsible for the full operation of their family business, Youngstown Cabinets Works after the death of his father. Lorey believed the knowledge and skills he acquired at the family business helped him in his pursuit of future endeavors. In 1985, he relocated to Atlanta, Georgia and began his career as a self-employed consultant specializing in supply chain management. During his free time, he enjoyed traveling and had several memorable experiences.

He was a longtime member of St. Petersburg Vinoy and Lakewood Ranch country clubs where he loved playing tennis and pickleball. He also volunteered at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg with his devoted therapy dog “Baby.” Although he moved away from Ohio many years ago, he always remained a loyal Ohio State Buckeye’s fan.

He is survived by a sister, Sandria Gallucci of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, several nephews, cousins, and friends. There will be no calling hours. Interment will take place in the Columbarium at the Rodef Sholom Chapel at Tod Cemetery in Youngstown, Ohio. Material contributions may be made to one’s charity of choice.

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Happy And Healthy New Year*

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New children's books bring the High Holidays to life

By Penny Schwartz

(JTA) — A bumper crop of new kids' books about the High Holidays is hitting shelves in 2026, surprising close observers of Jewish children's literature.

"It is unusual for multiple Sukkot books to be published in the same year, especially of consistently high quality. It's very exciting," said Heidi Rabinowitz, a Jewish librarian and host of the Book of Life podcast, which describes itself as "a podcast about Jewish kidlit (mostly)."

Rabinowitz noted with appreciation that one of the books was coming from a mainstream secular press, rather than from the smaller boutique presses that tend to release books about Jewish holidays.

She offered a possible explanation for the surging interest in the harvest holiday in particular: "Sukkot is family and environmentally friendly, and I think that is a big part of its appeal."

But the new books showcase a wide range of Jewish traditions and values. They also feature communal celebrations and festive foods. Here's what new on shelves for the season:

"Rosh Hashanah: Square-Circle-Star! A First Shapes Book"

Joy Nelkin Wieder; pictures by Aura Lewis Abrams Appleseed; ages birth to 3

Preschoolers will enjoy finding shapes in their favorite Rosh Hashanah traditions with this large-format board book — square bites of honey cake, a round swirl of *challah*, the curves of the *shofar* and even apple slice semicircles.

"The Sweetest Rosh Hashanah: Festivals of the World"

Mara Bergman; illustrated by Aura Lewis Candlewick Press; ages 4-8

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, Ellie looks forward to a visit from her relatives and her favorite cousin, Lara. But last year, Lara was bossy and borrowed Ellie's cherished paint set and didn't return it. This year, Ellie decides to hide all of her favorite toys. When Lara arrives with a handmade Rosh Hashanah card, the cousins apologize for their misdeeds and embrace. Mara Bergman's sweet story is accompanied by Aura Lewis's large, bright illustrations that include a multiracial family.

"Stella's Special Recipe: A Rosh Hashanah Story"

Melissa Stoller; illustrated by Valerya Milovanova
Kar-Ben Publishing; ages 2-8

Stella is eager to help her mother prepare her family's special stuffed cabbage for Rosh Hashanah — a well-worn recipe that includes extra touches from both her grandmothers and her mother. She and her mom gather the fresh veggies from their garden — cabbage and tomatoes and eggs from their chickens. What can

Stella add? Her creative idea is perfect for a sweet new year.

"Diving Deep on Rosh Hashanah: Reverse Tashlich for a Better World"

Rachelle Burk; illustrated by Craig Orback Intergalactic Afikomen; ages 4-10

This children's book illustrates a relatively new Jewish tradition that has gained wide traction in recent years: the reverse *tashlich*. It recounts the story of Ed Rosenthal, who — years after watching "The Underworld of Jacques Cousteau" and dreaming of one day seeing the wonders beneath the sea — snorkeled in the Red Sea after hiking in Israel. As a rabbi at a college in Florida, he created the "Scubi Jew Club" for his students to share his passion. At a service for *tashlich*, the Rosh Hashanah tradition in which Jews cast symbols of their sins into bodies of water, a student suggested instead clearing the water of trash to make a cleaner, better world for the start of the Jewish year. Now, synagogues across the country and world include a reverse *tashlich* in their High Holiday plans. The title comes from the team

behind "The Space Torah," an award-winning depiction of a Jewish astronaut's journey with a miniature Torah.

"Awe! It's Everywhere"

Chana Stiefel; illustrated by Susan Gal
Scholastic; ages 4-8

In Chana Stiefel's simply worded, lavishly illustrated book, young readers can experience awe, in perfect time for the Days of Awe — another term for the period from the start of Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur. Awe can be small or miraculous, according to the book, which features mesmerizing illustrations including a double-page

spread that unfolds to reveal the waterfalls of Yosemite National Park.

"The Sukkah Hop"

Barbara Lerman-Golomb; illustrated by Talia Drigues
Green Bean Books; birth to 4

Kids will have a hoot bopping along with a multi-generational procession of families and friends as they visit each others' *sukkahs* in this book that illustrates the popular community tradition of the *sukkah* hop. Barbara Lerman-Golomb's simple, rhyming verse comes alive in Talia Drigues' colorful illustrations.

"A Purr-Fect Sukkot"

Jenna Waldman; illustrated by Erica J. Chen Apples & Honey Press; ages 3-7

The youngest kids will have fun along with a family of kittens who gather branches for the hut's open roof, decorate their *sukkah* with paper chains, shake the



New Jewish children's books released for the High Holidays in 2026 include ones about awe and tashlich.

Children's books continued on page 47

New book from Penguin/Rocky Pond Books will delight young readers

By Elise Skolnick

"I'm Sorry for the Bagel Burps: A Yom Kippur Apology," a new book from Penguin/Rocky Pond Books, is a light-hearted book with an important message — and it reads like something that actually happened.

Indeed, it's based on the author's childhood.

In his author's note, Jacob Sager Weinstein said, "For thousands of years, Yom Kippur has been a sacred day of reflection, fasting, and prayer. And when I was seven, it was also a chance to torment my brother, Josh."

The tormenter in "Bagel Burps" takes delight in tormenting his fasting-for-the-first-time brother with various culinary smells and sights, going so far as burping cream cheese and lox in his face.

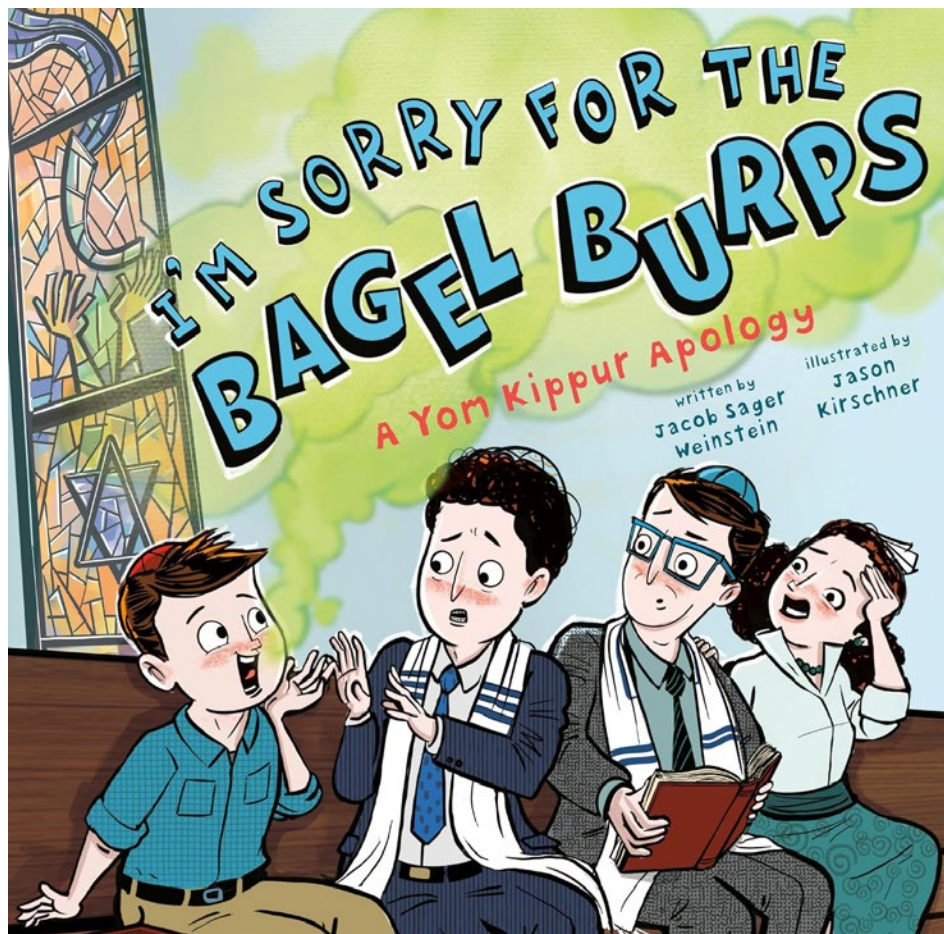
Though Weinstein acknowledges he

never burped in his brother's face, he admits he would have if his burps were controllable.

And that authenticity comes through in the storyline and illustrations by Emmy-nominated artist Jason Kirschner in a way kids will find relatable. They will laugh with the narrator Benjamin and feel his brother Aaron's pain.

The book wraps up with both forgiving the other — Benjamin for tormenting his brother and Aaron for calling his little brother a baby — getting the holiday's message of reflection and repentance across in a way kids can understand. As the book jacket says, "Forgiveness: The only thing more powerful than a bagel burp."

The book will be on sale beginning September 1.



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Saucy seitan brisket

A vegetarian version captures the nostalgic, slow-braised flavors of the Jewish holiday classic without the meat.

By Leah Koenig

Like many Ashkenazi Jews, I grew up believing that my mother made the best brisket in the world. (I still believe that today.) Fragrant, savory, and unbelievably tender, it was and continues to be the stuff of holiday memories – and of sneaking back to the fridge at midnight, long after the guests had gone home.

When I decided to become a vegetarian at age 17, I did so with the acute and sorrowful understanding that I was saying goodbye to one of my favorite Jewish dishes. Brisket was such a sacred food to me, I never even considered trying to recreate it for my meat-free lifestyle, until a friend mentioned that he was trying to “perfect his vegetarian brisket.”

Intrigued, I began fiddling with my own version, combining recipes I found online with the tastes I recalled from childhood. While the resulting dish is by no means an exact replica of my mother’s (and I am no longer a vegetarian), it definitely holds its own on the Rosh Hashanah table or at a Purim feast.

Of course, vegetarian brisket is a rather blatant misnomer, because the word brisket specifically refers to a cut of meat (the “flat, boneless, flavorful cut taken from the breast of a steer,” according to Matthew Goodman’s *Jewish Food: The World at Table*). However, over time, the concept of brisket – at least “Jewish brisket” – has become almost interchangeable with its preparation: the searing over high heat and slow braise necessary to soften this tough kosher cut into a steamy pile of juice and

meat. In that sense, “brisket” refers not to a particular ingredient, but rather to a method of cooking, and to the noble search for gastro-Jewish nirvana.

Seitan, a meat substitute made from wheat, is inherently chewy and tender, so it does not need to stew for as long as traditional brisket. But since your taste buds will quickly become intoxicated by the smell of onions, garlic, and tomato wafting from the oven, the quicker cooking time is a blessing.

Total Time: 1 hour 20 minutes
(20 minutes of prep)

Yield: Brisket for 6

Ingredients

- ¼ cup + 2 Tbsp sunflower oil (or other neutral vegetable oil), divided
- 3 (8 oz) packages unflavored seitan chunks, drained and cut into bite-size pieces if necessary
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled and cut into 12 wedges through the root
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, halved lengthwise if thick and cut into ½-inch pieces
- 2 celery stalks, halved lengthwise if thick and cut into ½-inch pieces
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 1½ cups vegetable broth
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp balsamic or red wine vinegar
- 1 ½ tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp sweet paprika



Photo credit
Leah Koenig

- 1 tsp Diamond kosher salt, plus more as needed
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 ° F. Heat ¼ cup of the oil in a Dutch oven or other large, wide-bottomed pot set over medium-high heat. Add the seitan chunks and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden and crisp, 8-10 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the seitan to a bowl.
2. Add the remaining 2 Tbsp oil to the Dutch oven. Add the onion, carrots and celery, lower the heat to medium and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned and beginning to soften, 8-10 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stir-

- ring, until fragrant, about 1 minute.
3. Add the crushed tomatoes, broth, tomato paste, brown sugar, balsamic vinegar, onion powder, paprika, salt and black pepper and stir to combine. Stir in the browned seitan. Bring to a bubble then cover and transfer to the oven. Roast, stirring once or twice, until the vegetables are fully tender and the sauce has thickened, 45-60 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven, taste and add more salt if needed. Let sit for 10 minutes, then transfer the seitan and veggies to a serving platter. Spoon the sauce over top and serve hot.

Note: Store the brisket, covered, in the fridge for up to five days.

This story originally appeared on The Nosh.

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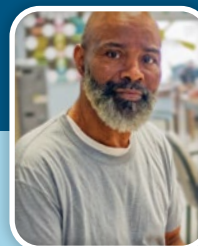


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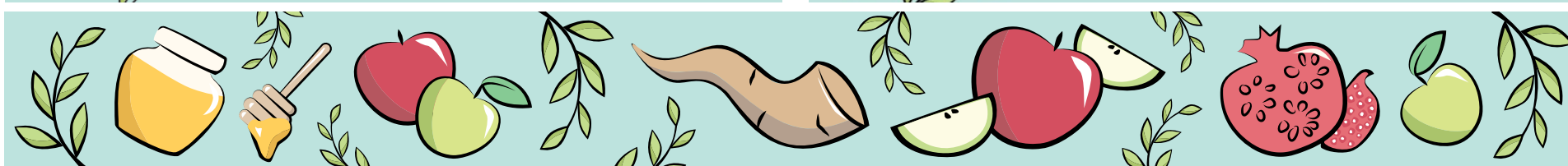
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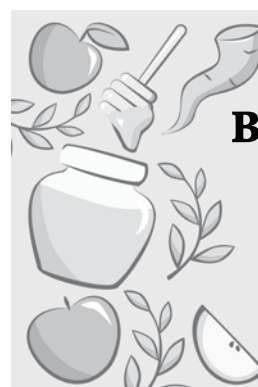
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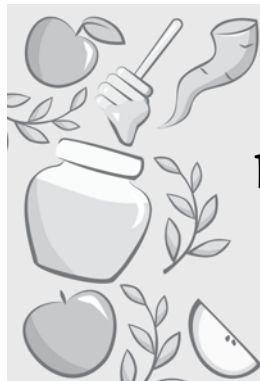
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Classic tzimmes

Simple, forgiving and easy to make ahead, this dish deserves its time-honored place on the holiday table.

By Sheri Silver

Tzimmes has always been one of those dishes that feels like a hug from the past. It's cozy, a little sweet and full of nostalgia — the kind of food that instantly makes me think of family holidays and a table full of favorites. If you've never had it before, *tzimmes* is a traditional Ashkenazi Jewish dish made with a mix of root vegetables (usually big chunks of carrots and sweet potatoes), dried fruits like prunes and raisins, and sometimes a drizzle of honey or a pinch of warm spices. It shows up most often at Rosh Hashanah, since the sweetness is meant to symbolize the hope for a sweet new year.

Like so many traditional recipes, there are endless ways to make it. Some versions include meat, others get mashed into a smooth casserole, and a few go in a brighter direction with apples or pineapple. Everyone seems to have their own take — but the one I come back to again and again is simple and classic. Just chunky carrots and sweet potatoes baked slowly with prunes and raisins until they're tender, glossy, and perfectly sweet without being too much. It's a family favorite, and one of those dishes that always makes an appearance on our holiday table, no matter what

else we're serving.

One of the best parts about this recipe? It's super forgiving. You can make it ahead (a couple of days in the fridge, or even weeks in the freezer), and it reheats beautifully. Honestly, it's one of those holiday dishes that takes the stress down a notch because it's ready when you are.

And as a bonus, this version is naturally vegetarian and dairy-free, which makes it easy to share with just about anyone at the table. Simple, comforting and holiday-ready — exactly what *tzimmes* should be!

Total Time: 1 hour 45 minutes (15 minutes of prep)

Serves: 4-6

Ingredients

- 2 lb carrots, peeled, trimmed and cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 cup prunes (or dried apricots, or a mix)
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1 cup orange juice

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F and lightly grease a 9×13 baking dish.
2. Place the carrots, sweet potatoes, prunes and raisins in a large bowl. Drizzle with the oil, then add the brown

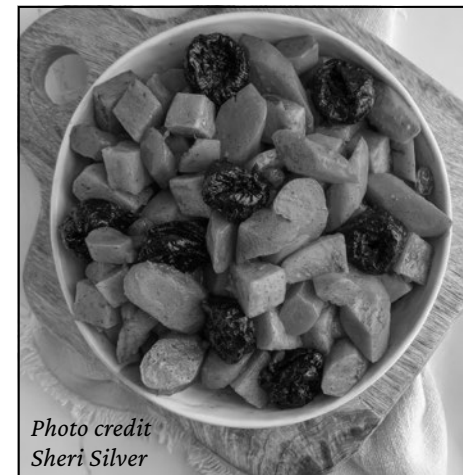


Photo credit
Sheri Silver

sugar, cinnamon, salt and pepper. Toss to coat.

3. Pour in the orange juice and toss again to coat.
4. Transfer to your prepared baking dish, cover tightly with foil and bake for 1 hour 30 minutes, stirring once or twice. The vegetables should be tender and the sauce thickened into a glaze.
5. Serve warm.

Notes:

To refrigerate: Cool the *tzimmes* completely, then cover and refrigerate for up to three days. Reheat, covered, at 325°F until warmed through. Add a splash of orange juice or water if needed.

To freeze: Cool completely before freezing in an airtight container for up to two months. Thaw overnight in the fridge and reheat, covered, at 325°F until hot, stirring once or twice.

This story originally appeared on The Nosh.



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The unusual way my family celebrates Yom Kippur: With a hike

Some head to synagogue for the Day of Atonement. We hit the trail.

By Mark Rothschild

When the Jewish Day of Atonement rolls around, my kids moan, “Do we have to go on a hike today?” The answer in my house is obvious. “Of course we do. It’s Yom Kippur.”

This makes perfect sense to me. It may not make sense to anyone else. And that’s okay.

Yom Kippur is the Jewish High Holiday where we’re supposed to fast all day and go to synagogue services and pray about becoming a better person. It is known as the holiest day of the Jewish year.

In our house, our stint at synagogue rarely goes beyond the morning 45-minute family service, and fasting rarely lasts past 3 p.m. But we do take long hikes — religiously.

As a kid, I sat hungry and cranky in synagogue, counting the minutes until we could go home and break the fast. I swore I wouldn’t do that to my own children.

Yom Kippur should hurt a little, but I always thought it shouldn’t feel like a meaningless punishment. I wanted my kids to feel the weight of the day, not the weight of being bored in a language they didn’t understand. I wanted them to feel what I didn’t as a child: that even in the hard parts, Judaism can bring joy, connection, and love.

My wife Trish and I don’t want the day to seem “normal” though. We don’t want to come home after family services and have the kids turn on screens, or do anything they might on a “regular” day. So we decided to make hiking our thing. Every year on Yom Kippur, we pack a picnic and go for a hike — a long hike — before breaking the fast together as a family in the woods.

We started the tradition when we lived in Jerusalem, when our boys were three and five. The city fell silent on Yom Kippur: no cars, no noise, just

the sound of our sneakers on ancient stone. When we moved to Cincinnati, we learned about glaciers and how long three miles feels. In Chicago, when the boys were joined by their new baby sister, we disappeared for hours into forests that somehow exist between highways and strip malls.

One year we tried biking instead of hiking, and ended up sweaty, starving, and sitting at a crowded restaurant. As waiters carried out grilled cheeses for the kids, I ordered soup and whispered an apology to my ancestors. The kids loved it. I didn’t. Nothing about it tasted like Yom Kippur, not even the shame. We went back to family hikes and picnics after that.

By the second or third mile in the woods, the kids usually start bargaining: “Can we call this enough and eat?” I’ll say, “Not yet.” Later, when one of them mumbles, “I guess I could’ve been nicer this year,” I know the day has worked its quiet magic and we’ll spread out the battered tablecloth.

When my kids have families of their own, they may choose to spend all day in synagogue or they may invent their own weird traditions. Or maybe they’ll decide they want to continue our family tradition of hiking.

No matter what they choose, I hope they’ll remember our annual outings — how hungry we were, how tired, yes, but more than anything, how together we were, how connected. We celebrated the holiest day of the Jewish year uniquely, not because I wanted to skip tradition, but because I wanted to build something new, for them, and for us as a family.

Because traditions aren’t always about the rules we follow. They’re about the stories we carry with us, mile after mile.

This story originally appeared on Kveller.



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Honey pomegranate mandelbrot recipe

These classic Ashkenazi cookies are updated with High Holiday flavors.

By Leah Koenig

Long before pomegranates became known as a healthy superfood — linked to everything from improving cardiovascular health and reducing cholesterol to preventing cancer — they were a mainstay of Jewish cuisine.

Named in Deuteronomy 8:8 as one of the seven agricultural species cultivated in ancient Israel (along with wheat, barley, grapes, figs, olives, and dates) and mythologized to contain 613 seeds in every fruit (to correspond with the number of mitzvot/commandments given to the Israelites by God), pomegranates are, without doubt, one of Jewish tradition's most well-known, sacred and celebrated foods.

As a symbol of fertility and love, the pomegranate shows up multiple times in the Jewish canon's most famous love poem, "The Song of Songs." For example (4:3): "Your lips are like a crimson thread; your mouth is lovely. Your brow behind your veil [gleams] like a pomegranate split open." Not surprisingly, given its connection to love, the red, spherical fruit also regularly shows up as an artistic theme on ketubot, challah covers, and other marriage and family-focused Judaica.

Pomegranates' peak season generally falls somewhere in the autumn around the High Holidays, which makes them the perfect accompaniment to Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) or the harvest holiday of Sukkot. Some families hang the red orbs in their sukkahs as decoration. Others incorporate their juicy red seeds into both sweet and savory dishes — everything from pomegranate-glazed chicken to salads speckled with lush, bright red seeds.

In that spirit, this mandelbrot recipe drizzles the traditional Ashkenazi almond cookies (the name translates from Yiddish to "almond bread") with a bright pink pomegranate glaze. The sweet-tart glaze adds color and personality to the light and crispy mandelbrot and helps an otherwise humble cookie stand out on the dessert table. A generous pour of sweet, golden honey folded into the batter also adds to these cookies' appeal,

and makes them a lovely plus one to any High Holiday spread.

Total Time: 1 hour 15 minutes (35 minutes active)

Yield: About 2 dozen cookies

Ingredients

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour, plus more for shaping
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter or vegan butter, softened
- ¼ cup + 2 Tbsp granulated sugar, divided
- ¼ cup mild honey
- 2 large eggs
- ¾ tsp vanilla extract
- ¾ cup roasted, unsalted almonds, chopped
- For the glaze
- ¾ cup confectioner's sugar, plus more if needed
- 1½ tbsp pomegranate juice, plus more if needed

Instructions

1. Make the cookies: Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl; set aside.
3. In a stand mixer or using a handheld electric mixer and a large bowl, beat the butter and ¼ cup of the sugar together on medium speed, scraping down the bowl as necessary, until pale and creamy, 2-3 minutes.
4. Add the honey, eggs, and vanilla and beat to combine. The mixture might look curdled at this point, but will smooth out when you add the flour.
5. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture in two stages, beating on low until just combined and a soft dough forms. Fold in the almonds with a spatula.
6. Divide the batter into two equal mounds on the baking sheet, leaving at least 2 inches of space in between



Photo credit Leah Koenig

the mounds. Using lightly floured hands, pat and press the batter into long, flat rectangles (about 9×4 inches and ½ inch thick).

7. Bake until puffed and deep golden brown, about 20 minutes, then remove from the oven and let cool for about 1 minute. Slice both of the rectangles vertically down their middles. Then, slice them horizontally into 1 inch-wide pieces.
8. Turn the pieces on their sides and sprinkle evenly with 1 Tbsp of the remaining sugar. Bake for 10 more minutes, then remove the baking sheet again. Flip the pieces to the other side and sprinkle with the remaining 1 Tbsp sugar. Bake until the cookies are firm, 5-10 minutes more. (Be careful not to overbake them — they continue to crisp up as they cool.)
9. Remove from the oven and set the baking sheet on a wire rack to cool for 5 minutes, then transfer the cookies to the racks to cool completely.
10. Make the glaze: Sift the confectioner's sugar into a medium bowl. Add the pomegranate juice and stir to form a thick but pourable glaze. If the glaze is too thick to drizzle, stir in a little more pomegranate juice. (Likewise if it is too runny, stir in a little more sifted confectioner's sugar.)
11. Generously drizzle the tops of the cooled cookies with glaze and set cookies back on the racks to allow the glaze to set.

Note: Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature for up to three days, or in the fridge or freezer for longer.

This story originally appeared on The Nosh.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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Zionism and the Jewish question

By Eric Chevlen, MD

We return to the Jewish Question: what will become of the Jews?

Man is not born, nor does he live, in isolation. We are born into families, and families in turn are subordinate parts of clans, tribes, and nations. At each of those societal levels, it is possible to have loyalties and common interests based on shared culture, language, religion, and experience. The political expression of a nation, essential for the fulfillment of its national identity and culture, is the nation-state. A nation which has no nation-state can perhaps survive for a while at the indulgence of the state in which it lives, but its ongoing survival as a distinct people is contingent. Examples include Kurds, Yazidis, and Roma (gypsies). They are nations without states; their cultural fulfillment is threatened by assimilation, and at times their very survival is threatened by extermination by the states in which they live and by the peoples who surround them. Their future is uncertain.

We Jews are also a nation. We are not merely a set of co-religionists. The existence of the Jews as a nation has been beset by murderous antagonism since at least the Roman destruction of the Jewish nation-state in 70 C.E. Theodor Herzl and other early Zionists recognized that the Jewish nation could not survive without re-establishment of sovereignty in our historical national homeland. This prophetic recognition preceded the murder of two-thirds of European Jewry and the wholesale expulsion of 900,000 Jews from states under Muslim control.

The essence of Zionism is the recognition that the Jewish nation needs a nation-state for its flourishing — for a living future. Israel is that nation-state.

More than that, history has repeatedly demonstrated that the literal survival of the members of the Jewish nation is uncertain anywhere outside of a sovereign Jewish homeland. There is no country in the Old World, neither in Christendom nor the lands of Islam, not stained with Jewish blood. Even the liberal democracies of Canada, the United States, and Australia have seen a shocking resurgence of Jew-hatred in the form of harassment and ostracism of Jews, attacks on our institutions, and murder sprees.

To claim that any nation or nation-state does or does not have a right to exist is a category error. Individuals have rights; nations and their nation-states simply exist. There is no supra-national judge to grant or deny them the right to exist. As Thucydides wrote, “The strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.” After two millennia of suffering because of exile and weakness, the Jewish nation has restored its sovereignty, and made that state’s ongoing existence an established fact not contingent on the indulgence of others.

Zionism is indifferent, neither supportive nor antagonistic, to the aspirations of other nations, with one exception. Any nation or political movement which predicates its historic mission as the elimination of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish nation must be seen as an enemy, for it has so declared itself. Egypt and Jordan abandoned their goal of eliminating Israel 50 years ago; Israel has lived in peace with these neighbors ever since. In the 1960s Palestinian nationalism emerged as a movement distinct from pan-Arabism. Tragically, that movement adopted as a

core tenet, not the adjustment of Israel’s borders, but the complete elimination of the Jewish state, and perforce, the Jews who live within it. That movement’s actions ever since have been completely and tragically consistent with this eliminationist goal.

The slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” has been bowdlerized to appeal to American ears. In the earlier version prevalent during the First Intifada (1980s) the slogan rhymed in Arabic, and meant “From the water [Jordan River] to the water [Mediterranean Sea] Palestine will be Arab.” The chant “Free free Palestine” is also a call for the elimination of the “Zionist entity.” Neither allows room for the Jewish people or the Jewish state. The tragic circumstance and ongoing suffering of Palestinians is a direct result of their leaders’ refusal to allow Jews to live in peace and security. Until Palestinians abandon their goal of destroying the Jewish nation-state (along with destroying the Jews therein), there can be no two-state solution nor, sadly, peaceful co-existence.

Zionism does not and should not preclude criticism of Israeli policy and its political leadership. But the root of the current wave of antizionism and Jew-hatred lies elsewhere. Jew-hatred long preceded the re-establishment of Jewish sovereignty in Israel. In the Arab world, the murderous pogroms in Hebron (1929), Baghdad (1941), and Tripoli (1945) preceded the re-establishment of the Jewish state. The widespread demonstrations against Israel and in support of Hamas began the very day after the October 7, 2023 massacre, long before the Israeli military response to

the slaughter. Rather, the Zionist movement arose, and has reason to persist, because of millennial-old Jew-hatred. If there ever arises a political force among the Palestinians which renounces their eliminationist *raison d’être*, and when a new Iranian regime renounces its long campaign of “Death to Israel,” peace could be established on those fronts too.

Zionism is the answer to the Jewish Question.

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Four reasons continued from page 9

boring countries' systems.

Third, too many uninformed (or self-deluding) people believe that what the Palestinian authority, or Hamas, or Hezbollah, wants is equal rights for Arabs in Israel (much of which they already have), or that the two-state solution will magically solve the conflict. Sadly, these people have not read (or, perhaps, do not believe) the charter of the Palestinian Authority. They have not seen interviews with Hezbollah or Hamas leaders, who have said time and again that their goal is to liberate "Palestine" from the river to the sea. That means, in plain English, expelling or murdering Jews. Only willful blindness, or tremendous ignorance can interpret their statement any other way. Jews who live 6,000 miles away from the conflict allow themselves the luxury of re-imagining what violent Islamists actually mean.

When a Jew understands Middle-East language and attitudes, he then understands how to act in that part of the world. We, who live in lovely homes in America, under a benevolent democracy, would do well to remember this.

Fourth, the Diaspora has created a type of Jew who is a lovely person, but who has adopted yet another intellectual weakness. When Israelis say that Jews must remain powerful, secure and eagle-eyed, and that the safety of the Jewish people is paramount, too many Diaspora Jews assume that such beliefs are oppressive. They are horrified that any Jews would

speak in military, rather than martyr-like terms. Better to think about making more room (in a variety of ways) for others, and shrinking our own position. Withdraw from land, become empathetic (a word that has become overused in our day) with the "oppressed"; take it upon ourselves to solve antisemitism ("if only we did this, or acted that way"). These actions, they claim, will surely bring an end to antisemitism. Then we can feel good about our Jewish selves.

To such lovely, but misguided intentions, we respond that all of them have been tried numerous times, and all have failed. If self-diminishment and withdrawal is all we can offer to feel good, we don't deserve the title "Yisrael." Yisrael means the Jew who wrestles with God and with other people, and WINS (Genesis 25-29). That must be our mindset for this coming year and the years to follow.

It is not enough to call oneself a Jew. Rather, a Jew should identify as an integral part of *B'nai Yisrael* — the children of Israel; those who can wrestle with other humans and even with God, and come out victorious. This year, in addition to the other blessings for which we pray, let us pray for a victorious Israel, which will win the respect of all nations, and even more importantly, the unfettered support of every Jew around the world. May we thank God this year that we have a national country which will be a "light unto the nations," just as the Prophets predicted.

Shanah Tovah.

A good year filled with blessings for all.

Bugos continued from page 14

Survivor Henry Kinast, whose story demonstrates that hope, resilience, and meaningful lives can emerge even after unimaginable suffering. Together, they serve as daily reminders that history is not just about the past—it is about the choices people make, the stories they preserve, and the responsibility each generation has to stand against hatred.

His commitment to Holocaust education extends well beyond his own classroom. This past year, Bugos served as a chaperone for six local high school students selected to participate in the Classrooms Without Borders Student Poland Seminar. For nine months leading up to the trip, he met regularly with the students, helping them prepare emotionally and academically for the experience while encouraging them to think deeply about the responsibility of becoming witnesses to history. Prior to

their departure, he shared not only historical knowledge but also the personal lessons he had learned from walking the grounds where history unfolded.

For the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, that commitment is exactly what the Ally of the Year Award is designed to recognize. Through education, relationship building, and a willingness to stand alongside the Jewish community, Bugos has become an important partner in combating antisemitism and ensuring that Holocaust education remains relevant for future generations.

As fewer Holocaust Survivors are able to share their stories firsthand, educators like Bugos are helping ensure those voices continue to be heard. His passion, curiosity, and unwavering commitment to teaching the value of every individual life remind us that the fight against hatred begins with education—and that one dedicated teacher can influence generations.



A Joyous Holiday Season

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Harshman Award continued from page 19

why they became so involved in their community, it's because they believe strongly that the Jewish community survives only when people step up and take responsibility for it. As they put it, no one else is going to take care of the Jewish community for them.

Their service has always been rooted in that belief. Whether through the Federation, the temple, or other community organizations, they have given their time consistently for decades, but it was never about intentionally build-

ing a legacy. They did it because they love the Youngstown community and want it to continue to thrive.

Rick and Ronna will be relocating to Maryland in the near future, which brings up a lot of mixed emotions. There's a lot of excitement to be closer to their family, but also a lot of nostalgia and sadness about leaving behind the community that they created throughout the last 49 years.

Ronna and Rick have a son, Marc, a daughter-in-law, Alyson, and three granddaughters. They are looking forward to spending more time together.

L'Shanah Tovah

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Children's books continued from page 33

lulav and enjoy a festive holiday meal.

“Build a Sukkah With Me”

Katie Moss; illustrated by Orit Magia
Green Bean Books; ages 4-8

Katie Moss creates a delightful *sukkah*-building story around a catchy, simple rhyming verse, using only three words that are easy for kids to repeat. Orit Magia's cartoonish illustrations bring the pages to life.

“A House With No Door: A Sukkot Story”

Amy Fellner Dominy; illustrated by Rotem Teplow

Kar-Ben Publishing; ages 2-8

Join a young boy and his kitty as he explores the simple outdoor hut his family is building for Sukkot. In a stunning pairing of Amy Fellner Dominy's sparsely worded verse and Rotem Teplow's beautiful illustrations, young children join in the boy's wondrous observations of his *sukkah*. A lovely connection with the meaning of the holiday.

“Our Spectacular Sukkah”

Sidura Ludwig; illustrated by Sophia Vincent Guy

Candlewick Press; ages 4-8

In Sidura Ludwig's heartwarming story, illuminated by Sophia Vincent Guy's sparkling illustrations, a young girl and her family build a seasonally decorated *sukkah*. Drama builds when a storm knocks down their beloved structure. Neighbors of all backgrounds come to the rescue and return the scattered *sukkah* parts in parade-like fashion. They all pitch in to rebuild the *sukkah*, which becomes a truly welcoming space for all.

“The Art of Jewish Jewish Joy: Crafts and Activities for Celebration and Connection”

Amanda Kingloff and Suzy Ultman
Chronicle Books; ages 3 and up

Children of all ages and their grown-ups can kick off the Jewish New Year with a creative spark with this engaging collection of activities for Jewish celebrations. This 224-page, how-to compendium is chock full of brightly-colored illustrations and easy-to-follow instructions. More than 50 pages are devoted to the Jewish High Holidays, with ideas for New Year's greetings cards, hand-held silhouettes and dipped apple slices.

Marks Award continued from page 18

That commitment has also led him to volunteer roles. An avid biker, he is involved in Bike Belmont, an annual community cycling event that highlights the Belmont Avenue corridor. He also serves as secretary/treasurer of the Liberty Community and Historical Society sponsoring Liberty's celebration of the nation's 250th birthday held August 4 in the Guy Middle School parking lot.

Arnie was born in Elyria, Ohio, and grew up in Columbus, but has lived in Liberty Township for 40 years. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and a master's degree in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University. He came to Youngstown in 1986 to serve as President of Mid America Resource Corporation (MARC), a venture capital company, established for the

purpose of contributing to the economic development of the Mahoning Valley. MARC provided the start up financing for Sovereign Circuits and Vinyl Profiles, both currently operating in North Jackson. From 2007 to 2010 he was employed by the Ohio Department of Development as the Regional Economic Development Director for Mahoning, Trumbull, and Ashtabula Counties. Prior to coming to Youngstown in 1986 he served as the Assistant Deputy for Economic Development Finance in the Ohio Department of Development. When not being employed by the Ohio Department he was the sole proprietor of a consulting firm serving non-profit affordable housing developers, businesses, and government.

He enjoys biking, swimming, and tennis. His wife, Bettina, is a realtor. They have two children and two grandchildren.

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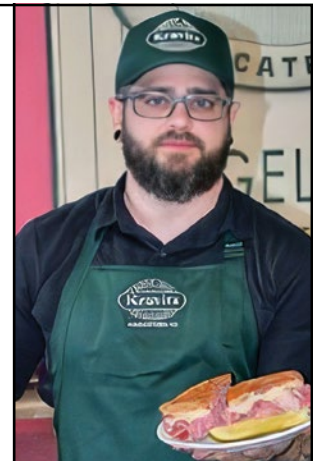
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