

A Season Of Mussar

A Journey In Ethical Living

Alan Morinis, the founder and director of the Mussar Institute, writes: "Mussar is an illuminating, approachable, and highly practical set of teachings for cultivating personal growth and spiritual realization in the midst of day-to-day life." He goes on to say: "Life comes with a series of tests – often in relationships with those we love the most. These tests try us. They also reveal the places where we have the potential to grow. The Jewish tradition of Mussar offers wisdom and tools for facing and making the most of life's challenges."

This very special study program will be offered by the Adult Department of the Bureau of Jewish Education, in collaboration with Temple Beth Zion's Lifelong Learning Department. We are fortunate to have two highly trained Mussar facilitators in our community: Evie Weinstein and Susan Schwartz.

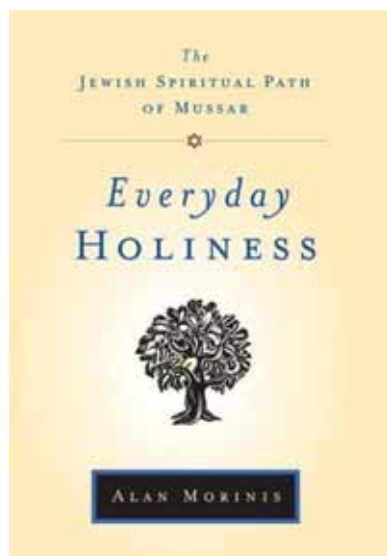
A "Season of Mussar" is a 13 week program that will guide participants in active engagement with Mussar, as a spiritual tradition and discipline. It will be divided into three segments: a Mussar overview; an encounter with your inner "traits" (humility, generosity, compassion and truth) and Simple steps to create a routine of Mussar practice.

A DAYTIME course, taught by Evie Weinstein, will be held on Seven (7) Wednesdays from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM at the Jewish Community Center on North Forest Road. An EVENING course, taught by Susan Schwartz, will be held on Seven (7) Wednesdays from 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM at Temple Beth Zion's Broder Center on Sweet Home Road in Amherst.

BOTH courses will take place on the following dates: October 1 and 22, November 5 and 19, December 3 and 17, and January 7, 2015. In between the seven formal class meetings, students will participate in guided study with their "chevruta"-- study partner.

The cost for either the day or evening class is \$125 and will include weekly study materials. Limited scholarships are available and no one will be turned away. The course is open to the community and class size must be a minimum of 8 students and a maximum of 12 participants.

For information or to register, please email Ethel Melzer: ethel@bjebuffalo.org or call the Bureau of Jewish Education office at 204-5380.



Jewish Neighborhood Memories

By Chana Revell Kotzin, Ph.D.

In many of my talks, I focus on looking for images of specific neighborhoods and streetscapes in order to expand the documentary record. Often, I will talk about the East Side where a large Eastern European Jewish community blossomed across a network of interlinked streets from the 1880s. This downtown area is still vividly remembered by community members today, even as many of the buildings and synagogues are gone, and a smaller number are transplanted into the suburbs in different forms. One of the main arteries of the Jewish East Side until the 1930s was William Street, which was packed with shops of every service and description; grocers, tobacconists, shoe stores, tailors, delis and much more. Indeed the community on the East Side was there for long enough that, over time, the Hebrew names of synagogues were dropped in favor of American names after the street on which each *shul* was located including Clinton Street, Pine Street, Pratt Street, Big Hickory, Little Hickory, Jefferson and Fillmore Avenue shuls.



Other synagogues retained their Yiddish inflected Hebrew names such as *Anshe Sokolovka*, and *Anshe Emes* (People of Truth) as a statement of former belonging or their founder's aspirations, but they were in the minority. Given the diversity and size of the "community of communities" on the East Side, other institutions also dotted the neighborhood, including the Talmud Torah, Zion House, Jewish Community Building as well as the Arbeiter Ring (Workman's Circle) and numerous Jewish women's groups, Jewish cultural and fraternal groups, *landsmanschaften* or hometown associations, credit unions, boy scout troops and various Jewish sports groups.

Given this breadth, recreating the East Side in pictorial form might seem a simple task, yet when I came to compile the book *Jewish Community of Greater Buffalo*, published last year, I was struck by the dearth of images for this once thriving Jewish area. It is hard to believe, but only a handful of synagogue images have survived, and most of those were taken when the buildings became churches. If you have photographs (inside or out) of these shuls or indeed any other business or organization mentioned - you hold a treasure and I'd love to hear from you!

Although we often focus on the East Side, the need to document other parts of Jewish Buffalo is just as necessary. The Humboldt Parkway and Hertel Avenue area lack images of their synagogues, when they were synagogues (and not as churches as they are now). And with the exception of Temple Emanu-el, very few images of Rabbis and Presidents have survived for these Temples. While this article focuses on photographs, the need for documents and memorabilia is just as acute in these neighborhoods, as well as in areas where only a sole Jewish institution now stands, for example, historic photographs relating to Beth Abraham on Elmwood Avenue. All of these areas are still in our living memory, and some are even in our weekly experience. Through combined community action, we can cumulatively recreate a cityscape that includes Jewish landmarks that enables community members to hold memories not just in our hearts but also in our hands.

Please contact me if you can help: Chana Revell Kotzin, Director, Jewish Buffalo Archives Project, or would like to discuss a particular donation at 716-204-5388. You can also email archivesproject@bjebuffalo.org. You can also visit the Jewish Buffalo Archives Project at 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068, however as this a part-time position, and there are times when I am working offsite, it is always best to make an appointment to avoid disappointment.



MOLLOT & HARDY, INC.
FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES

646 N. French Road Suite # 9
Amherst, NY 14228-2125
716.691.7121 • www.mollot.com

SERVICE BUILT ON INDEPENDENCE & TRUST

Securities and advisory services Offered
Through FSC Securities Corporation A
Registered Broker/Dealer Member FINRA/SIPC
and a registered investment advisor. Additional
advisory services offered through Mollot &
Hardy, Inc. A registered investment advisor not
affiliated with FSC Securities Corporation.



Bryan Castro, CFP™ Sanford Seide, CLU Alan Mollot, CLU, CFP™ Michael Hardy, CFP™