

A publication by the
Workmen's Circle Ohio District
in Cleveland, Ohio

Betty Lou Styar



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Betty Lou Styar. A frequenter of Workmen's Circle events and mother of Financial Chairperson, Cathy Silver, Betty was always a treat to be around with a smile that lit up every room she walked in. She leaves behind her loving daughter Cathy and grandson, Ryan.



Stacy Spetrino has been our Administrative Coordinator for the past 4 years. This April, Stacy celebrated her anniversary with the Workmen's Circle. Stacy has been a huge asset to our organization and her drive and dedication is something to be admired. She developed a volunteer program that has not only kept our Mitzvah Pantry running strong but also helps to provide much needed in-office support to daily operations. Way to GO!

LADIES & GENTLEMEN, LIPA SCHMELTZER

The "Jewish Elvis" is soon to be in the building

He's an American Jewish singer, entertainer, writer, composer and leader of the Airmont Shul in New York; the one and only. Lipa Schmeltzer. If you don't know the name yet, you certainly will



Jewish singer Lipa Schmeltzer (above) seen at the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, where he filmed a music clip, August 13, 2012. Photo by Mendy Hechtman/FLASH90

very soon. Lipa is a headliner within Hasidic as well as modern Jewish communities worldwide, and known as the "Jewish Elvis" and the "Lady Gaga of Hasidic music". By the year 2014, Lipa had released an astonishing 13 solo albums. After his wedding, with no formal musical training, Schmeltzer tried to find work as a wedding entertainer. He began performing at weddings and bar mitzvahs in the Haredi Jewish communities of upstate New York and Brooklyn. After a while, he earned a reputation as a natural performer, and began releasing recordings and videos. Shortly after being married, Schmeltzer released his first album entitled, *Nor B'Simcha*, which translates to, Only Be Happy. Schmeltzer attended Rockland Community



Lipa Schmeltzer (right) will be starring in this year's FREE Yiddish Concert in the Park at Cain Park on June 26th.

College, a two-year school which is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system. He pursued a dual associate's degree in performing arts and liberal arts. Among the courses Schmeltzer completed in college were acting, dance, musical theater, English, diversity, psychology and pluralism. Lipa Schmeltzer will be starring in this year's FREE Yiddish Concert in the Park at Cain Park on June 26th. More details on page 4 in the 'Save the Date' box.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A new face with new ideas and a plan

This month, we are pleased to welcome a new staff member to our organization to fill the role of Executive Director. Matt Greminger, a lifelong member of the Workmen's Circle Ohio District has come aboard to help the organization grow into the modern world. A South Euclid resident, small business owner and community activist, Matt Greminger has a plethora of experience in developing programs that promote growth, a large network of business and organizational



Matt Greminger (pictured above), the new Executive Director for the WCEC of Ohio.

leaders in our community and a knack for modernization and technology. This will undoubtedly lead to much needed growth within our organization, more support within our community as well as many new affiliations that will benefit our community as well as our current and new members.

ANNUAL "BETTER WORLD AWARD" RECIPIENTS

Article by: Matt Greminger



Two 'Better World Award' plaques presented to Alaysia Martin and William Butler of the Cleveland Singing Angels.

gift to the recipients, which began this year, each winner is given a membership to join the Workmen's Circle Educational Center as a part of the 'Better World team, opening up more doors for community involvement and success in volunteer-based activities. This year's recipients, Alaysia Martin and Billy Butler, were two very deserving individuals. Both have demonstrated a passion for helping others and a drive for community. Each of them continuously set an example for their peers and are role models in their circles and among the community.

We congratulate Alaysia and Billy on their outstanding achievements and encourage them to continue to shine light, love and happiness throughout the world. We look forward to seeing many great things from these two in the future and will try our best to keep updated on their progress in making the world a better and more beautiful place for many years to come.

Smiling faces and warm music filled the banquet hall as the 2016 Singing Angels Award Banquet came underway on Wednesday, May 18th at the Masonic Auditorium. This year marked the seventh year that the Workmen's Circle Educational Center has had the privilege of sponsoring an award at the Angel's Banquet. The 'Better World Award' was developed seven years ago as a way to spotlight the achievements of a select few individuals in our community who set an example through volunteerism, community service and kindheartedness. These actions spread love and hope to our community and to the world and has a tendency to not only positively affect the lives of those less fortunate, but also encourages others to do the same. The award is presented in the form of a certificate, a glass plaque, and a \$50 scholarship funded by our Better World group, which was formed by the Workmen's Circle Educational Center's Youth' social action committee. As an additional



WCEC Executive Direction, Matt Greminger (left), and Singing Angels Music Director, Charles Eversole (right), present the Better World Award and Scholarship.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE MITZVAH PANTRY

Our Mitzvah Food Pantry annually provides over 50,000 nutritious meals to those in need of assistance in our community.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

We are pleased to announce that our volunteer John C. has been awarded 'Volunteer of the Month' for the month of May. John is a model volunteer, always going above and beyond to help out in the office, assist our pantry clients and keep everyone smiling. We are so lucky to have John as a volunteer and deeply appreciate everything he does for our organization and our community.



Stacy Spetrino, Administrative Coordinator (left) and John C. (right) holding his certificate for Volunteer of the Month for the month of May.

Mitzvah Food Pantry Pick Up Hours

- Mon, June 20** – Produce Distribution (12:30pm – 3:00pm)
- Tue, June 21** – Pantry Open Hours (10:00am – 2:00pm)
- Wed, June 22** – Pantry Open Hours (10:00am – 2:00pm)
- Thur, June 23** – Pantry Open Hours (10:00am – 2:00pm)
- Fri, June 24** – Pantry Open Hours (10:00am – 2:00pm)

Serving those in need of these services in the following zip codes:

**44106, 44110, 44112, 44118,
44121, 44124 & 44143**

Photo ID and proof of residence is required.

OUR FUTURE – STRATEGIC PLANNING AND YOU

By Todd Packer, Strategic Planning Volunteer

Friends,

Over the past year, the WCOD Board and staff, joined by a handful of volunteers, have engaged in a strategic planning process. A special thanks to Sandra Losik who provided extensive volunteer support for our strategic planning efforts.

As a result, the following were identified as priorities going forward:

Strategic planning priorities:

1. Technology/Online presence
2. Community outreach
3. Yiddish-centered programs and classes
4. Newsletter overhaul
5. Address policy issues/Social activism
6. Membership

Over the remaining nine (9) months of 2016, the WCOD Strategic Planning participants agreed to:

- Launch or expand at least nine (9) WCOD initiatives tied to the strategic planning priorities
- Identify at least two (2) volunteers for active planning/implementing of each initiative
- Raise at least \$2,000.00
- Create a plan to build WCOD to a sustainable, staffed organization and determine options if not achieved

Some specific activities that volunteers are leading-and we'd like your help-send us a note or give us a call to help:

- Plant sale fundraiser
- Schmooze Café-informal setting where people can share refreshments and enjoy Yiddish music
- Yiddish cooking classes
- Improving WCOD online presence-for raising funds, promoting activities and building connections.
- Several yearly dances for folks of all ages
- Live Auction/Fundraiser
- Lecture Series
- Reverse Raffle
- Learning Yiddish with Songs
- Newsletters
- Yiddish Talks
- Holiday Programs
- Plant Sale
- Seder Dinner
- Yiddish Speakers

AMAZON HELPING US GROW

Amazon Smile launched the #StartWithaSmile campaign less than 2 months ago, and already thousands of charities have tweeted pictures of their organizations in action.

Here's how it works: Tweet a photo or video incorporating the #StartWithaSmile sign (download from our website) and the following text:

When you #StartWithaSmile we can _____
#AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com/ch/34-6558874

Be sure to follow @AmazonSmile on Twitter so they can send you a direct message requesting permission to share your tweet if your photo is selected.

We decided to focus efforts in 2016 under the theme **2X9 in 2016:**

L'CHAYM

Leverage Technology
Community Outreach
Holidays/Hosting
Activities
Yiddish programming
Money matters

Easy ways to raise money for WCOD online

There are a few quick and easy ways for you to raise needed money for WCOD while you work or play online. In this issue, we feature how doing simple web searches can bring in funds for WCOD at Goodsearch.com.

Website: <http://www.goodsearch.com>

Description: Goodsearch is a service of Goodshop, which provides online shopping deals and makes donations to nonprofits for every purchase you make. Goodshop is connected with over 114,000 nonprofits and schools, and WCOD is one of them. You have the option of registering with Goodshop to keep track of your purchases and donations. You also can simply use the Goodsearch search tool, which-like Google, Bing, Yahoo and other search engines-allows you to look for what you need online. By selecting WCOD, for every search you do, WCOD gets a small donation.

What to do:

- 1) Go to www.goodsearch.com
- 2) At the top of the screen, select "How it works", then "Support a Cause"
- 3) When the screen appears with "Who do you want to help?" type "Workmen's Circle" in the search box.
- 4) Select "Workmen's Circle Ohio District" (second listing)
- 5) A confirmation message screen appears: "Great choice! You are now supporting Workmen's Circle Ohio District". You have the option to formally register with Goodshop for other benefits, including shopping deals, or you can return to www.goodsearch.com without registering.
- 6) Use Goodsearch when you are looking up information online. When you return to www.goodsearch.com, you'll notice "You're supporting: Workmen's Circle Ohio District". You can also see how much has been raised next to "Cause total"-WCOD gets \$0.01 for every search, and a donation for purchases via Goodshop that select WCOD.

Happy searching!

WE ARE NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

As of last week, the Workmen's Circle Ohio District has joined the most popular social media platforms. If you are a member of any of the following Social Networks, be sure to 'Add', 'like', 'share' and 'FOLLOW' us.



SNAPCHAT
@WCOhio



FACEBOOK
/workmens.district



INSTAGRAM
@WCircleOhio



TWITTER
@WCircleOhio



Message from the Chairman



Dear Friends,

We are excited to relaunch the newsletter for the Workmen's Circle Ohio District. Communication with our members and others interested in our activities is vitally important. We now have several volunteers who took time to clean up our mailing records, collected email addresses and drafted

the content of this first newsletter, one of many to follow. Our goal is to send these out once per month. You can help us to save trees and postage by sending us your email address to receive the newsletter electronically.

Workmen's Circle Ohio District is active-you'll read about our programming and our plans in this issue-and we'd like your help. With our Klezmer Orchestra, Holiday cultural programming, upcoming Yiddish Concert in the Park, Mitzvah Food Pantry, Cemetery management and plans for new activities there are many ways that you can help. So, read about what we're doing- and if you see anything that you'd like to help with, give us a call, or send an email.

You can read about our strategic planning efforts, and new activities proposed by the volunteer participants. We have a number of dates to save- including our upcoming fundraising auction. So enjoy, and join us in 2016, un shenere und besere velt (for a better and more beautiful world).

a sheynem dank

zayt gezunt,

Jack Greninger
President, Board of Directors

SAVE THE DATE!

- June 18 – **South Euclid Rock the Block**
Mayfield Rd, Between Belvoir & Green
@ 12:00pm – 9:00pm
- June 19 – **Klezmer Orchestra Performance**
Wiggins Place @ 12:00pm (Cost: \$0)
- June 26 – **Yiddish Concert in the Park**
Lipa Schmeltzer - Cain Park in Cleve Hts.
Evans Amphitheater @ 7:00pm (Cost: \$0)
- July 6 – **Paint N' Schmooze Party**
Host: Lori Cahan-Simon
Rockefeller Pointe in Cleveland Heights
@ 6:30pm – 8:30pm (Cost: \$35)
- Aug. 14 – **Silent Auction 'FUN'raiser**
Landerhaven Executive Center
@ 12:00pm – 4:00pm (Cost: \$25/Ticket)

YIDDISH WORDSEARCH

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WORDS:

Kvetch
Bissel
Bubbe
Chutzpah
Kibbitz
Mentsh
Shlep
Shmutz
Tuches
Schmooze

Lomir Bagrisn

(Let Us Welcome)

The Workmen's Circle Ohio District welcomes its newest members of 2016...

Ryan Silver & Ted Stone

Not sure what to do with those plastic bags from the grocery store? Recycle them by donating your plastic bags to The Mitzvah Food Pantry!

The food pantry uses plastic grocery bags for distribution of its frozen meats and breads.



You can drop off bags at the Workmen's Circle during any meeting or event or at the office between 10am & 2pm.