

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
*Jewish* **Reporter**

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Jewish Federation of  
New Hampshire

Volume 39, Number 4

December 2018-January 2019

Kislev-Shevat 5779



**SPECIAL ISSUE: CHANUKAH/REFLECTIONS ON PITTSBURGH**

**Reflections on Pittsburgh:  
Light Amid Darkness**

December is usually the Chanukah Issue of the Jewish Reporter. But this year, the Publications Committee and JFNH Staff felt that we also needed to take some space and time to reflect on the impact of the horrific attack in Pittsburgh on October 27. Please visit our "Reflections on Pittsburgh" section for stories and photos of some of our communities' vigils and prayer services in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Pittsburgh, along with brief statements from national and international organizations, and quotes from local citizens and leaders.

A new study on U.S. anti-Semitism and a personal reflection on the sadness we share round out the section.



**Donate, Volunteer, Make a Difference:  
We're All In This Together**

Building community and making the world a better place is what we do every day at Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. But we need your help. This is your opportunity to be a critical part of a caring community that gives back. And it's an opportunity to foster and celebrate Jewish life for future generations. Donate. Volunteer. Make a difference. We're all in this together.

Your contribution helps to care for our entire NH Jewish community. Your donation to Federation's Campaign for Jewish Needs enables us to direct resources where they are needed most across the spectrum of ways we support and sustain Jewish life across New Hampshire.

For over 100 years, Jewish Federations

around the world have been working with your help to support, sustain, and revitalize Jewish life. Today, our work is far from finished. As we respond to a rise in anti-Semitism, as we work to support the hardening of our synagogues across the state, **YOUR GIFT MATTERS.**

As we expand our PJ Library program to serve more Jewish and interfaith families, a vital gateway into Jewish life for our children and grandchildren, **YOUR GIFT MATTERS.**

As we seek to strengthen and sustain the connection between New Hampshire's Jewish community and Israel through our newly re-energized Shlichah program, reaching every Hebrew School classroom across the state, **YOUR GIFT MATTERS.**

Your generous pledge to our Campaign enables us to sustain important programs such as *Zikaron BaSalon* (launched earlier this year), which helps us to plan intimate gatherings with Holocaust survivors to help heal trauma and keep their stories alive. **YOUR GIFT MATTERS.**

Your year-end gift helps us to produce and provide *The Jewish Reporter*, our monthly newspaper, which is distributed free of charge to over 3,500 homes across the state -- a lifeline to Jewish life and culture. **YOUR GIFT MATTERS.**

Your pledge sustains the Jewish Federation Preschool, imparting Jewish values to our children and grandchildren for over 30 years.

*Campaign continued on page 3*

**JFNH Forges Partnerships with State & Federal Safety Agencies: New Resources & Training on Horizon**

By Melanie Zalman MacDonald,  
JFNH Executive Director

In the wake of the tragedy at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, board and staff leadership from Jewish Federation of New Hampshire moved swiftly to connect with local, state, and federal officials to create a task force supporting the needs of Jewish entities throughout the state. Security training and resources have always been an important priority for JFNH, and in late 2016, amid the nationwide wave of JCC bomb threats, we organized a special training with the FBI and the ADL to ensure that our synagogues, Hebrew schools, and Jewish groups were informed and prepared. Federation's leadership, eager to ensure that New Hampshire's Jewish organizations have access to the best practices and most state-of-the-art training resources, has assembled a team of experts to work together long term for our Jewish community.

*Safety continued on page 3*



L-R: Paul Bieber, JFNH Treasurer; Elizabeth Lahey, Asst. Attorney General, Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Unit; Col. Christopher Wagner, NH State Police, Dept. of Public Safety; Melanie Zalman MacDonald, JFNH Executive Director; Perry Plummer, Dir. Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management; Special Agent Mark Hastbacka, FBI Boston Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Mindee Greenberg, JFNH Board Chair.


*What's Inside*

Calendar	4
Federation Voices	5
Your Federation at Work	6
From the Bimah	8
Chanukah	9-11
In Solidarity with Pittsburgh	12-14
In the Community	15
Giving / Tikkun Olam	14-17
Arts & Entertainment	19
Education	21
Mitzvahs	21
Letter to the Editor	22
Book Review	22
Recent Events	23
Tributes	25
Business & Professional Services	26

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# CONGREGATIONS

**JRF:** Jewish Reconstructionist Federation **URJ:** Union for Reform Judaism  
**USCJ:** United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

## AMHERST

### CONGREGATION BETENU

Sam Blumberg (Rabbinic Intern)  
5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 886-1633  
www.betenu.org  
Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM  
Saturday morning twice a month, 9:30 AM

## BETHLEHEM

### BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

39 Strawberry Hill Road  
PO Box 395, Bethlehem  
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian  
(603) 869-5465  
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org  
davegoldstone1@gmail.com  
Services: Contact for Date/Time Info  
President Dave Goldstone - (516) 592-1462  
or Eileen Regen - (603) 823-7711  
Weekly Services: July through Simchat Torah  
Friday: 6:30 PM; Saturday: 10 AM

## CLAREMONT

### TEMPLE MEYER DAVID

25 Putnam Street, Claremont  
Conservative  
(603) 542-6773  
Services: Generally the second Friday of the month, 6:15 PM, April to November.

## CONCORD

### TEMPLE BETH JACOB

Rabbi Robin Nafshi  
67 Broadway, Concord  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 228-8581  
www.tbjconcord.org  
office@tbjconcord.org  
Services: Friday night - 7 PM  
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

## DERRY

### ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Peter Levy  
1½ Hood Road, Derry  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 432-0004  
www.etzhayim.org  
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org  
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM  
Please check the website for the Shabbat Morning schedule

## DURHAM

### UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki  
72-1 Main Street, Durham  
(603) 205-6598  
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com  
www.JewishSeacoast.com

## HANOVER

### THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

Rabbi Moshe Gray  
19 Allen Street, Hanover  
Orthodox, Chabad  
(603) 643-9821  
www.dartmouthchabad.com  
chabad@dartmouth.edu  
Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services and Dinner  
Shabbat morning services  
Call for times

### KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mark Melamut  
Roth Center for Jewish Life  
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover  
Nondenominational, Unaffiliated  
(603) 646-0460  
www.uvjc.org  
uvjc@valley.net  
Services: Friday night Shabbat services at 6 PM, led by Dartmouth Hillel  
Saturday morning Shabbat services at 10 AM

## KEENE

### CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Amy Loewenthal  
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene  
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF  
(603) 352-6747  
www.keenesynagogue.org  
rabbi.ahavas.achim@gmail.com  
secretary.ahavas@gmail.com  
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM  
Monthly Shabbat morning services at 9:30 AM  
Check the website for time variations

## LACONIA

### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Boaz Heilman  
210 Court Street, Laconia  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 524-7044  
www.tbinh.org  
Services: Every other Friday night at 7:30 PM

## MANCHESTER

### CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

Rabbi Levi Krinsky  
1234 River Rd., Manchester  
Orthodox, Chabad  
(603) 647-0204  
www.Lubavitchnh.com  
rabbi@lubavitchnh.com  
Services: Shabbat Services  
Saturday morning at 9:30 AM  
Sunday morning minyan at 9 AM

## TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson  
152 Prospect Street, Manchester  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 669-5650  
www.taynh.org  
templeadathy@comcast.net  
Services: Shabbat services the first Friday of the month at 6 PM  
All other Friday nights at 7 PM with some exceptions.  
Alternating Shabbat services or Torah study Saturday mornings at 10 AM

## TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski  
66 Salmon Street, Manchester  
Conservative  
(603) 622-6171  
office@templeisraelmht.org  
For Shabbat service times, call 603-622-6171 x12 or visit  
www.templeisraelmht.org.  
Call Stephen Singer, 669-4100 for more info.

## NASHUA

### TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett  
4 Raymond Street, Nashua  
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ  
(603) 883-8184  
www.tbanashua.org  
rabbi@tbanashua.org  
office@tbanashua.org  
Services: Friday night services 8 PM  
1st Friday family service 7 PM  
Saturday morning 9:30 AM  
Mon. - Thur. minyan 7:30 PM

## NORTH CONWAY

### KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan Marlana Fuerstman  
PO Box 474, Bartlett  
(978) 853-4900  
harlavancommunity@gmail.com  
Services: Wed. mornings 9 AM online via Zoom  
Enter meeting ID <https://zoom.us/j/381930069>  
Holiday service times, locations TBA

## PORTSMOUTH

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Ira Korinow (Interim)  
200 State Street, Portsmouth  
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ  
(603) 436-5301  
www.templeisraelnh.org  
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org  
Services: Friday, 6:15 PM  
Saturday, 9:30 AM  
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM  
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

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The objectives of The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of New Hampshire by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 10th of the month before publication. There are no January or June issues. All items, including calendar events, for the December-January or May-June newspaper must be submitted by Nov. 10 or April 10, respectively.

Please send all materials to:  
[thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org)

Send items for the print and online  
JFNH Calendar and E-News to  
[events@jewishnh.org](mailto:events@jewishnh.org)

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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



<b>December 7</b>	<b>3:53 PM</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>3:54 PM</b>
<b>December 21</b>	<b>3:56 PM</b>
<b>December 28</b>	<b>4:01 PM</b>
<b>January 4</b>	<b>4:07 PM</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>4:14 PM</b>
<b>January 18</b>	<b>4:22 PM</b>
<b>January 25</b>	<b>4:31 PM</b>

**Campaign** continued from page 1

### YOUR GIFT MATTERS.

Your contribution ensures that cultural programs like our New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival continue enabling us to gather and experience the Jewish world through the lens of cinema. YOUR GIFT MATTERS.

Whether it's providing young people with aid to attend Jewish summer camps or to visit Israel for the first time, or enrichment for seniors, the founding generation of our Jewish community, YOUR GIFT MATTERS.

Your gift is an extension of so many of our shared Jewish values: *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *Eretz Yisrael* (connection to the land of Israel), *minhagim v'halachot* (Judaism as a way of life), *kehillah* (community), *tzedakah* (charity, justice, righteousness), *kavod* (respect), and *chesed* (caring). Without your generous support, Jewish New Hampshire will be a less vibrant and enriching place to be a part of. It is only with your support that we can do more for you, your family,

your Jewish community. Help us reach this year's goal of \$220,000 by making your pledge today!

### Ways to Give

- Answer the call on "Tzedakah Tuesdays & Sundays" in December, and let a volunteer learn more about what inspires you to support Federation and take your pledge over the phone.
- Pre-empt our call by giving online at [www.jewishnh.org/give](http://www.jewishnh.org/give).
- Call our office M-TH, 8:30 AM-4 PM at (603) 627-7679.
- Use the pledge card on the back page of The Reporter and mail in your donation to us at Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 66 Hanover Street, Suite #300, Manchester NH 03101.
- Click the "Donate Button" on our Facebook page to give online.
- Consider a gift of appreciated stock or visit page 5 to read more about designating your required minimum distribution from your IRA to JFNH.

**Safety** continued from page 1

In mid-November, work began on an important long-term collaboration at the NH Department of Justice for a discussion with top-level officials from the Attorney General's office (Civil Rights Unit), Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigations, and NH Department of Public Safety/State Police. With their guidance and expertise, along with input from the leadership of all of New Hampshire's Jewish organizations, we are proud to collaborate to aid in further hardening of our facilities and to ensure that New Hampshire's Jewish community (synagogues, preschools, Hillels, summer camps, etc.) are better prepared in the event of a threat or natural disaster.

These important planning efforts have already borne fruit. By setting this wheel in motion, Federation has become an integral part of New Hampshire's planning efforts, helping to educate state officials about the "footprint" of Jewish New Hampshire, and discussing some of the community's immediate needs and how to remedy them. We also took care in gathering data from each of our state's Jewish organizations to provide our collaborators with real-time "boots on the ground" insight into what efforts are already underway and what additional support (tools, training, funding, expertise) are needed on the ground alongside our Rabbis, board presidents, and Hebrew school directors.

In the short term, we are working to develop a new "self-assessment" tool that each community can utilize to determine its preparedness for various events. We look forward to deploying that tool in the

new year, and utilizing the information gathered (confidentially) to plan work sessions, trainings, and other activities that Federation can offer to better equip our partner agencies on a deeper level.

One thing we do know is that our counterparts in Pittsburg had (only 6 weeks prior to the attack) participated in Active Shooter training. Reports indicate that the actions taken on that day by those who had received the training went a long way toward protecting many, and reducing the number of fatalities -- despite a difficult reality I'm sure they could not have ever anticipated in the weeks prior.

Regardless of the likelihood of a viable threat, or the possibility of a similar incident here in New Hampshire, it is critical that we continue to protect what we hold so dear. Federation is proud to lead this effort in collaboration with state safety officials and looks forward to partnering with each community in the months ahead.

Federation representatives left the table feeling heard, reassured that our partners at the Departments of Safety, Justice, Homeland Security, and the FBI are invested in providing the training and resources our Jewish community needs. While we are heartbroken about the recent events that sparked the need for these discussions, we value the opportunity to be proactive in providing Jewish communities across the Granite State with the expertise necessary to ensure the security of our communities in the long term.

For more information about this initiative, please contact JFNH Executive Director Melanie Zalman McDonald at (603)627-7679 or via email at [director@jewishnh.org](mailto:director@jewishnh.org).



## Become a Friend of the Festival

### The 11th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival premieres April 4-14, 2019

Playing in Theaters Statewide  
Manchester, Merrimack, Concord,  
Peterborough and Portsmouth

**YES, I want to support the 11th Annual NH Jewish Film Festival and be a Friend of the Festival**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$180-\$249

Contributions accepted by check mailed to:  
JFNH

66 Hanover Street, Suite 300, Manchester, NH 03101

or by calling the office at (603) 627-7679

Sponsorship Opportunities are available

for this highly anticipated cultural event.

For details, contact Patricia Kalik at (603) 627-7679

or email [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org).



**Jewish Federation**  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

# Statewide Calendar of Events

## Saturday, Dec. 1

**Raymond Street Klezmer Band Concert**  
7 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

**MVJF Spotlight Presents — Merrimack Valley Premiere Night: Sammy Davis Jr. Film *I've Gotta Be Me***

7:30 PM, Theatre at: Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover, MA

To reserve a seat, visit [www.mvjf.org](http://www.mvjf.org).

## Sunday, Dec. 2 – First Night of Chanukah

**Family Menorah Lighting at the State House**

4 PM, New Hampshire State House, Concord  
Join Chabad Center for Jewish Living – NH and PJ Library – NH for a heartwarming family menorah lighting. Watch the largest menorah in the state be lit on the first night of Chanukah. Hot chocolate and jelly doughnuts for everyone. Special PJ Library craft and free book giveaway. Free for all.

**Chanukah Menorah Lighting**

5:30 PM, Bethlehem Town Hall Lawn, Bethlehem  
Ceremony, songs, and light refreshments.

## Monday, Dec. 3

**Learn Hebrew in Less Than a Week**

7 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
This 4-night class (Dec. 3-6), led by Rabbi Ira Korinow, meets in the Temple Israel Board Room, 2nd floor. The class is meant to teach mechanical reading and will provide you with skills to continue to learn to read and understand what you're

reading. There is no cost for this class, but you are required to purchase the text book for \$13.95. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 436-5301, ext. 10 or [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org).

## Wednesday, Dec. 5

**MVJF Adult Education Series "Jewish Art and Artists": Bible's Greatest Hits Through Visual Midrash**

7 PM, Osgood Landing, 1600 Osgood Street, Media Room (front entrance), North Andover, MA  
For more information, visit [www.mvjf.org](http://www.mvjf.org).

## Thursday, Dec. 6

**Seniors Forever Young Chanukah Party**

11 AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
To reserve your space, contact Allyson at [outreach@jewishnh.org](mailto:outreach@jewishnh.org) or call Federation at (603) 627-7679.

**heBrew Happy Hour**

5:30 PM, Thirsty Moose Taphouse, 795 Elm St., Manchester  
Reservations are not required. Call Norri at 582-3838 for more information.

## Sunday, Dec. 9 – Last Night of Chanukah

**Brotherhood Chanukah Party**

11 AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun

**Temple Israel, Manchester Chanukah Party**

12 PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St., Manchester  
Reservations are required by November 30. Call 622-6171 for more information.

**Community Chanukah Candle Lighting and Prayer for Peace**

5 PM, Temple Israel Courtyard (off State St.), Portsmouth  
Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Temple Israel office at 436-5301, ext. 10 or [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org).

## Sunday, Dec. 16

**MVJF Adult Education Series "Jewish Art and Artists": Reinventing Ritual Objects**

2:30 PM, Congregation Beth Israel, 6 Dundee Park, Suite 301, Andover, MA  
For more information, visit [www.mvjf.org](http://www.mvjf.org).

## Thursday, Dec. 20

**"Shifting Boundaries" Photography Exhibit Opening Reception**

5-8 PM, Temple Israel Shmoozatorium, Portsmouth  
For more information, contact Aimee Margolis: [art1show@verizon.net](mailto:art1show@verizon.net).

## Monday, Dec. 31

**First Night Portsmouth Musical Celebration**

8 PM, Temple Israel Social Hall, Portsmouth  
For more information, please contact the Temple Israel office at 436-5301, ext. 10 or [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org).

## Friday, Jan. 4

**Kabbalat Shabbat Musical Service with Cantor Shira Nafshi**

6:15 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
For more information, please contact the Temple Israel office at 436-5301, ext. 10 or [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org).

## Thursday, Jan. 10

**Seniors Forever Young Luncheon With Special Guest Shlichah Noam Wolf**

12 noon, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

## Friday, Jan. 18

**Family Shabbat & Tu B'Shevat Seder**

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester  
Reservations required. Call 622-6171 for more information.

## Monday, Jan. 21 – Tu B'Shevat, MLK Day

**PJ Library Martin Luther Family Day of Kindness With Jayme's Fund**

1 PM PJ Our Way program begins, 2 PM PJ Library program begins.

Listen to the story of Jayme's fund and help stuff bears that will be donated to local children's hospitals. Snack included. RSVP to [pjlibrary@jewishnh.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnh.org) by Jan 16.

**MLK Celebration and Observance**

2 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

**Tu B'Shevat Service**

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester  
Reservations required. Call 622-6171 for more information.

## Saturday, Jan. 26

**Brotherhood Deli Night**

6 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
Limited tickets available for purchase in advance.

See what's happening in the community at [www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org)

Join us for a family **MENORAH LIGHTING** in conjunction with the PJ Library

**Sunday, December 2nd, 4pm**  
The State House Plaza  
107 N. Main St. Concord

Free event, all are welcome!  
Craft for the kids!  
Hot chocolate & Jelly doughnuts  
PJ Library Book Giveaway!  
Largest Menorah in the State of NH

**Jewish Federation Preschool**

**NOW ENROLLING**

The place that inspires a love for Judaism and Learning

30 years of Educating Children

(603) 782-5174  
[preschool@jewishnh.org](mailto:preschool@jewishnh.org)

A major focus of the Jewish Federation Preschool is the development of the child socially, emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. We maintain a very low staff to student ratio, thus guaranteeing that every child receives consistent individual attention.

We recognize the uniqueness of each child, the importance of responsibility and commitment for each child, the need to develop creative and inquiring minds, and the importance of a warm, loving, positive and accepting classroom.

Developmentally appropriate classes for ages 2 years thru Kindergarten  
Half Day hours 8:45am – 11:45am  
Full Day hours 8:45am – 1:45pm  
Early morning drop off and extended day available

All Lead teachers ECE certified ~ All staff CPR and First Aid Certified

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY: The JFNH Preschool admits students of any race, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

## Feeling the Sting of Anti-Semitism, We Continue to Push On — Together

I'm writing yet another article for *The Jewish Reporter* in the shadow of horrible events. It seems like lately, that's all there is to think and talk about. I must say that this is the first time in my life I am actually feeling the sting of anti-Semitism. I know, I'm from Israel, where my people are so frequently attacked, murdered, stabbed, and hated, but I never felt as if it was personal to me. In Israel, it was our whole country, so I never felt like a target. In the United States, it's personal to all the Jews.

I feel as if my heart kind of closed itself off from feelings lately, to cope with everything that has been happening. On the same night the Pittsburg shooting happened, 40 rockets were shot overnight to the south of Israel, and many of the people that I know were up all night running to their shelter. A good friend of Avi's (my significant other) has moved to study in the south, in Sderot. Sapir College for communication and media is located there, and this poor guy was running all night long, going to bed for a few minutes and waking up 10 minutes later to the sound of a siren that sent him to the shelter again.

I can't even imagine that kind of life. The house I grew up in was only once in the fire range of rockets, when I was probably 10 years old. Back then, it was missiles that released chemicals that were dangerous to breathe in. I remember going to school with my personal box containing my own gas mask, and the whole day was about decorating it alongside my classmates. Each kid had their own favorite television show, and we printed stuff and cut photos out of magazines, then collaged them on the box. It made every-

Noam Wolf

JFNH Shlichah



one feel better about the fact we had to have these masks so handy -- that we might die any day. Almost every day, there were 20 to 40 sirens, and that became the norm after a few weeks.

I hope we can go back to our routine of life fast; I don't like being in this place in time. Locking the doors behind me, looking suspiciously under my car for bombs, and not being able to trust any stranger. Since the shooting, I have been thinking about it a lot -- I'm a Jewish and Israeli figure in this state. As a Shlichah, this is what I represent. Anyone can find me -- it's easy to feel vulnerable. So I push forward, eager to make sure that doesn't weigh on me too heavily.

On another, and a more positive note: I'm going to see my family soon! In about a week (from the moment I wrote this) I will be going to a conference in New Jersey with the hundreds of Shlichim who are serving at JCCs, Federations, synagogues, and campuses. There will also be many *Shinshinim* (*Shnat Sherut* is one year of service you can volunteer for right before the army. *Shinshinim* is their nickname, and they are spread all over the United States and Canada.) Together, we will be almost 1,000 Israeli Shlichim at that conference, and after it is over my parents will meet me in NYC! Avi will join us, and we are excited to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, go to a



Noam participates in a planning meeting with Dartmouth College students who will be traveling to Israel. Noam is leading this trip on behalf of Federation in collaboration with Hillel International and Taglit-Birthright Israel this December!

few museums, and spend time with my parents, whom I miss so much.

I'm also very excited about the next amazing opportunity this December: a new collaboration I am leading for JFNH in partnership with Hillel International. The Hillel at Dartmouth reached out to us at the Jewish Federation asking me to lead a Birthright trip for their students. This is a connection I have been looking to create for a while now, and I am so glad it is happening. A few days ago, I met 40 students, most of whom have never been to Israel. We met at the Roth Center for Jewish Life in Hanover and went over the details, itinerary, and common questions before going on that kind of a trip. I cannot tell you how excited I am to go with these young people and introduce them my country. I can't wait to see their faces when they meet the six Israelis joining us and become friends with them; I can't wait to show them the sunrise from the top of Masada; I can't wait to watch them eat Israeli food! I am sure they will enjoy that so much. I

feel very lucky that I went on this path of being a Shlichah; so many good things have happened to me, and I have had a chance to do so much good as well. I am full of ideas and fun stuff to do during this trip, and I have even organized a stop at my parents' house on the way from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, so that they can all see an Israeli house from the inside, talk to a Brigadier General in the IDF (my father), and try some of my mother's food. These students have no idea what's coming!!!

I will be staying a few more days after Birthright so I can spend time with my family and friends, and when I get back a little before Christmas, I will be ready to start winter in New Hampshire with new energy and new friends, and I just can't wait.

*To connect with Noam Wolf about her educational offerings, or to discuss your interest in visiting Israel or making Aliyah, please email her at [shlichah@jewishnh.org](mailto:shlichah@jewishnh.org) or contact her through her Facebook page Noam Wolf NH Shlichah.*

## Did You Know? Your Required Minimum Distribution From Your IRA Can Support JFNH!!

If you are taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your IRA, please consider using your RMD to support JFNH. In addition to your supporting our New Hampshire Jewish community with your RMD, you may find that using your RMD in this way may benefit you as well.

The Internal Revenue Code permits charitable distributions of up to \$100,000 made from traditional IRA or Roth IRA accounts to be excluded from gross income. It is an effective and advantageous strategy through which a donor may: (1) avoid imposition of tax on distributions from a retirement account (including

RMDs or distributions made at other times during the calendar year) and (2) fulfill the donor's charitable intentions. Here are the simple requirements to make a charitable distribution (sometimes called a charitable rollover) directly from your IRA and exclude it from your gross income:

- The charitable distribution must come from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA.
- The charitable distribution must be made directly from the IRA trustee to the charitable organization -- with no intervening possession or ownership by the IRA owner.
- The charitable distribution must be

made on or after the IRA owner has reached age 70½.

- The charitable distribution must be made to an organization that would qualify as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code, other than a private foundation or donor advised fund.

Instead of making a direct contribution to charity, charitable IRA distributions have important tax benefits, the most important of which is that the charitable distribution is completely tax exempt. If a donor receives his or her IRA distribution and then donates it to a charity, it is possible that the donor

may not be able to deduct the full amount of the charitable donation in the year that the donation is made. However, by making a charitable IRA distribution directly from the IRA to the charity, the problem is completely avoided because the entire donation is completely excluded from the donor's gross income.

Individual circumstances may vary, and so if you wish to take advantage of this tax benefit, we encourage you to obtain advice directly from your personal tax accountant or attorney and to designate your RMD to Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

## What Do You Know About Israeli Wines?

By Evelyn Miller

Manchester — My knowledge about wines could barely fill a thimble, and to prove this, my wine at the Passover table is always the largest bottle of Manischewitz sold. When I saw the notice that The Jewish Federation of NH was sponsoring a wine tasting event featuring two wineries from Israel, I thought that sounded like fun and that I might learn something to boot.

The evening was really lovely. It was held in the Millyard Museum in Manchester. Many attended in dress attire, although Noam, our Shlichah, stole the show, as she looked like she had stepped off a fashion runway. Wonderful appetizers that complimented wine were beautifully displayed and served for all to enjoy. And finally, there was a table completely overflowing with empty wine glasses that we were encouraged to use to sample the wines that had been brought from Israel.

After much socializing, eating, and sampling of wine, the guests were treated to a presentation from Yaakov Berg of

Psagot Winery in the Northern Jerusalem Mountains and Yiftach Peretz from Yatir Winery in Tel Arad. Wines from Carmel Winery in Zichron Yaakov were also available for tasting. The vintners talked about their vineyards' historical origins, agricultural techniques, and wine processing, aging, and varieties. Israel's climate, soils, and drip irrigation method are perfect for vineyards and wine production.

These vineyards produce award-winning wines. I can vouch for how tasty a number of them were. But when I asked where I could purchase this wine, we all learned that Israeli wine IS NOT SOLD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. It was whispered in my ear that I could travel to Boston and buy some Israeli wine, but being an independent New Hampshireer, that didn't settle well with me. As I pressed further, I was told that New Hampshire citizens needed to be proactive and request that Israeli wines be sold in our state. Marty Hymowitz is the East coast regional manager representing the Israeli vineyards. If you have a few minutes, please email Marty at

JFNH staff welcomed the Israeli Consulate to New England staff and the Israeli wine delegation. Pictured (L-R): Austin Sedaghatpour, Juan Gilves Coronel, Noam Wolf, Marty Hymowitz, Yiftach Peretz, Joshua Greenstein, Melanie Zalman McDonald, and Allyson Guertin.

royalwine.com and request Israeli wines to be sold here in New Hampshire. He said it was important to list the stores and the locations that interest you. He will take our requests and deliver them to our state liquor commissioner, and hope-

fully we will see results soon. I for one will say: Evelyn Miller requests that Israeli wines be sold in the NH State Liquor Store in Goffstown and in the Market Basket in Bedford. I hope your request will join mine!

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Through the program, your family will be enriched by experiencing the joy of Jewish life.

Funded by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, it's a gift that will nourish a Jewish life from the start.



HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION





Last year's NH Jewish Film Festival Gala was a big hit at the Currier Museum.

## You Can Become a Sponsor or Friend of the NH Jewish Film Festival

### JFNH Signature Program

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is proud to present our 11th Annual Festival from Thursday, April 4, to Sunday, April 14, 2019. Please save the dates on your calendar so you won't miss another outstanding film festival season!

Our Saturday night gala event will be held at the Currier Museum on April 6. Please stay tuned for the announcement of our film schedule.

The Festival films provide a unique insight into Jewish themes and values. We are planning an exciting line-up, from fascinating documentaries and mysteries to serious drama. The movies are cultural, educational, funny, thought-provoking, and inspirational.

The festival will be showing on screens in six cities with compelling films for 11 days, made possible through the generosity and patronage of the Friends of the Festival, individual and corporate Sponsors, and our statewide audiences' attendance. The Festival is open to the general public.

#### Become a Friend or Sponsor

As a Friend or Sponsor, your valued support directly impacts our ability to present the Festival and to provide cutting-edge Jewish-themed films, along with noteworthy guest speakers and engaging, film-enhancing programs.

You or your organization can have an opportunity to sponsor a specific film of your choosing as a Film Star and to see your name in lights. Please join us today with your contribution to the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival as a Friend or Sponsor. The Festival is an annual tradition for our community that supports and enriches Jewish cultural life across the state.

Thank you for supporting JFNH's largest cultural event of the year. The Festival is an annual tradition for our community, enriching Jewish cultural life across the state.

For more information, please contact the Jewish Federation office and see our advertisements on this page and page 3 of this issue for sponsorship details.

Thank you for supporting JFNH's largest cultural event of the year.



## Preschool Celebrates Grandparents

### JFNH Signature Program

Manchester — This year on November 20, JFNH Preschool held a Grandparents Day celebration. Grandparents and parents had the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and enjoy muffins, yogurt parfaits, and lemonade spritzers, all made by the children. Each family went home with a wonderful gift made by their child. What a great morning!

This year we have been co-hosting monthly PJ Library Tot Shabbats and Playgroups. The next one is scheduled for Friday, December 7, at 10 AM at Preschool. To join in the fun, RSVP to Allyson Guertin at [pjlibrary@jewishnh.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnh.org).

Thank you to Rabbi Jeremy and Rabbi Jon for sharing a Friday morning with us. Looking forward to Rabbi Robin's visit.

Our spaces are filling up quickly, if you are interested in learning more about the



Grandparents Day celebration at JFNH Preschool

Jewish Federation Preschool or would like to set up a tour, contact Alane Sabel at [preschool@jewishnh.org](mailto:preschool@jewishnh.org) or call 782-5174.



## Become a Film Festival Sponsor

### The 11th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival premieres April 4-14, 2019

*Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH*  
[nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://nhjewishfilmfestival.org)

**A celebrated NH tradition, the Festival draws 1,200 plus attendees statewide.**

#### JFNH offers its Film Festival Sponsors a wide array of benefits:

- The opportunity to connect with the statewide Jewish community and general public.
- Sponsors receive broad exposure in a multitude of print and broadcast media channels.
- Introduce your business to the NH statewide Jewish community during the largest Jewish cultural event of the year.
- Reach an established and significant demographic of over 3,200 homes and a statewide film going audience.

#### Contact us today!

We offer a comprehensive Film Festival Sponsorship program to fit your strategic objectives.

For more info, please contact:  
**Patricia Kalik**  
at (603) 627-7679 or  
[info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org)



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## It's Getting Worse and Getting Better

The murders at Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh were only a degree of separation for me. My friend is married to one of the rabbis there. Community members in and near Nashua grew up at that synagogue and nearby, became Jewish there, got married there. Like every attack that kills or harms a Jew in Israel, in North America, anywhere in the world, this is family.

During the week after the shooting, I tried to get some perspective and some footing in Torah. What jumped into my consciousness part way through that week was a teaching from the Mishnah. You might recognize it because it is quoted in the Pesach Haggadah:

Rabbi Elazar Ben Azariah said: "Indeed I am like a 70-year old, and I did not get that the Exodus from Egypt is said at night until Ben Zoma interpreted this verse for me: 'In order that you will remember the day of the Exodus from Egypt all the days of your life' (Deut. 16:3). 'The days of your life' means the days; 'all the

### Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett  
Temple Beth Abraham

days of your life' means the nights. But the Sages say: 'the days of your life' means this world; 'all the days of your life' means to bring the days of the Messiah."

The Exodus is the original story of anti-Semitism. The sudden turn against the Jews, with the flimsy rationale. The violence against us. Then the redemption -- the awareness that the divine force for protection and liberation can overpower even the strongest human power of oppression and violence.

Rabbi Elazar Ben Azariah says, I used to think that the Exodus is a story of the day of redemption, a story of light. But Ben Zoma explained that it is both. It is also the story of the night -- the fear of

the night of escape; the fear that we have only run away, but the anti-Semitic threat will come and find us.

Usually in these expoundings, the point is that one view is superior to the other: "You might have thought this, but really it's that." This month, I hear Rabbi Elazar saying, Ben Zoma helps me realize that it's both.

For the past few decades, Jews have argued about whether it is getting better for us or worse for us. Look how much we are accepted, how many barriers to Jews no longer exist, how strong Israel has become. Or -- look at the rise of white nationalism in America and its tropes, how terrible it has become in Europe, how many gains the BDS movement has made. For a long time, there have been two camps, the camp of seeing light and the camp of seeing darkness.

Well, says Rabbi Elazar Ben Azariah, We have to see both sets of things. We have to look at the places where anti-Semitism is rising, on the white nationalist right and on the BDS-sympathetic left. And we ought to be able to see that Jews have never, ever had as many allies as we do now. In every facet of society, among all kinds of different groups.

It's getting worse *and* it's getting better.

I have always been in the "daylight" perspective, and I am sorry to say that I was too often impatient with people pointing to the darkness. Since Charlottesville a year ago and since Pittsburgh now, I feel like it is my responsibility to take the darkness seriously. And I believe that for those of you who have been warning about the darkness, it is imperative to look for the signs of hope and alliance that are everywhere around us.

We need to build on our alliances. Our interfaith dialogues should be more probing. Our work especially in New Hampshire, teaching people who don't know much about Jews needs to grow. If there are teachers in your community who want someone to speak about Cha-

nukah or the Shoah or anything, we need to capitalize on all our willing partners.

We need to be watchdogs in the interest groups and political groups we are part of -- whether it's the rhetoric of "globalists" who hate America, or the canard of the Israeli military teaching American police to beat African-Americans.

And then there is the Sages' perspective -- that when we think about all of this, we have to think of both the battles of this world and the dreams of the World to Come.

In the outpouring of support we received after Pittsburgh -- from churches and mosques and Hindu temples, in letters from elected officials and protection from police forces, in the personal calls every rabbi received from Senator Maggie Hassan -- we have to see our own achievement in building a better America.

And we have to see a challenge to pay it forward, to stand by other groups who are misunderstood, hated, targeted. We cannot let the bullying talk go, from the president and other leaders or would-be leaders. We have to show up at the places where other people are afraid as they came to #showedupforShabbat. We have to make the phone calls like the ones we received.

We should not only react and sit back. The God of the Torah created all people in the divine image. The God of the Torah reached down, out to the lowest points and to the lowest people, to show that love and justice are unstoppable. That is the Torah we have to teach our own children better. That is the Torah we have to live better, within our own communities and toward other people in our society.

We mourn the terrible losses in Pittsburgh, and keep so many families and communities in our hearts. There is darkness, but there is light, and there is a World to Come that we can still see. There is still a Tree of Life in Pittsburgh, and everywhere we are as well.

# Happy Chanukah



from your friends at



## Kehilat Har Lavan Holds Online Wednesday Service

North Conway — At Kehilat Har Lavan (KHL), we don't let snow drifts, frigid temperatures, or even a bad cold keep us from joining in community prayers. Our community comes together virtually on the internet via Zoom.com from 9:00 to 9:30 AM each Wednesday

for weekday prayers. The tefillah includes Misheberach for the ill, Kaddish, and traditional blessings and prayers. Zoom is free and easy to download. Our services are open to all. For more information, write: harlavancommunity@gmail.com.

# Chanukah

## Chanukah Reminds Us That Even at the Darkest Times, There Is Hope

By Rabbi Boaz Heilman, Temple B'Nai Israel, Laconia

Laconia — At first blush, it would seem that Chanukah is yet another of those ancient Biblical holidays that have to do with, “They tried to kill us, they didn’t succeed, let’s eat.” How wrong that is!

First, Chanukah (however you spell it) is not a Biblical holiday. It was instituted by the Talmudic Rabbis sometime in the 4th or 5th century. Though the events it commemorates took place many centuries earlier, when the Bible was still in the process of being compiled, the story doesn’t appear anywhere within the authorized Scriptures.

And yes, they (the Greeks, that is) tried to destroy Judaism by forbidding not only Jewish worship and rituals, but also by forbidding the teaching and learning of Torah and Hebrew.

But it never was about latkes and applesauce, or sour cream, or whatever side dish you like with your favorite fried vegetable. All that came later. Much later.

Originally, in the days that preceded both the Greeks and the Jews, it was a festival of lights, with rituals intended to bring back the light and warmth of the sun. However, even that changed through the ages. It’s still about lights, but also about so much more.

It’s about Jewish survival despite all odds.

Today, when we see anti-Semitism on the rise again, we are reminded that we are still surrounded by the darkness of prejudice and hatred. Yet, hope shines through. We survived every attempt on our existence (though the unimaginable numbers of our martyrs give sad evi-

dence to our history as a persecuted minority). Today, whether the hatred comes from anti-Zionists or neo-Nazis, from the political left or the alt-right, we can find hope in the support and friendship of our many friends, Jewish and gentile.

We saw that support in Pittsburgh, site of the horrific synagogue shooting, with members of the Muslim community raising a generous sum of money to help out the families of the victims. We saw that support in the letters, emails, calls, hugs, and flowers that were delivered to our houses of worship. Every synagogue throughout the country, every community that held memorial vigils and special services, experienced incredible turnout.

Over and over again, we were reminded that the oldest hatred cannot win out in the end, that “love is stronger than hate.”

Jewish celebrations are rarely without a few tears shed. It will be the same this year.

And yet, celebrate we will. With lights, songs, games, and -- yes -- special foods.

At Temple B’nai Israel in Laconia, our Chanukah celebration will take place on the weekend of December 7-9. On Friday evening, we will have a community dinner for members, children, and grandchildren, followed by a special family service. Saturday evening, TBI will host our annual Chanukah party, with more candles, food, games, prizes, and Israeli dancing.

With each year and each celebration, we say “*Shehecheyanu*,” the prayer thanking God for enabling us to exist, live, and reach joyous times yet again. The Jewish people has learned not to take its existence for granted. Gratitude is the least we could offer in return.

 Jewish Federation

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Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Foundation,  
The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund,  
The Paul and Fran Gordon Family Fund, and The Singer Trust Fund.

# Happy Chanukah!

Wishing you good health, prosperity  
and happiness this holiday season.

Mayor Joyce Craig



@MayorJoyceCraig

Paid for by Mayor Joyce Craig Inaugural Committee Inc.

See what's happening in the community at [www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org)



# Happy Chanukah!

May the lights of Chanukah bring you,  
your family and all families  
Good Health, Peace and Happiness  
throughout the year to come.

Chris and Valerie Sununu



# Happy Hanukkah!



*May you and your family  
be blessed with joy, good  
health, and peace.*

*- Senator Maggie Hassan*



[www.MaggieHassan.com](http://www.MaggieHassan.com)

PAID FOR BY MAGGIE FOR NH

# Chanukah

## Chanukah at the Palace Returns for a 12th Year of First-Class Family Entertainment

Manchester — Chanukah at the Palace is entering its 12th season this winter, and promises to share an exciting evening with the greater NH community. This annual program is organized by Chabad Lubavitch of NH.

The program on Tuesday, December 4, will feature Pella Productions, an a cappella ensemble, and Jay Mattioli, a magician, as well as a menorah lighting on stage, to celebrate the third night of the festival of lights. The evening begins at 6:30 PM at The Palace Theatre in Manchester.

Pella Productions is the result of a recent merger between two of Jewish a cappella's most popular and experienced ensembles: Kol Zimra and Harmonia. Pella's combined experience and depth of talent are unparalleled in the industry, with performances worldwide. Their collective experience includes: performances at the White House for the President of the United States in 2004 and 2008; singing the national anthem at various pro-

fessional sporting venues, including Citi Field, home of the New York Mets; performing at the annual Celebrate Israel Parade along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue; and post-parade performances in Central Park. The group incorporates its extensive repertoire and interactive performance style to amaze crowds worldwide. The singers' energetic personalities and complex arrangements will have the crowd cheering and singing along.

Jay Mattioli was hailed by the International Brotherhood of Magicians as a "Champion of Magic" at 18 years old, becoming one of the youngest magicians ever to receive this honor. Then, in 2006, Jay was awarded 1st Prize at the Society of American Magicians International Stage Contest of Magic. More recently, Jay electrified the nation and stunned the judges with his appearance on NBC's #1 hit show, "America's Got Talent."

A native of New York but now based out of the Washington, DC, area, Jay's unique style of illusions has captivated

the imagination of millions and reminds people of all ages what it is like to believe in the impossible and, most importantly, have fun!

All children in attendance will go home with a Chanukah goodie bag, filled with treats to bring the Chanukah magic home.

Sponsors will be treated to a VIP desert reception after the event. Thanks to the Jewish Federation of NH for sponsoring our reception this year!

For tickets (\$14 for adults, \$8 for children), call the Box Office at 668-5588. See you at The Palace Theatre!



Wishes of health,  
happiness and peace this  
Chanukah season.

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**CHANUKAH**  
*at the palace*

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# In Solidarity With Pittsburgh

## The Community Responds to the Attack in Pittsburgh With Words of Warning, Unity — and Hope

In the weeks following the terrible October 27 attack on the Tree of Life — Or L'Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, our inboxes were flooded with messages from all of the national and international Jewish organizations. At the same time, our local Jewish communities expressed their horror and grief, and our wider communities reached out with expressions of sympathy and love. Below are some excerpts from these messages.

Today's events are yet another reminder that the age-old evil of anti-Semitism remains a uniquely dangerous and destructive force in our world. Slaughtering Jews whether they are worshipping at a synagogue in Pittsburg, shopping at a Kosher supermarket in Paris, or walking on the streets of Jerusalem is just the extreme manifestation of this ongoing scourge. We must remain united and vigilant against this heinous evil and fight it wherever it rears its ugly head.

— Israeli American Council

JCPA believes that the Pittsburgh massacre should galvanize an enhanced and sustained effort to create unity and fight against hate. The community relations model of building and maintaining bilateral relations and multilateral coalitions on issues of common concern has never been more important.

— Jewish Council for Public Affairs

The anti-Semitism and xenophobia that led to this unspeakable bloodshed while Jews are engaged in peaceful worship -- or anywhere in the world under any circumstances -- must be condemned in no uncertain terms by leadership and the general public alike. Hatred and vitriol must have no quarter in any aspect of our country, for they not only contravene the sacred promise of America; they violate the moral and ethical core of our society."

— Jerry Silverman, president & CEO, The Jewish Federations of North America, and Mark Wilf, chair of the JFNA Board of Trustees

It is our hope that the love and support of millions of Americans, from all faiths and backgrounds, will help the community there to heal, secure in the knowledge that such dreadful actions are antithetical to the beliefs of good people everywhere.

— Mazon (A Jewish Response to Hunger)

As a movement, we stand firmly with HIAS, and we believe in the Jewish values that undergird their work on behalf of refugees today, the vast majority of whom are not Jewish. As HIAS's CEO, Mark Hetfield, often puts it, "At HIAS we used to help refugees because they were Jews. Now, we help refugees because we are Jews." Amen. We will not be deterred from our commitment to remember the stranger, to empathize with refugees, and to pursue immigration policies of generosity and compassion towards those who come to our borders seeking asylum or refuge. Our spiritual and moral roots in the journey of Abraham and Sarah, our migrant ancestors, compel us to take this stand.

— Reconstructing Judaism

The tragedy in Pittsburgh is, for so many of us, intimately personal, and thus we feel it so deeply. Its familiarity to us as Jews and its geo-cultural proximity makes its victims closer to each of us. That is natural, and it is ok. But, we aspire to develop further, as individuals and as a community. We can achieve this growth by expanding the spectrum of all whose losses we mourn and whose joys we celebrate. Perhaps we can build upon our current grief and fear by seeking to close the distance between ourselves and others.

— Orthodox Union

This time the Jewish community was targeted, in what may be the worst anti-Semitic attack in American history. Other times it has been African-Americans. Or Sikhs. Or Muslims. Or members of the LGBTQ community. Or too many others. What we know is this: the fabric holding our nation together is fraying. It is our task to ensure that it does not come apart. We mourn as one people along with all people of conscience.

— Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president, Union for Reform Judaism

"The shooting in Pittsburgh is a painful reminder of continuing anti-Semitism. Jews across the world continue to be attacked for no other reason than their identity. Anti-Semitism is a menace to democratic values and peace, and should have no place in the 21st century.

— UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and our network of Conservative Jewish communities across North America are heartbroken and devastated by the horror of the shooting and murder today at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh. We grieve for those who died and pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, extending our condolences to all their families and friends. We are outraged by the hatred this senseless act demonstrated, and distraught by the bloodshed brought once again by gun violence. As our Torah teaches us, we are each responsible for one another, and commanded to honor the image of God in one another. Our sense of justice compels us to address the core issues facing not only the Jewish people but all people in our country in pursuit of a civil society.

— United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

This was an attack specifically targeting the Jewish community, in a deliberate and callous manifestation of anti-Semitism and hatred, and it should serve as a wake-up call to all Americans that such horror can and has happened here. We must be vigilant in making sure that this never happens again.

— World Jewish Congress president Ronald S. Lauder

[Evil] did not win out. Over the past few days, we received countless emails, calls, hugs, and messages of support. I have heard from colleagues and friends

from all around the country telling me about vigils and services that had overflow attendance, bringing together entire communities. Now that's the right kind of response! That's how faith and trust are restored and rebuilt.

— Rabbi Boaz Heilman, Temple B'Nai Israel

Reflecting on the horror and pain of Pittsburgh, I had two reactions. The first was to remember the 1979 World Series, when the Pittsburgh Pirates won it. Their team's theme song throughout that season was the disco hit "We Are Family." The murders were a tear in the Jewish family fabric. It was my family, my people. I was and am connected to all Jews. I mourned. But also, as the Pennsylvania governor said, it was a rip in the Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania, and the American fabric. The second response was to the caring and healing outpouring of sympathy, concern, and condolences from my gentile friends. They reached out to me by phone, by email and in person to voice their support, and many folks have come to my synagogue Etz Hayim to show their love.

— Steve Soreff, MD

We stand with your temple and the temples around the country. We are all connected.

— A Belmont family

I am a 73-year-old Christian and yesterday I cried. Prayers were offered at First Parish UCC in Somersworth this morning.

— A Dover resident

We are so sorry for this terrible thing, and for your loss as a community. Our prayers are with you, as were the prayers of our church today. Email if or how we can help. Peace.

— An Exeter family



### Temple B'nai Israel

The Unity Service at Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia on the Shabbat after the murders in Pittsburgh filled the sanctuary and social hall with temple members and friends from the larger community. Rabbi Boaz Heilman, Cantor Melody Funk, and Board president Marsha Ostroff crafted a meaningful service designed to heal and inspire. JFNH Shlichah Noam Wolf also participated in the service. Pictured: Karen Rines, Noam Wolf, and Cantor Melody Funk offering the song "One Voice" by the Wailin' Jennys.

# In Solidarity With Pittsburgh



Visiting clergy and law enforcement spoke movingly to a packed sanctuary at Temple Israel Portsmouth's Community Prayer Vigil Service, led by Rabbi Ira Korinow, on the evening of Monday, Oct. 29. Photo by Fred Feldman.

## Temple Israel Portsmouth Filled to Overflowing to Share Prayers of Unity

Portsmouth — Several hundred people, both congregants and members of the greater Seacoast community, assembled in the Temple Israel sanctuary on the evening of October 29 to support the Pittsburgh Jewish community. Rabbi Ira Korinow led the service, which in-

cluded prayers, readings, and songs. Clergy from the interfaith Portsmouth Ministerium and many members of local law enforcement also participated. The sanctuary was decorated with bouquets of flowers left on the Temple steps by local well-wishers.



Left to right: Reverend Linda Lea Snyder, Hampstead Congregational Church; Rev. Ray Bonin, Derry Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration; Pastor Nory Vedon Leachon, St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Derry; Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, First Parish Congregational Church in East Derry; Rabbi Peter Levy; Amy Dattner; and Rev. Zac Harmon, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Hampstead.

## Etz Hayim Synagogue: An Interfaith Service for Unity and Solidarity

Derry — On October 31, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road in Derry, hosted an Interfaith Service for Unity and Solidarity to provide an opportunity for clergy and congregants to stand in support of those affected by October 27's deadly anti-Semitic attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as well as in support of a more tolerant and peaceful world.

As is usual at Etz Hayim Synagogue, the service was filled with heart-felt prayer and music. The offerings included a "Prayer for the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh"; "Salaam, Shalom," a song anticipating that "peace will come, to us and all the world"; the hymn "Let There Be Peace On Earth"; and the

Mourner's Kaddish. In addition to Etz Hayim Synagogue's Rabbi Peter Levy and Amy Dattner Levy, clergy from five churches and approximately 40 visitors participated in the event. The clergy were Reverend Linda Lea Snyder of the Hampstead Congregational Church; Reverend Ray Bonin of the Derry Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration; Pastor Nory Vedon Leachon of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Derry; Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, First Parish Congregational Church in East Derry; and Rev. Zac Harmon, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Hampstead.

Two videos of the service are posted on Etz Hayim's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/EtzHayimDerry>.



### Concord Vigil

The candlelight vigil in Concord in response to Pittsburgh, on Sunday, October 28, was led by Temple Beth Jacob's Rabbi Robin Nafshi and Cantor Shira Nafshi.

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# In Solidarity With Pittsburgh

## My Boyhood Shul and the Sadness We Share

By Joseph D. Steinfield

[Originally published in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript on Nov. 13, 2018. Reprinted by permission of the author.]

I loved the 2018 Red Sox. With my team leading the World Series against the Dodgers, two games to one, I was looking forward to the fourth and fifth games on Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28. Then, that Saturday morning, a man killed eleven men and women in a synagogue in Pittsburgh. Suddenly, baseball didn't seem important.

I thought back to my childhood days in Claremont. Until I was nine, we had no rabbi, but we did have a *shul*, the Yiddish word that many Jews use instead of "synagogue" or "temple." The word, which means "school," has a homelike sound to it. In postwar Claremont, it really was *hamish* (homelike) because the shul was a room in Mr. Blumberg's house on Central Avenue. He was a kosher butcher (*shochet*), and he was also a learned man (*hakham*) who conducted the services. (Disclosure: My grandparents spoke Yiddish; I do not. These are a few of the words that I managed to inherit.)

In 1948, the Jews of Claremont pur-

chased an old building on Putnam Street, where my father had gone to grade school, and turned it into "Temple Meyer David." Meyer was Meyer Satzow, and David was David Blumberg, Mr. Blumberg's son. They were the two Jewish boys from Claremont who died in World War II, fighting for our country. They knew that Europe, where they lost their lives, was not a safe place. They could not have known that a few years later a synagogue in their home town would be named after them.

The Jewish community not only acquired a building, but we got our first rabbi, a Holocaust survivor from Hungary. Michael Szenes was tall, handsome, soft-spoken, learned, and kind. I can't say that I loved going to shul as a boy. I would have preferred playing baseball. But being in the presence of Rabbi Szenes was and remains one of the privileges of my life. And being at Temple Meyer David was safe, or so I thought.

October 27, 2018, was just another Sabbath at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life - Or L'Simcha synagogue. Then it became a Sabbath unlike any other. A gunman shouting anti-Semitic threats entered that house of worship and violated the Sixth Commandment when he opened fire on innocent men and women who

had gathered to observe the Fourth Commandment, to honor and observe the Sabbath.

My first thought when I heard the news on the radio was, "Not again." My second thought was to recall what a woman in Japan told me a few years ago when I asked whether she would like to live in the United States. "No," she said, "It isn't safe there."

To call these killings "senseless" doesn't quite capture the enormity of the act. According to Scripture, whoever destroys a single life is considered to have destroyed the whole world.

How ironic it is that that these murders happened in a shul during a bris, the traditional Jewish ceremony of circumcision and naming, which is held on the eighth day of a baby boy's life. It is a joyous occasion, with parents, grandparents, family members, and close friends celebrating the gift of life.

How troubling it is to realize, once again, that even a house of worship is not safe. And yet, Scripture also tells us that to save a life, as did first responders in Pittsburgh, is like saving the entire world.

I was glad the Red Sox won those two games, but I didn't watch very much, and I was not as joyful as I would have wished. A person has only so much room

for emotions, and my feelings of sorrow over what happened in Pittsburgh took up most of my space.

Eighty years ago, starting on November 9, 1938, Nazis conducted a pogrom throughout Germany, burning synagogues, killing Jews, wreaking havoc. Broken glass from Jewish homes and shuls littered the streets, which is why it is called *Kristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass. If not the beginning of the darkest time in human history, it was surely a turning point, seen by some as the beginning of the Holocaust.

Last Thursday, I attended the annual commemoration of *Kristallnacht*, held at the Colonial Theatre in Keene. This gathering of over a thousand people from all over Cheshire County, and beyond, occurred just days after two mass killings in our country. The theatre was full, as people of all races, ethnicities, and religions gathered to remember, to mourn, and to join hands.

I felt safe there.

*Joseph D. Steinfield lives in Keene and Jaffrey. He is a lawyer at Prince Lobel in Boston and of Counsel to the Law Office of Thomas R. Hanna in Keene. He can be reached at [jsteinfield@hannalandlaw.com](mailto:jsteinfield@hannalandlaw.com). Copyright 2018.*

## Wiesenthal Center Study Finds Large Disconnect Between Jewish and Non-Jewish Perceptions of Anti-Semitism in America

Los Angeles — The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) has released results from a September survey of nearly 2,000 registered voters, with an over-sample of nearly 500 Jewish voters, regarding their perceptions of the current political climate and its impact on American society. Particularly noteworthy in the wake of the October 27 mass shooting at a syna-

gogue in Pittsburgh is the finding that more than 70% of the Jewish respondents believe anti-Semitism is on the rise, while only 30% of the entire polling group agrees with this assessment.

"The wounds from this unthinkable act of evil and hate are still raw," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the SWC. "The Jewish community and

most other Americans are shocked and devastated, but the failure of society at large to see what most Jews have seen has led us to this very dark and frightening place. The world has done nothing about anti-Semitism in Europe, which has gotten worse in recent years, while the UN gives terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad a free pass, allowing them to indoctrinate children in UN-funded schools with messages that preach hate and glorify the killing of Jews. The Squirrel Hill tragedy must be a wake-up call that if we don't confront anti-Semitism head-on, we'll soon see in America what Europe has seen for years."

The disconnect between Jews and non-Jews is especially stark when it comes to defining anti-Semitism or identifying it when it happens. According to the study, 19% of the Jewish respondents reported having either experienced or witnessed anti-Semitism over the past year, while 70% overall reported that they have not seen or experienced anti-Semitism over

the past year.

"While we expected that Jews would have heightened sensitivity, the contrast between Jews and non-Jews is both shocking and disturbing," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, SWC's associate dean and director of global social action. "The awful tragedy in Pittsburgh is instructive. He left a long trail of overtly anti-Semitic language on social media that would raise red flags with even the most obtuse of observers. At the same time, he had other posts that would be far less easy to detect without a deeper understanding of the various dog whistles. Even with his most vile anti-Semitism online for everybody to see, he was still able to carry out his evil. Over time, we'll learn why, but we must also realize that not everybody seeking to harm Jews will be so overt. Society must learn to detect the less obvious forms of anti-Semitism that many Jew-haters have become good at employing."

### Help Wanted!

**Do you live in Keene, Laconia, Bethlehem, Hanover, or another NH community and want to help produce the Jewish Reporter?**

We are looking for people all over the state who are interested in writing about their local Jewish community.

**To get involved, contact [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org)**

## \$3.2 Million Student Hub Opened by Dartmouth Chabad

By Ashira Weiss

[Reprinted from Chabad Lubavitch World HQ website]

Hanover — The details fell into place like the pieces of a puzzle perfectly completed. That, say those in the know, is how the October 14 grand opening of the Hillary Chana Chabad House of the Rohr Chabad Center at Dartmouth College came to be.

“It can only be described as miraculous,” Chabad director Chani Gray says of the moment three years ago that catapulted their Chabad from a small family home on School Street to a spacious two-acre plot just a couple of blocks from the center of campus.

Gray and husband, Rabbi Moshe, have been directing Chabad at Dartmouth since its very tentative beginnings in the fall of 2003. They moved out to America’s smallest Ivy League college from New York with their infant son and a dream.

Dartmouth is a small college with roughly 6,000 students. Chances of successfully bringing a religious organization to this Liberal Arts college were deemed slim at best. “You won’t last long here,” was an opinion they kept hearing from students they met in those early days. The naysayers were no match for their determination though, and the Grays pressed on, meeting students and faculty - on campus, at frat houses, in cafes, or wherever they could find them.

Their efforts paid off. By 2015, they were hosting up to fifty students for Shabbat dinners on Friday nights. The events were standing room only, and when students started making makeshift chairs out of their kids’ toy boxes, the Grays knew it was time to grow their space.

Located a few blocks away from their cozy home was 19 Allen Street, a four-family house on a sizeable plot of land. Moshe knew it would be the perfect place to build a student center, but when he mentioned it to his real estate agent in early February 2016, the agent laughed at the thought; the property was not for sale. Well, not yet. Ten days later, Moshe received an urgent email.

“Call me,” wrote the agent. “It’s for sale.” It took the Grays just three days to come up with the \$1.3 million needed to purchase the property. Sue Ann Arnall, whose daughter Hillary Chana was then in her final year at Dartmouth, pledged \$750,000, a sum that had become available to her just then, at the moment it was needed. Philanthropist George Rohr, who supports Chabad activities on many



The Grays with the Ezrapour family.

campuses, pledged to cover the rest as long as Gray would find a donor to match his last \$150,000. Moshe put in a quick call to a parent of one of the students who was also in his final year, inviting him to match the funds. He agreed, and with the funding secured, by early May the property was theirs.

In mid-October, Rohr and his son Alex, Sue Ann and her daughter Hillary, joined dean of admissions and vice provost Lee Coffin, donors, friends and alumni for a Shabbat dinner at the new 9,000-square-foot student hub. Elisabeth B. Jenkins, a junior at Dartmouth who grew up attending a Reform temple, was one of the hundred or so people there. “At first I thought I wouldn’t fit in at Chabad,” she said, “but soon I was part of the family and if I missed Friday night dinner I felt unhinged for the rest of the week.”

The Shabbat guests returned on October 14 to dedicate the center with the community. Daveen Litwin, dean of religious life at Dartmouth, and Rabbi Levi Krinsky, director of Lubavitch of New Hampshire, addressed the crowd. Robert and Debbie Ezrapour, whose donation included dedicating the library, were honored alongside Rohr and Arnall and her daughter.

In order to turn the building into the vibrant student hub they envisioned, the Grays had to raise another \$2 million for renovations. Now the three-floor facility includes a custom fitted 2,500 book library, a 1,400 square foot dining and social hall, and a top-of-the-line kitchen - “the heart of the home,” Chani says. They built a 12-foot island with bar stools so students can schmooze as they prepare meals. The basement level boasts a lounge, where the Grays hope students will come to hang out, relax, study or chat, and a two-bedroom apartment where visiting alumni or student families can stay. The grounds, complete with a



Chabad director Chani Gray addresses the crowd at the October 14 dedication of the new Rohr Chabad Center at Dartmouth College.

patio and fire pit, provide further invitation for students to feel at home.

The rabbi is thrilled with the “beautiful new space” but insists that the focus is still on individual connections. “If we don’t relate to each person as an individual, then we’re wasting our time.”

The new facility, says Chani, “will allow us to expand our activities to match

the demand.” And expand they will. The Grays now have plans to introduce new Jewish learning programs and are raising funds to add an associate rabbi to their team, furthering their reach, both on campus and in the wider community.

To learn more about and support the Rohr Chabad Center at Dartmouth, visit [www.DartmouthChabad.com](http://www.DartmouthChabad.com).

## Raffle Supports Hadassah’s Round Building

Manchester — The Manchester Chapter of Hadassah is having a ticket drawing, with the donations going toward the Full Circle Campaign and the renovation and expansion of Hadassah’s Round Building in Jerusalem. The first prize winner will receive a \$175 gift certificate to Taipei & Tokyo Restaurant in Bedford. The second prize winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to a restaurant of their choice. Tickets cost \$5 each or five tickets for \$20, and payment must be received by December 18.

In an excerpt from a statement made in response to the tragedy in Pittsburgh, Hadassah’s National President, Ellen Hershkin, stated:

According to a report by the ADL, anti-Semitic incidents and attacks have risen by 60% in the United States in the last year alone. This shocking escalation in hate both at home and abroad requires swift and broad action by our leaders. We must continue to stand strong against anti-Semitism and hate wherever it is present. As the NGO (non-governmental organization) convener of the Never Again Education Act, Hadassah members have a unique role to play in ensuring this bill becomes law. Head to our National Action Center (at [Hadassah.org](http://Hadassah.org) click on Take Action, then click Action Cen-

ter) now to take action on policy priorities that matter to you, including this bill that would expand Holocaust Education and anti-hate curricula. When one life is taken all our lives are affected in common grief and conviction to make the world a better place. May we go from strength to strength.

In the wake of rising anti-Semitism, at home and abroad, educating students about the Holocaust is as important as ever. The Never Again Education Act (H.R. 5460) was introduced to expand and encourage Holocaust education and its lessons for contemporary conflict. The legislation would authorize the Department of Education to award Holocaust education grants, funded by private donations, to educational institutions offering classes, resources, teacher training, and student trips. To ensure that we never forget, we must remember the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and educate future generations about the dangers of hate. Urge your legislators to support the Never Again Education Act today! Please go to [Hadassah.org](http://Hadassah.org) for more information.

For more information about Hadassah, book club, or chapter meetings, please contact Michele Bank at [michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:michele.bank@gmail.com) or 488-5657.

## Candidates Breakfast Forum Rises Above Politics

By Sol Rockenmacher

Manchester — Sunday morning, October 28, saw a traditional political event -- our Temple Brotherhood Candidates Breakfast Forum -- rise above the sphere of politics. An audience of about 150 filled the auditorium.

Candidates for NH Governor Chris Sununu and Molly Kelly, candidates for 1st Congressional District Chris Pappas and Eddie Edwards, and 4th District Executive Council candidates Ted Gatsas and Gray Chynoweth had already arrived so that they could present their case for election (or re-election in the case of the Governor) to their desired office.

Because of the tragic events at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life – Or L'Simcha Congregation the day before, the atmosphere at the onset of the event was somber.

After the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy and Cub Scouts (including Temple Adath Yeshurun's own Ryan Rosenberg), Rabbi Beth Davidson led us in prayer and then reminded us in her opening remarks, "The frightening reality is that the Tree of Life Synagogue is one much like our own....Yesterday's events serve as a stark reminder that senseless hatred and



cutline?

violence can walk through our doors at any time."

Rabbi Beth told us that gatherings such as the Breakfast Forum were crucial if we are to combat the growth of the cancer of discrimination: against reli-

gious and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, and members of the LG-BTQ community. She stressed "the need for us to listen carefully, courteously, and civilly, especially when listening to those with whom we may not agree."

Temple Adath Yeshurun president Bob Bersak then discussed the need for maintaining the best security situation at the temple.

Brotherhood member George Bruno, former Ambassador to Belize, was once again the moderator of the program, a role he has taken for many of these political gatherings.

In the sessions for NH Governor, U.S. Congress representative, and Executive Councilor, each candidate gave opening statements, then answered questions from the audience before giving concluding comments. In their opening comments, they all called for a united front to combat bigotry. The program evolved into an uplifting event. We were reminded that we cannot let the forces of evil change the way we live our lives, including the way we choose to worship. An atmosphere of passionate enthusiasm and civility developed, a wonderful combination. It was democracy in action, moving forward with the spirit of brotherhood, community, and solidarity.

One congregant said succinctly, "I needed to be here." She wasn't the only one. It was a special morning indeed.

## Temple Beth Jacob Learns About Jewish War Veterans

Concord — On Sunday, November 11, Temple Beth Jacob was honored to have David Magidson present "Honoring Our Veterans: A Conversation and Presentation About America's Jewish War Veterans." Many in attendance brought artifacts, pictures, and memorabilia related to family military service. This was a wonderful learning and sharing opportunity for both our TBJ Religious School students and our TBJ adults.

The presenter, David Magidson, is the past Nation Commander of the Jewish War Veterans and has served as the president of National Museum of American Jewish Military History. He has also served as the Chairman of the Jewish War Veterans USA Foundation, which has honored Medal of Honor Recipients and Gold Star Families.

In addition to his other involvements, David served on the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, a joint body of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism.

During his service in the U.S. Army, David served in Military Intelligence. David's



David Magidson discusses the history of Jewish war veterans in the United States.

son, Ben Magidson, was a captain in the U.S. Army serving in Afghanistan and was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.

## Entebbe Hero to Speak at Chabad Center December 20

Manchester -- Meet an amazing hero as he shares his first-hand account of how Israel pulled off the greatest hostage rescue in history. Rami Sherman will tell his tale of the Entebbe mission at the Chabad Center for Jewish Living in Manchester on Thursday, December 20, at 7 PM. The Center is located at 1234 River Rd.

In July of 1976, Rami Sherman participated in the famed Entebbe mission, the counter-terrorist hostage-rescue operation code named Operation Thunderbolt. He was the Operations Officer of the unit, under the command of Yoni Netanyahu z"l. They flew thousands of miles over enemy territory to rescue Jewish hostages being held by terrorists in Uganda.

Rami was one of 33 officers and soldiers who comprised the first assault group, which freed the hostages at the old terminal in Entebbe. Some 100 Israeli commandos stormed the airport and miraculously rescued 102 people who were taken hostage when an Air France airliner was hijacked by Arab terrorists and flown to an airport in Uganda. At that



Rami Sherman

time, Uganda was ruled by infamous dictator Idi Amin.

Rami's story is the story of Israel's courageous fight to live in freedom and G-d's miraculous hand in its survival. In the words of Rami Sherman, "I flew to the Entebbe operation as an Israeli and landed back in Israel as a Jew."

## NH4Israel Learns About Life in an Israeli Settlement

By Ken Kowalchek

Manchester — NH4Israel's third annual main event, the springtime run-jog-walkathon 5 kilometer race, "Walk – Run for Healing" (this year for pancreatic cancer), will take place on the Sunday before the Boston Marathon/Patriots' Day, on Monday, April 15. We invite the NH supporters of Israel and medical research to defeat pancreatic cancer to come to race planning meetings starting in January 2019 and to help administer the race on April 14. The race planning meetings will generally replace regular NH4Israel meetings of early 2019.

On Wednesday, October 24, NH4Israel kicked off the 2018-2019 season with a talk by a bona fide settler in the Jewish biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria, Shmuel Junger. The venue of the lecture was the new Chabad Center on River Road in Manchester. Rabbi Krinsky graciously hosted the nonpartisan speaker and audience with superb kosher pastries.

Shmuel (Samuel in Hebrew, but he also answers to "Sam" in Anglophone countries) Junger (pronounced "Younger") gave a dynamic description of what it is like living through attacks and incursions both in undisputed Israeli territory, such as that neighboring the Gaza strip, as well as living under fear of terrorist attacks in so-called "disputed territories"



*Shmuel Junger describes life as a settler in Judea and Samaria.*

(disputed because in the 1967 war, Israel won over these areas from their Arab occupiers, most notably Jordan).

Although Shmuel came to America to address his core constituency, after which his organization is named, Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFO-IC), our Jewish community also needs speakers like Shmuel to remind us of the relentless terrorist butchering of Jewish babies, toddlers, their parents, and all other innocents. These include children

going to sleep wondering if there is a terrorist tunneling beneath their beds; parents waking in the middle of the night to herd themselves and their weary eyed children into the home bomb shelter every hour; commuters hoping the oncoming car or truck does not swerve towards them while waiting at the bus stop... these are the daily events we in cozy New England living rooms tend to forget or worse, become immune to, as they repeat over and over again.

Shmuel also covered the miracle that is the Jewish return to the land and making the desert bloom. NH4Israel has CDs from CFOIC covering this aspect of what happens when Jews return to the biblical heartland and will notify the community of their screening at a future Wednesday NH4Israel meet-up. Readers of this article might want to go to the CFOIC website to find out more as well as ponder their next remarkable tour package scheduled for March 22–30, 2019, for \$2,195 (airfare extra).

With the exception of holiday conflicts and summer break, NH4Israel is hosting talks with refreshments at Manchester's Temple Israel (TIM) at 6:30 PM on most Wednesdays each month.

If other venues and weekdays are scheduled, the change will be publicized (generally emailed) in advance, as well as posted on the calendar of events at NH4Israel.org. NH4Israel guest speakers, films, and documentaries address current issues in or about the state of Israel. Given special attention are topics on the Diaspora, Jew-hatred, and the story of Israel from its biblical beginnings to the current time.

Find out more about NH4Israel and sign up for email updates on guest speakers and other hosted events (events always have complimentary refreshments/finger food) at NH4Israel.org.

## TAY Observes National Refugee Shabbat Organized by HIAS

Manchester — On Friday evening, October 18, Temple Adath Yeshurun was the only congregation in New Hampshire to participate in the National Refugee Shabbat, a project of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. This Shabbat experience was dedicated to the plight of refugees worldwide.

The *parsha* for this shabbat was Lech Lecha, which describes the beginning of the experience of wandering in search of freedom for the Jewish people. This *parsha* made it a particularly meaningful opportunity to deepen our understanding of today's global refugee crisis, connect with the Jewish movement for refugees, commit to taking action, and either celebrate our community's efforts in working with refugees or launch new efforts.

Today, HIAS has grown from its early roots in 1881 to assist Jews fleeing pogroms in Eastern Europe and Russia. In the beginning, HIAS provided meals, transportation, and jobs for new arrivals. As time and

needs went on, by 1904 a bureau was established to provide translation services guiding them through medical screenings, obtain bonds to guarantee employable status, locate relatives detained on Ellis Island and many other services.

As HIAS's reputation spread worldwide, by 1921 laws were changed to recognize the need for safe havens. The United States established legal requirements for resettlement, and Jewish refugees found welcome and safety. With the outbreak of World War I, the largest influx of Jews from Eastern Europe arrived: 138,000! Over the next several decades, more restrictive admissions policies were established by the U.S. government.

After World War II, HIAS was instrumental in evacuating displaced persons camps in Europe and aiding in resettlement of over 150,000 persons. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the 1951 Refugee Convention became the basis for U.S. asylum law.

Following the fall of Saigon in 1975, the U.S. State Department requested HIAS's assistance with resettlement of Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians. For the first time, HIAS assisted with the resettlement of non-Jews. HIAS is uniquely qualified to lend its expertise for the modern refugee situation, which has mushroomed into a global humanitarian crisis.

Better than anyone, HIAS is dedicated to providing welcome, safety, and freedom to refugees of all faiths and ethnicities from all over the world. HIAS believes that hatred, bigotry, and xenophobia must be prohibited in domestic and international law. HIAS was founded with the belief that persecuted people have the universal right to seek refuge, that this is a human right.

**Why now should our focus be on the plight of refugees?**

Currently, 65 million people have fled their homes due to persecution or violence. In this moment of unprecedented

need, our government has halted and cut humanitarian aid for U.S. refugee admissions.

The struggle for freedom is ongoing. We are reminded of our ancestors' first view of the Statue of Liberty and what it represented when they sailed into New York harbor: freedom from tyranny and oppression.

Emma Lazarus's poem, "Colossus," rings true today:

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Whether or not one is a refugee, a displaced person, a migrant or asylum seeker, this is the moment when we must give voice to our values as Jews and as Americans. One thing everyone can do is to stand up to hate speech. If you hear or see something, say something!

## Kristallnacht Commemoration in Keene Inspires, 80 Years On

By Evelyne Perks and Joel Cohen

Keene — The eleventh Kristallnacht Commemoration, held at the packed Colonial Theater in Keene, was a community event challenging us to “Remember. Witness. Intervene.” It is 80 years since that fateful day, chosen by the Nazis as coincident with the 20th anniversary of the German capitulation that led to their signing of the WWI Armistice the next day, while blaming Jews and others for “stabbing them in the back.” Anti-Semitism continues in much of our world, even here in the United States. The program was well planned, starting with “We remember,” then “We create,” and lastly, “We go forth.”

The welcome, by Alec Doyle (Colonial Theater), was moving in itself, as he noted that he is proud to offer the venue and explained how much this annual event means to him. Following this, Tom White (educational outreach coordinator of the Cohen Center) explained that democracy is fragile; then, Hank Knight (director of the Cohen Center) encouraged us to remember for others. Key Keene personnel -- the mayor, fire chief, police captain, interfaith clergy representative, and Cohen Center director -- promised to continue to serve and protect all members of the community, unlike the officials who stood by on November 11, 1938. The Keene Middle School choir sang “Inscription for Hope,” from a text found in a cellar in Cologne that had been a hiding place for Jews.

In the section on creating art, Elise Giribaldi, whose parents survived the Holocaust, described how art can penetrate indifference to prejudice and victimization. She presented a powerful performance of a song from her rock opera, “Oh God.” Patricia Perez (Keene State College Global Fellow) from Chile ex-

plained that we need to be aware of evil around us and combat it.

Roland Tec, also the son of survivors, and a writer and movie director of *Defiance* (2008), spoke at length about his family story. What we found particularly interesting was his opinion about what motivated people to assist victims, even in a small way, despite personal danger. The typical “upstander” as opposed to “bystander” was a bit different from the norm, had some community involvement, such as scouts, clubs, or helping professions, or had some shared interest with the victim.

The program was imbued with symbolism and meaning, which enhanced the experience for the audience. It was an honor for each person taking part to represent their section of the community. The blowing of the shofar awakened us to our accountability and to take action for ourselves and others. Six panes of glass were smashed to remind us of “the night of broken glass” and the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis. Six memorial candles were lit, not only for the six million, including one and a half million children, but also for refugees, for the righteous among the nations (those who helped victims), for the life of Jonathan Daniels (the minister from Keene murdered during the quest for civil rights in Alabama), and for our community. Rabbi Amy Loewenthal, of Congregation Ahavas Achim, sang “El Malei Rachamim” in Hebrew, which we repeated in English, and we all recited a moving prayer to “remember Kristallnacht and remind ourselves to care for one another, to build peace, and to be a community in which compassion, respect, and justice thrive.”

The printed program of five pages was well produced, and the explanations were easy to follow. We will be taking some back to Melbourne, Australia, to show

our organization, Courage to Care (a program of B’nai Brith), which uses stories from the Holocaust to teach secondary school students (aged 13 to 18) that every person can make a difference by taking some action and by not being a bystander. After a short film on the history of the Jews and anti-Semitism, a Holocaust survivor tells his or her story and the people whose actions saved their life. In small groups, we show students an exhibition of the righteous among the nations: individuals like Oskar Schindler and Chiune Sugihara, families who took in Jewish children such as Anne Frank, cities like Assisi, and countries like Denmark, plus examples of young, local heroes who are presently doing good deeds for others. We then sit down with the group to discuss what they have learned and how they can apply it in their lives. For many young people, this is an eye-opening and life-changing event. In the same way, those who attend the annual Kristallnacht commemoration ceremony are reminded and so increase their awareness of hatred and injustice in order to combat them. The Keene community

whole-heartedly supports this annual solemn event, treating it with silent and thoughtful respect, arriving and departing quietly in contemplation. We applaud the Cohen Center for its initiative and painstaking diligence in providing such a meaningful occasion 80 years after the events that were commemorated.

The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is named for Lester and Norma Cohen, who have been extremely generous benefactors; their son Rick and his wife Jan have financed the new premises being added to the Mason Library at Keene State College. The aim of the Center is to “remember and teach” so that students and the community can attain a better understanding of prejudice, anti-Semitism, and genocide, and apply this knowledge to help repair the world.

*Evelyne Perks and Joel Cohen are members of Congregation Ahavas Achim (Keene, NH) and the Leo Baeck Centre (East Kew, Victoria, Australia). Evelyne is the daughter of survivors who fled Berlin after Kristallnacht.*



Linda Rockenmacher and Roslyn Block (holding flowers)




Cate Tanzer, TAY Sisterhood’s Woman of the Year

## TAY Sisterhood Enjoys Moroccan Feast

Manchester — The annual Sisterhood membership dinner at Temple Adath Yeshurun this year began with an array of six vegetable salads, each with different seasonings. Herbed goat cheese and pita bread accompanied these, with soup, entrees, and dessert to follow. Members had worked for three days preparing the meal. They were supervised by Roslyn Block, who not only selected the recipes, but preserved lemons and shopped for the herbs and spices to ensure authentic Moroccan flavors in all the dishes. Following the dinner, Linda Rockenmacher

presented a program about the fascinating history of Jews in Morocco.

The 2018 Sisterhood Woman of the Year award was presented to Cate Tanzer. Even though she could not attend the dinner, she had helped with preparations the day before. Cate has been outstanding in her service to both our Sisterhood and Temple, having served on both boards in multiple positions, a leader in our temple fundraising efforts, and immediate past president of our Temple. Mazel tov for an honor well deserved.



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[nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://nhjewishfilmfestival.org)

## A Concert of Hope in Light of Dark Events

Laconia — Saturday October 27, was a memorable day for so many different reasons. “We Care” of Temple B’nai Israel presented the folk trio Gathering Time in a benefit concert for Central New Hampshire VNA & Hospice. The Red Sox were playing in the World Series.



The weather brought an early light snow to the Lakes Regions. But the unspeakable events in Pittsburgh, PA, at the Tree of Life Synagogue overshadowed the excitement and anticipation of what should have been an enjoyable evening. Nonetheless, the “show must go on” and so it did. The beautiful and meaningful music from the era of iconic folk songs was just what was needed to mend broken souls.

The evening began with an invocation, a Prayer for Pittsburgh, by Rabbi Boaz Heilman: “Another active shooting scene. Sabbath peace broken, Sabbath holiness desecrated. There are no words, no words of consolation. There are no prayers, even God is mute tonight.”

He continued with words of comfort and ended with these thoughts:

My friends, during the next few days, we will pray not only for God’s comfort and consolation, we will also pray to find within us the strength to end the hatred, to silence the hateful rhetoric we hear all

around us; to put an end to the anti-Semitism, the racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and misogyny that poison our nation. May we all come to comprehend fully the power that words have on us -- the power to move us to love, help, and support; but also the power to provoke hatred, violence, and bloodshed. May our thoughts and prayers tonight be accompanied by acts of loving-kindness and righteousness. May God bless us all with safety, security, and peace. May God comfort all mourners and console all the bereaved among us, to which we say, Amen.

Then Gathering Time’s Stuart Markus, Hillary Foxsong, and Gerry McKeveny took over the stage with a most beautiful rendition of “Turn, Turn, Turn.” Originally composed by Pete Seeger, the lyrics, except for the title, which is repeated throughout the song, and the final two lines, are adapted word-for-word from the English version of the first eight verses of the third chapter of the biblical Book of Ecclesiastes. What could be more appropriate on a night of such sadness? The audience swayed, sang along, and began to feel at peace with the message of the music.



As the evening’s performance continued, the spirit in the room began to lift with each memorable song, from Phil Ochs, Peter, Paul and Mary, Joni Mitchell, and so many more of the great artists and composers of the 60s and 70s. A rousing rendition of “White Rabbit” was performed as a vocal solo by Hillary Foxsong. “Teach Your Children Well” a Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young hit, brought everyone back to a time when life gave us lessons through popular music. Even The Grateful Dead were represented by their hit “Ripple.” By the end of the night, ev-

eryone was on their feet. The evening was an overwhelming success, emotionally, spiritually, and financially.

The funds raised from ticket sales and event sponsors Meredith Village Savings Bank, Golden View Health Care, and Miracle Farms Landscaping will enhance the work of Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice. This local agency, based in Laconia and Wolfeboro, provides health care services at home, from birth to bereavement. We Care is proud to have been able to provide additional funding to this most worthwhile agency.

## Learn More About the Israeli Version of NPR’s *This American Life*

Nashua — End your Chanukah celebration at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua with an hour of radio-style storytelling with Mishy Harman, cofounder and host of Israel’s leading podcast and radio show, *Israel Story*.

Israel Story is Israel’s most popular podcast and national storytelling radio show. Many, including Ira Glass himself, call it the Israeli *This American Life*. The show aims to tell the story of a different, diverse Israel, to amplify voices rarely heard on the mainstream media, to explore the drama, complexities, and social tensions of daily life in Israel.

On Monday, December 10 at 8 PM, Mishy will play clips from the podcast

and share stories of how he built the show, how he and his team find their stories, and what they’ve learned over the course of the show’s rise in popularity.

Dr. Mishy Harman is the show’s cofounder and host. Following his military service in the Israel Defense Forces, he studied history at Harvard, archaeology at Cambridge, and wrote his PhD -- a biography of the first Protestant missionary in Ethiopia -- at the Hebrew University.

Listen to the podcast at <https://israel-story.org/>.

This program is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted at the door or at <https://www.tbanashua.org/>.



The staff of the Israeli radio show and podcast, Israel Story.

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## From Bimah to Broadway

Portsmouth -- Temple Israel of Portsmouth invites you to a very special musical performance on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at 7 PM in the main sanctuary. The concert features two talented and uplifting performers, each a storied cantor and musician: our part-time Cantor Shira Nafshi, and Cantor Micah Morgovsky, from Temple Sinai in Stamford, CT. These two remarkable cantors studied together at the Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music and will perform together for the first time ever at this concert. In addition to their accomplished cantorial careers and mastery over several musical instruments, each of these cantors has also chosen a rabbi as a life partner, is a devoted parent, and enjoys rich and diverse passions: Shira can be found around horses as a rider, trainer, instructor, and farrier; Micah is a certified zentangle teacher, miniature enthusiast, and Broadway fanatic.



Cantor Shira Nafshi



Cantor Micah Morgovsky

ing both Jewish tradition and modern life: a concert that will take us on a musical journey from Bimah to Broadway.

The program will begin promptly at 7 PM with Havdalah, followed by the concert. Attendees are also invited to enjoy dessert and discussion immediately following the performance in the downstairs social hall.

All proceeds will benefit the Temple Israel Portsmouth Musical Enrichment Fund.

Tickets are \$36 for adults, \$18 for children. You may also choose to offer additional support for this program by elevating your donation: Donor level: \$72 (includes 1 ticket), Patron level: \$180 (includes 2 tickets), or Sponsor level: \$360 (includes 4 tickets).

Please reserve your tickets early by calling Heather at the synagogue office 603-436-5301 x10, by email at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org, or by sending checks to Temple Israel, 200 State St., Portsmouth, NH 03801



From L to R: Prof. Schweitzer, Amie, Charlotte, Prof. Hernandez, and director Signe Taylor. In front row, Dina Michael Chaitowitz, president, Etz Hayim Board of Directors.

## It's Criminal, and It's Important

Derry — Over three hours were devoted to social justice issues at Etz Hayim Synagogue on October 28, when movie director Signe Taylor showed her deeply moving, award-winning documentary film, *It's Criminal*, and led a lively discussion about economic disparities in our society, inequities in our criminal justice system, the importance of empathy, and the possibility of rehabilitation.

*It's Criminal* documents a 10-week Dartmouth College class (Inside Out: Prison, Women, and Performance) that brings together Dartmouth College students with women incarcerated at the Sullivan County House of Corrections to write and stage a play at the prison about the prisoners' lives. As the documentary chronicles the journeys of students and prisoners through the class, and the developing relationships among the participants, it illuminates the divide between the privileged and the disenfranchised and the consequences of that divide, and demonstrates the power in our lives of awareness, communication, and understanding.

The movie was followed by a panel discussion with Ms. Taylor; Ivy Schweitzer,

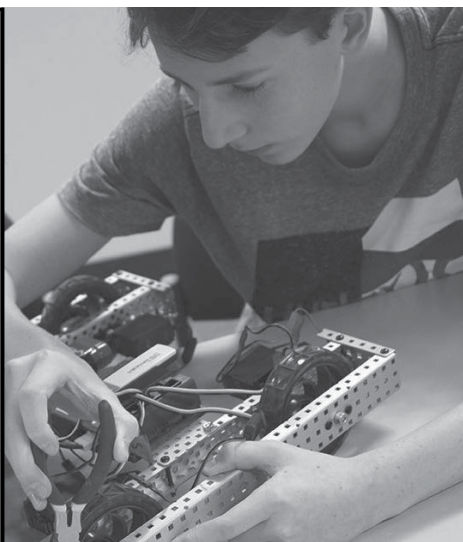
co-producer of the movie, Dartmouth College professor of English, and chair of the Women's and Gender Studies Program; Pati Hernandez, founder of the nonprofit organization Telling My Story and adjunct professor of women's and gender studies at Dartmouth College; and Amie and Charlotte, two formerly incarcerated women who participated in Prison, Women, and Performance and who are now both successfully employed. Professors Schweitzer and Hernandez were co-creators of the Prison, Women, and Performance class. Members of the audience stayed long after the tears and panel discussion ended to chat with the panelists.

In conjunction with the movie, Etz Hayim collected gifts for Children of Incarcerated Prisoners, a program of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, (located next door to the synagogue) that enables prisoners to choose Christmas gifts for, and then give gifts to, the children in their lives.

If you are interested in arranging a showing of this important film, please contact Signe Taylor at itiscriminal@gmail.com.

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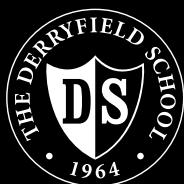
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## Etz Hayim Offers Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff Programs in December and January

Derry — Etz Hayim Synagogue will host two talks in its “Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff” adult education programs in the next few months. These programs are open to the public at no charge; however, donations to the synagogue are welcomed.

On Thursday, December 6, at 7 PM, the focus is on “Roots and Routes of Jewish Humor: ‘What He Brews’ and the Power of Humor,” presented by Stephen Soreff, M.D., a/k/a “Doc Steve.” This program focuses on humor in three ways. As the title indicates, it explores the origins of Jewish humor. There are more books written on this topic than any other religion’s and ethnicity’s humor. Why? The presentation answers that by looking at the history and literature of Judaism. Next, the talk looks at the anatomy of a joke: What makes a joke funny? It concludes with the role of humor in health. It shows how humor is the best medicine by enhancing your immune system, decreasing heart attacks, and relieving stress, to name some of its benefits. Members of the audience will not only hear a lively narrative, which includes some interesting history and jokes, but will be encouraged to share their own funny stories. Join us and feel good!

On Tuesday, January 15, at 7:30 PM, Etz Hayim features “Why Women Should be Doctors and Your Doctors Should be Women.” Several highly-accomplished and successful female doctors from vari-



*Dr. Stephen Soreff*

ous practices will talk about their experiences in the medical field and will answer questions. Panelists will include Dr. Sarah Finne Sandler, dental director at New Hampshire’s Department of Health and Human Services; Dr. Stacie E. Perlman, a surgeon at Concord Hospital specializing in minimally invasive and robotic surgery; Dr. Susan E. White, director of didactic curriculum and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston University School of Medicine; and Dr. Sarit Itenberg, a dermatologist in private practice. If your daughter is interested in pursuing a medical career, this is THE program to attend

All programs are held at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1½ Hood Road, Derry. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at [soreffs15@aol.com](mailto:soreffs15@aol.com) or 603-895-6120.



*Families enjoy a craft activity as part of the Yedidim program.*

## Yedidim — Bringing Jewish Families Together

*By Jessie Mocle*

Nashua — On the morning of October 27, the Pittsburgh Jewish Community and worldwide Jewry came together in grief and sadness at news of the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue. That evening, Nashua saw four young families come together to repudiate the terror and destruction wrought by one deranged individual. As night fell, children’s voices, innocent of the news that broke their parents’ hearts, rang out around the light of the Havdalah candle as we said goodbye to a day that will live in history as the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the United States.

There are many responses to terror, and I, like many others in America right now, have cycled through a myriad of emotions and reactions to Pittsburgh.

For now, I have settled on this: let us join together not in sadness, but in hope. Let us build a vibrant community of young families in Southern New Hampshire. Yedidim is a way to show those that would seek our destruction that we are indestructible. We do it one Shabbat at a time, one Sunday school class at a time, each time we come together to laugh while our children play. Help us bring Jewish families together in joy and peace. I can’t wait to see you -- we have a big job ahead of us, but I have faith that we will succeed.

Visit our website at <https://www.tban-ashua.org/yedidim.html> for more information on how you can participate. Upcoming events include Build-a-Shabbat, Pop-up Potluck Havdalah, Yedidim Family Sunday School, and Yedidim Mom’s Night Out.

# Mitzvahs

## It’s Mitzvah Time Again!

Manchester — The annual call is out for volunteers for the TAY Brotherhood-sponsored Christmas Mitzvah program. In existence for over 35 years, this program was formed to help our Christian neighbors at Christmas time, taking over certain functions and allowing them to enjoy their holiday with family and friends.

Volunteers are needed for these activities:

1. Delivering of Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day.
2. Taking charge of the information desks at both Manchester hospitals, Elliot Hospital, and Catholic Medical Center on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
3. Running the Bingo event at the Man-

chester Veterans Administration Hospital on Christmas night.

4. Delivering lunch and refreshments to the police and fire stations in Manchester and Bedford on Christmas Day.
5. Preparing, serving, and cleaning up Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meals at the local soup kitchen, New

Horizons.

Each year, over 100 volunteers participate, often as families. They enjoy camaraderie, but especially enjoy a sense of fulfillment as neighbors helping neighbors.

If you are interested, or have any questions, please call Sol Rockenmacher at 232-3477 or e-mail [rockenmacher@comcast.net](mailto:rockenmacher@comcast.net).

## Etz Hayim Recognizes Three Engaged in Tikkun Olam

Derry — On November 17, Etz Hayim Synagogue (EHS) Board of Directors president Dina Michael Chaitowitz presented Cheryl Haas (Etz Board of Directors vice president) and her two daughters (Anna and Laura) with three awards: the Federation's Shem Tov award and two federal Corporation for National & Community Service President Volunteer Service Award certificates, one for Anna and one for Laura.

As anyone with children or grandchildren knows, young folks these days are very busy with academics and sports, and that is true for Anna and Laura Haas, who are both successful students and athletes. Nonetheless, they manage to carve out time to "give back to the community," and each of them devoted many hours last year volunteering at the synagogue (as teen tutors and indispensable assistants at various events) and at their town library. The Haas ladies were not able to receive their Shem Tov award at the Federation's Annual Meeting because they were competing at a sporting event. In the photograph that accompanies this article, the Haas ladies are getting ready to run the EHS gift shop at its November 17 Klezmer and Israel Dance Night.

Mazel tov and thank you to these three amazing women!



Three Haas women received three awards for volunteerism on November 17 at Etz Hayim Synagogue. From left to right: Anna Haas holding her President's Volunteer Service Award certificate for performing 75 hours of volunteer work in a 12-month period between 2017 and 2018; Cheryl Haas holding her family's Shem Tov award; and Laura Haas holding her PVSA award certificate for performing 100 hours of volunteer work in 2017-2018.

## Letters to the Editor

### There Is Historical Evidence of the Exodus

Rabbi Ira Korinow (*The Reporter*, November 2018) wrote that the story of the Exodus has no basis in historical fact. I recommend that he read a book by one of America's most distinguished biblical commentators, Carol Myers, retired professor from Duke University, entitled Exodus.

That book examines textual and archaeological evidence for the existence of people who arrived in Egypt and later moved to Canaan, who self-identified as

the sons of Israel, and created Israelite communities over 3,000 years ago. A thirteenth century BCE Egyptian object called the Merneptah Stela contains a reference to Israel, for example.

Ancient Egyptians did not make reference in their monuments or hieroglyphics to military defeats. They certainly would not have commemorated a successful slave revolt.

Rick Sirvint, Rindge

When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

## Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

### How's Your Mom? What You Really Want to Say When Your Mom Has MS Written by Michelle Lebs and Tamra Devine

Michelle Lebs has chronicled the story of her experience being the daughter of Tamra Devine, a mother who suffered with multiple sclerosis. *How's Your Mom? What You Really Want to Say When Your Mom Has MS* (Mindstir Media, 2018) is both touching and inspiring. Michelle is incredibly brave as she helps her mother wrestle with the disease that will slowly incapacitate her. Together, they try to understand and make sense of the turns their lives take when Tamra is diagnosed with this debilitating illness.

Through alternating chapters that include the thoughts and feelings of her father, Chris, and her brother, Alex, the reader has an inside look at what happens to a family when one member is diagnosed with a life-threatening disease. As Michelle points out, the illness does not just affect the patient; it changes the lives of the entire family.

This book is written from the heart. Michelle does not sugarcoat the day-to-day struggles her mother went through, or the harsh feelings Michelle had while everything was happening. It also does not try to make it seem like everything works out in the end. The family members here are angry at the disease, they are angry at life throwing them this curve ball, and they get angry at each other. The book shows all those raw, exposed moments when life really hurts.

This book also shows how, through it



all, they were there for each other. Michelle was furious that during her teenage and young adult years, when she wanted a mother who would bake with her and go shopping with her, and that was taken away, but she was there for her mother. She took care of her mother and loved her mother. Her father had taken a vow to love and take care of her, til death do you part, and he took that very seriously. Her brother was there also, helping to hold them all together as a family.

I personally knew this family for many years, having been friends with Tammy and watched the children grow up, and that made this book even more incredible for me. They have been through the toughest of times and have stayed strong and resilient. I hope writing this memoir has helped them heal. Tammy will never be forgotten. Her memory will be for a blessing, and her strength will help others in their personal struggles.

Michelle Lebs, 27, is an elementary STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) teacher. This is her first publication. She holds a BS in elementary education, BA in general science, and M Ed in technology integration. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Tyler, rescue puppy Sato, Anna, and a newborn baby girl. Michelle (Devine) Lebs grew up in Nashua with her family as members of Temple Beth Abraham.



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# Recent Events

Want to see your organization's photos here? Send them to [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org).



On November 13, Etz Board of Directors president Dina Michael Chaitowitz (not pictured here) led a group of religious school parents in a Havdalah-bag-creation class. We hope they'll use the bags soon for a home Havdalah service!



On November 9, Shlichah Noam Wolf, assisted by Israeli SNHU student Lior Pacha, engaged Etz Hayim Synagogue members in a lively and fascinating discussion about posters that were created by Israeli artists tasked to imagine Israel on its 100th birthday.



On November 4, members of Etz Hayim Synagogue's women's group gathered to watch RBG, the award-winning film about U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a brilliant lawyer and jurist, trailblazer, "bubbe," and pop culture icon. Photo by Dina Michael Chaitowitz.



JFNH Shlichah Noam Wolf enjoys a lighthearted moment with a child from Temple Beth Jacob in Concord during a visit this fall to celebrate Sukkot.



On Nov. 4, The Visiting Scholars Program, sponsored by The Abraham and Lillian Heifetz Gruber Fund and Temple Israel Manchester, presented "Understanding the History & Morality of U.S. Refugee Policy." Speakers included (L-R) Prof. Peter I. Rose, PhD; Lauren W. Herman, JD, MTS, civil rights lawyer and activist; and 2016 New Hampshire Civic Leader of the Year Arnold Mikolo, team leader with the Immigration Initiative.



Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski's first day of teaching the Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at Temple Israel Manchester was a hit! Classes will continue for 26 weeks. Rabbi will offer Intro again, so don't worry if you missed this one!



Rabbi Boaz Heilman showing the Temple B'nai Israel Religious School students how to remove the arils from a fresh pomegranate.

# HAPPY HANUKKAH

חנוכה שמח



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## Recent Events



On Nov. 7, Temple Israel Manchester members were treated to a private tour of the Currier's exhibit, "Myth and Faith in Renaissance Florence: The Sculpture of Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli and his Circle." Sponsored by Barbara and Harry Shepler, the tour was led by curator Kurt Sundstrom.



On October 7, the amazing Chef Paula Winer shared her top-secret shakshouka recipe with other Temple Israel Manchester members at Norri Oberlander's house. Mimosas were also enjoyed by all.



On November 17, Etz Hayim Synagogue members had a rollicking good time with the Raymond Street Klezmer Band's special mix of Klezmer, Israeli dancing, jazz, and good humor. So much fun!

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## JFNH Tributes

Received by November 14, 2018

### Kushner-Tumen Fund

Norm and Andrea Kushner to Susanah Jones in memory of her daughter Melissa

### Social Services

Susan Sofman in honor of her parents' upcoming anniversary

### How to submit an obituary

The Reporter publishes obituaries of people who made significant contributions to Jewish life in New Hampshire. Please send obituaries in Word format and photos in jpg format to thereporter@jewishnh.org. Publication is at the publisher's discretion, subject to space limitations.

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## JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

Sending a tribute card from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is one of the best ways to honor someone for any *simcha*, e.g. birthday, anniversary, bar/bat mitzvah. It is also the perfect way to say "Thank you" or to send your condolences.

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I'm Paul Bieber, the Federation Treasurer, and we need your help in making phone calls for the Annual Campaign on Sundays in December. We need callers across the state. We will be calling from the Federation office in Manchester and from synagogues across the state. You can also make calls from home. We'll give you all the information you need. Please email me at [paulbaseball@msn.com](mailto:paulbaseball@msn.com) letting me know which Sunday(s) works for you and where you would like to call from.

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