

Legacy Awards: Singer Family Has Legacy of Giving

By Michael Cousineau

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Hooksett — Decades ago, Irving Singer would bring home college students and others in need of a hot meal after synagogue on Saturdays.

"My mom always knew to set an extra five or six settings for people who didn't have a warm meal," son Gary Singer recalled last week.

The gesture was part of a legacy of giving -- both public and private -- by the Singer family over the past half century.

Whether it be supporting the nation's largest blood drive or donating money to build Singer Family Park, generations of the Singers have donated money and time -- often without fanfare.

That has earned the family a Granite State Legacy Award this month.

"I don't think there's a better example of a family that could be more deserving of this award," former Manchester Mayor



Gary Singer talks about awards he has gotten over the years in his office at Merchants Automotive in Hooksett. Photo by David Lane/Union Leader

or Bob Baines said.

"They have established a legacy of giving," said Baines, who gets fundraising help for his annual blarney breakfast from Stephen Singer, who for many years was the public face of the family's philanthropy.

"They have set an example for others to follow," Baines said.

Three of Irving's seven children (along with a son-in-law) currently own Merchants Automotive Group. Their 93-year-old mother, Bernice, still lives in Manchester.

The Granite State Legacy Awards celebrate the accomplishments of the state's most distinguished citizens who have given the most to New Hampshire through business, philanthropy, politics, and more. The awards are given to New Hampshire residents who have made significant contributions over an extended period to their profession, community, and state.

"They're a good family, and I'm sure they're deserving of the award," said Larry Gammon, president and CEO of Easterseals New Hampshire, to which the family donates money to help children's programs.

"With respect to the Legacy Award, my parents very strongly believed in giving back to the community," Gary Singer said. "My

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Shlichah Noam Wolf to Bring Prayers & Wishes From New Hampshire to the Western Wall!

Manchester — Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is excited to announce a special opportunity for the statewide Jewish community. Our Shlichah, Noam Wolf, is returning to Israel to visit family and friends before the second year of her Shlichim begins. In an effort to bring us all closer to Israel and to fulfill her promise to NH's Hebrew School children, Noam will be bringing a big envelope of prayers and wishes to the Western Wall in Jerusalem on our behalf.

Noam's popular "Trip to Israel" passport program toured New Hampshire during the 2017-18 religious school season, reaching hundreds and transporting them to four Israeli locales, where they

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Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Seeks Community Support to Complete Upgrades

By Michael Sydney

Manchester — The Manchester Hebrew Cemetery is seeking community support in performing an important community mitzvah. The cemetery has been in existence for well over 100 years and is the final resting place for the Jewish community in the Manchester area.

After WWII, a chapel was built on the grounds of the cemetery in memory of the servicemen killed during the war. This chapel fell into disrepair over the years, and it was recently restored. It's a respectful location to conduct services prior to burial.

The next phase of this important mitzvah project is now about to begin. The underground sprinklers are antiquated and need to be replaced. In order to perform the work, the pavement needs to be removed and replaced.



The cemetery driveway, which is in need of repaving. Photo by David Rosenzweig

In conjunction with this work, security lighting and handicap accessibility to the chapel needs to be added, along with replacing over-

grown landscaping and resetting the granite entryway patio and curbing for safety. The

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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

HANOVER

CHABAD AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Rabbi Moshe Gray
22a School 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

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, led by Rabbi Boraz

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

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-W-F preschool.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



July 6	8:10 PM
July 13	8:06 PM
July 20	8:01 PM
July 27	7:55 PM

Summertime and the Living Is Busy!!

As we turn the calendar to begin our summer, the offices of Jewish Federation of New Hampshire are abuzz with activity. What is traditionally a chance for those in the workplace to catch their breath is a creative frenzy at JFNH as we pursue new programs and initiatives and explore new ways to engage our statewide Jewish community.

The last two events in our “Israel at 70” series are coming up on the calendar: two exceptional opportunities to celebrate (Jacob Reuven & the Be’er Sheva Mandolin Quartet on 7/29 at Congregation Ahavas Achim in Keene and Migration through Israel’s Hula Valley: Great Avian Journeys on 8/19 at the Millyard Museum in Manchester) [read more about these on page 9]. Hundreds attended earlier events statewide to help raise money for Hadassah Hos-

**Melanie Zalman
McDonald**

**Executive
Director**



pital (Derry), learn Israeli dancing (Portsmouth), build a Lego Jerusalem (Nashua), and connect with the Consul General from Israel to New England at a special Shabbat service (Concord). We look forward to the final two events, which will provide musical and environmental onramps for those looking to strengthen their connections to Israel and their awareness of some of the many reasons why Israel continues to inspire and innovate to our delight!

Our Shlichah Noam Wolf has released

an exciting menu of summer program offerings, our PJ Library programs are expanding to farther-reaching communities, and our Preschool Summer Camp is in full swing, providing enrichment and learning for all! Plans for annual Fisher Cats Baseball Jewish Pride Night (7/31 at 7:05 PM) in collaboration with Chabad Center for Jewish Living are in full swing (see full page ad on page 28) -- the kosher concessions and community spirit are not to be missed!!! The White Mountain Jewish Film Festival rolls out in Bethlehem July 5–August 30, and there are concerts, lectures, and opportunities to experience summer Jewishly all around us!

As if that’s not enough, we are days away from launching a brand new, more user-friendly website (same URL, better format and content). We are beginning

new collaborations with Seniors Forever Young to expand their reach, and we are forging new partnerships with other statewide entities to meet new needs in our diverse Jewish community.

We are proud and excited about this growth and change and what it will mean for all of you, our friends and members who rely on JFNH to keep you informed and to provide meaningful new ways to engage in Jewish life and Jewish content.

I hope in the midst of all the BBQs, berry picking, and vacations that you will make time to attend one or more of these exciting offerings across New Hampshire. Whether you enjoy a Shabbat hike, a Havdalah bonfire, or the “sounds of the sanctuary” close to home, may your summer be filled with enjoying “Jewish Your Way” set against the beauty of New Hampshire’s exquisite landscape.

Cemetery *continued from page 1*



Restoration of the chapel is now near completion. Photo by David Rosenzweig

chapel will also have acoustic treatment to enhance the sound of the eulogies.

The members of our community interred at the cemetery were the founders and leaders of the NH Jewish community. Their generosity, hard work, and spirit were the foundation that built the JCC and created the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire foundation. The project is budgeted to cost \$150,000, and to date \$100,000 has been raised. Another \$50,000 is needed to complete the re-

mainder of the project this summer.

Your assistance and contributions are needed to help restore the grounds of the cemetery to their former beautiful and dignified state for many years to come. Please make your generous contribution payable to the Chapel Restoration Fund and mail it to Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St., Manchester, NH 03104.

On behalf of those interred at the cemetery, thank you for your support and contributions.

Wall *continued from page 1*

learned vocabulary, music, important sites, and other information about Israel. One of the four units focused on Jerusalem and holy places, during which they worked together to build a replica of the wall and wrote down their prayers and wishes.

Whether or not you have been to Israel yourself, we invite you to include your own prayers and wishes for this special destination. It will be wonderful to have these heartfelt thoughts from Jews across New Hampshire meet the Jerusalem stone of that ancient and symbolic wall.

To participate, send your prayers and wishes to Noam before July 27, (also her birthday). She is happy to receive these notes via email, mail, or Facebook. If you prefer to keep your wish private, you can send it in a sealed envelope to Noam at the Jewish Federation’s office. Stay tuned to her Facebook page (and Federation’s) and see pictures of her visit to the wall to deliver our notes. To participate, send email shlichah@jewishnh.org, post your note on Facebook, or send it in an envelope by **JULY 27** to



A student at Congregation Betenu in Amherst enjoyed their replica Western Wall during one of Noam’s educational visits this spring.

the Federation’s offices:

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
66 Hanover St., Suite #300
Manchester, NH 03101

Help the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire sustain a proud and vibrant Jewish NH. Make your gift to the Annual Campaign at www.jewishnh.org/give

See what’s happening in the community at www.jewishnh.org

Statewide Calendar of Events

Thursday, July 5

Opening Night White Mountain Jewish Film Festival

6 PM, Colonial Theatre, Main St., Bethlehem
The film to be shown will be *Keep the Change*, a heartfelt humorous and wonderfully surprising romantic comedy about two young adults with autism who strike up an unlikely and transformative relationship. White Mountain Jewish Film Festival ticket information: per film \$9 BHC members, \$10 general admission. Five-film season pass: \$40 BHC members, \$45 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com or 823-7711.

Sunday, July 8

21st Annual Jewish Food Festival

11 AM – 2 PM, Temple B'nai Israel, Laconia
The menu includes traditional Jewish cooking from delicatessen delights to amazing desserts and more! The Nearly New Boutique and Judaica Shop will be open as well. This event will happen rain or shine. Credit cards are accepted. More information: www.tbinh.org or foodfestival@tbinh.org.

Thursday July 12

Seniors Forever Young trip to see Evita

The Interlakes Theater, Meredith

12:15 PM bus leaves from TAY, 2 PM show begins
We will be going out to eat after the show. Cost of this event is \$30 plus the cost of dinner. Reservations and payments were due by June 28. More information: contact Sandra Wexler at 718-8898 or Elaine Rabinovitz 204-5736. 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.

Friday, July 13

Sounds in the Sanctuary

5 PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem
This concert features perennial favorites, North Country Chamber Players' pianist Bernard Rose along with violinist Anna Lim, who will perform works of Bach and Shubert. Sounds in the Sanctuary Concert Series ticket information: per concert cost is \$17 BHC members, \$20 general admission. Six-concert season pass: \$85 BHC members, \$100 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com.

BBQ and Barchu

5:30 PM BBQ, 7 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
Come anytime from 5:30 on for a pre-Shabbat barbecue with Jewish music in the background. Stay for candle lighting and a rousing musical Shabbat evening service

outside, followed by Shabbat table rituals (kiddush and motzi blessings) and dessert. For BBQ, RSVP by Wednesday to tbanashua.org or (603) 883-8184. BBQ is \$8 per adult, \$4 per child, free for ages 5 and under. No charge or RSVP necessary for services.

Thursday July 19

White Mountain Jewish Film Festival

6 PM, Colonial Theatre, Main St., Bethlehem
The film to be shown is *Fugitive Pieces*, an emotionally charged film about love, loss, and redemption, is driven by radiant performances and nuanced writing. It is based upon Ann Michaels' bestselling novel of a writer who cannot shake off the terrifying memories of his childhood during World War II. White Mountain Jewish Film Festival ticket information: per film \$9 BHC members, \$10 general admission. Five-film season pass: \$40 BHC members, \$45 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com or 823-7711.

Friday, July 20

Shabbat-on-the-Road

6 PM, Home of Barbara & Harry Shepler, 134 County Road, Bedford
Reservations are required. Call Barbara at 494-6015.

Saturday, July 21

Tisha B'Av Study Session

8 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
More information: 669-5650.

Sunday, July 22

Sunapee-Kearsarge Jewish Community Meeting

Guest speaker will be JFNH Shlichah (emissary) Noam Wolf. Noam is beginning her second year in New Hampshire and is excited and proud to share her presentation, "My Israeli Story," with the community. Born and raised in Israel, Noam served in the IDF, and she is also a professional musician, singer, and songwriter. She is excited to visit with the community and will also sing some songs. For more information, contact Arthur Rosen at ponderosen@tds.net.

Friday, July 27

Sounds in the Sanctuary

5 PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem
This concert will feature the exciting four hands piano duo of Stanislava Varshavsky and Diana Shapiro, appearing for the first time in the BHC sanctuary to perform works of Czerny, Gavrilin, Schubert, and Gershwin. Sounds in the Sanctuary Concert Series ticket information: per concert: \$17 BHC members, \$20 general admission. Six-concert season pass: \$85 BHC members, \$100 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com.

Sunday, July 29

Jewish In Me Writing Project

9:30–11:45 AM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem

This workshop is built on principals of respect and privacy in a truly safe place to record in poetry or prose emotions, memories, spirituality, and more. \$25 for two sessions, \$15 for one session. The second session is Sunday, August 26. More information and/or to register, contact Dorothy by July 8: dorothygoldstone@gmail.com.

Jacob Reuven & The Be'er Sheva Mandolin Quartet in Concert

4–6 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene
Tickets are \$18, with proceeds to benefit the Be'er Sheva Music Conservatory. This will be an afternoon of mandolin quartet music performed by Jacob Reuven, director of the B'er Sheva Music Conservatory and three of his outstanding mandolin graduates. Special guests will be New Hampshire's own August Watters (founder of the New England Mandolin Ensemble and former professor at Berklee College of Music) and Noam Wolf, NH Shlichah, will also perform! This program is part of the season-long celebration of 70 years of Israeli independence that the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is marking with community events and gatherings. To purchase tickets go to www.eventbrite.com/e/israel-at-70-jacob-reuven-the-beer-sheva-mandolin-quartet-tickets-46408631466.

Wednesday, August 1

Book Club Meeting

Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
The book to be discussed with be *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*. More information: 883-8184.

Thursday, August 2

White Mountain Jewish Film Festival

6 PM, Colonial Theatre, Main St., Bethlehem
The film to be shown will be *Hester Street*, Joan Miklin Silver's filmmaking debut. "Marvelously evocative study of Jewish immigrant life in turn of the century New York, mainly told in delightfully subtitled Yiddish features an outstanding lead performance from the Oscar nominated Carol Kane," wrote Tony Sloman (Radio Times). White Mountain Jewish Film Festival ticket information: per film \$9 BHC members, \$10 general admission. Five-film season pass: \$40 BHC members, \$45 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com or 823-7711.

Friday, August 3

Sounds in the Sanctuary

5 PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem
Back by popular demand, the Anderson Jazz Trio, with Peter Anderson on tenor sax and clarinet, Will Anderson on alto sax, clarinet and flute, and Alex

Events For Our Youth

Friday, July 13

Family Shabbat

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
Reservations are required, call Christine at 622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org.

Sunday, July 15

Camp Fun Day

9:30 AM–1 PM, Camp Young Judaea, 9 Camp Rd., Amherst
Take a tour of the camp, meet the staff, participate in activities and more. For more information and to RSVP: (781) 2379-9410 extension 3.

Camp Ramah in New England Prospective Family Day

10:30 AM–2 PM, Camp Ramah, 39 Bennett Street, Palmer, MA
Take a tour of the camp with the tennis courts, sports fields, arts and craft studios, and more! Another Prospective Family Day takes place on Sunday, August 5. More information and to RSVP: contact Lori Fish Bard: lorib@campramahne.org.

Sunday, August 5

Camp Ramah in New England Prospective Family Day

10:30 AM–2 PM, Camp Ramah, 39 Bennett Street, Palmer, MA
Take a tour of the camp with the tennis courts, sports fields, arts and craft studios, and more! More information and to RSVP: contact Lori Fish Bard: lorib@campramahne.org.

Wintz on guitar. Sounds in the Sanctuary Concert Series ticket information: per concert: \$17 BHC members, \$20 general admission. Six-concert season pass: \$85 BHC members, \$100 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com.

Friday, August 10

Sounds in the Sanctuary

5 PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem
Siblings Frances, Emmanuel, and Elizabeth Borowsky will perform at this concert. The trio has delighted listeners of all ages with their interpretations of standard repertoire and dazzling original compositions. Sounds in the Sanctuary Concert Series ticket information: per concert: \$17 BHC members, \$20 general admission. Six-concert season pass: \$85 BHC members, \$100 general admission. To order season passes, contact Sidney Regen: e.sregen@roadrunner.com.

Legacy Awards continued from page 1
father, when he was living, for years was one of the largest contributors, even though he was Jewish, to Catholic Charities."

Brother Bob Singer provided a simple answer to the question of the family's legacy.

"We made the city and the state a better place," he said. "We were an example of giving back to the community."

The family's three most important charities are the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society.

"I think they have the greatest impact on people," Gary Singer said.

The family car business started at the corner of Valley and Willow streets in 1962 and moved to Hooksett later that decade.

In the 1990s, the family donated around \$600,000 to help fund Singer Family Park, which hosted concerts and soccer games along the Merrimack River. The property later became the site of a city ballpark that carried the Merchants name during several years of sponsorship.

The family also donated \$250,000 for a pedestrian bridge over the Merrimack

River. It also funded part of the Irving and Bernice Singer Pedestrian Bridge that spans the Piscataquog River.

Philanthropy became the main job for Stephen Singer, the eldest brother, who now spends most of his time in New Jersey.

"When he was working at Merchants the last 10 years, with the approval of his other brothers, his full-time occupation, even though he was paid by Merchants, was to help the community," Gary Singer said. "That was his only responsibility."

Today, all four Merchants owners are in their 60s: three brothers (Gary, Bob, and

Jeffrey) and Michael Sydney, the husband of their sister, Joy.

The business includes selling used cars in Hooksett as well as leasing and managing cars, trucks, vans, and buses in all 50 states.

About the Legacy Awards

Presented by the New Hampshire Union Leader and sponsored by Eastern Bank, the annual Legacy Awards program was launched in 2012 to celebrate the accomplishments of distinguished residents.

This year's awards were presented on Thursday, May 31, at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College.

Federation Is Alive and Well

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a member of the Federation Board since 2012, and for the past several years as board chair.

Upon joining the board, it quickly became apparent to me that the organization was facing a serious identity crisis. Difficult decisions had to be made about the future of the organization. The organization's executive director was moving on. The underutilized Federation building suffered from a great deal of deferred maintenance and had become a significant financial liability. The organization's impact was largely confined to the greater Manchester area and the Federation did not have an appreciable presence in other parts of our special and wonderful state. The organization faced seemingly insurmountable challenges, and some board decisions made at that time were controversial. During the ensuing six years or so, the Federation's annual campaign experienced a steady decline. The future of Federation was in doubt.

We confronted important questions.

**Jeffrey Crocker,
Board Chair**

Board Column



What should be our mission? How could we engage and serve our statewide constituency? How could we support our synagogues and temples? How could we reach and engage young individuals and families? How could we connect with our unaffiliated Jewish population? The task ahead of us seemed daunting. However, thanks to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our board and community members, and our exceptional staff and executive leadership, I am pleased to report that today Federation is alive and well, and serving the needs of our New Hampshire Jewish community. The evidence of renewed community confidence in JFNH is overwhelmingly apparent in many ways, not the least of which is that

for the first time in six years, our annual campaign realized a substantial increase over the prior year.

Over the course of this past year, we have produced, sponsored, co-sponsored, promoted, and funded programs of many kinds throughout our state. These programs have had broad appeal and have brought educational, cultural, and social benefits and support to our New Hampshire Jewish population, our synagogues and temples, and Israel. As you read this, we are in the midst of our Israel at 70 celebration, featuring events and programs throughout New Hampshire this summer.

JFNH's successes have been achieved thanks to community support from you, our loyal and supportive friends and constituents throughout our state. Thank you. I especially want to thank my wonderful board colleagues, our community volunteers, our incredible staff, our Israeli emissary, Noam Wolf, and especially our extraordinary executive director, Melanie Zalman McDonald, for making

this an immensely successful and gratifying year.

I look forward to my new role on the board as Immediate Past chair, and to handing off the baton to Mindee Greenburg, who will assume the role of board chair. Our incoming board chair and our returning executive director are smart, strong, talented, and dedicated professionals whom I have come to respect and admire as colleagues. They will have plenty of support from our robust board of directors. I am proud of our board and the leadership team we have assembled. JFNH is in good hands.

For now, though, as I step down as board chair, I leave you with the following words of the immortal Julius Henry Marx:

Hello, I must be going.

I cannot stay

I came to say

I must be going.

I'm glad I came

But just the same

I must be going.

A GIFT FROM THE
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Sign up today at
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If you have children 8 and under, sign up for PJ Library and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and music delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and Jewish identity as a family through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions and holidays.

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



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Summer is Here!

Hi Everyone! I am excited to officially declare an end to this winter! And believe me, no one's happier than I am. I thought it would never come to an end. Although I did enjoy occasional snow, and one remarkable experience of winter activities (first time I skied) -- I just couldn't be happier that the summer is here. Summer is the permanent season in Israel -- at least it feels that way, and I love enjoying the beautiful beaches Tel Aviv has to offer, reading a book on the sand, and getting some nice color while consuming vitamin D.

Not long ago there was a sunny day, and luckily it was also Shavuot and it was a day off for me, so I found myself grabbing Avì, sunscreen, and some fruit and driving to Hampton Beach. I must say that I was a little disappointed when I felt the ocean water. Although it was super-hot outside, the water was just freezing (!) and I couldn't convince myself to go in. A dip in the water is a must in the Israeli summer, and I do not know how this is even considered a beach day without it, but luckily the beginning of the summer brings with it a few other exciting events, to balance my experiences.

This summer, in addition to spending time in all of the NH Jewish communities, I will be spending a few days at Camp Tevya (teaching, performing, and being a part of their arts team). Like in 2010, when I was sent during my army service for two months to be a music counselor in a Young Judaea camp in upstate NY -- but this time it's different. This time I live here, and I know the peo-

Noam Wolf

JFNH Shlichà



ple, and I'm 20 minutes away from my adorable apartment, and I am very excited to work with the group of Israelis who were chosen specifically for Camp Tevya, and to just enjoy this experience of being in a camp on a lake. We don't really have camps like that in Israel, let alone lakes. So I am very excited about this!

Also, during the month of August, I am excited to return for a two-week vacation in Israel! I miss my friends and my family, and I can't wait to be surrounded by Hebrew speakers again, just for a little bit. It is the hottest month of the year, so I also plan to spend a lot of my time on the beach, at the pool, or under the AC. In addition to catching up with loved ones, I will be leveraging my Israeli connections to strengthen our Federation initiatives as well!

During this time in Israel, I am planning to meet some key contact people in our sister city, Hof HaCarmel, which is an hour and a half driving from where my parents live, and try to restart a collaboration between our schools across the ocean for next year. I hope that all of New Hampshire's Hebrew Schools will take part in it, and get to know this wonderful, diverse seacoast community south of Haifa.



JFNH friend Harry Shepler (on left) treated Noam, Avi, and a friend to their very first Red Sox game at Fenway.

I also plan to visit the Western Wall and will bring prayers and wishes from NH's Hebrew School children generated during this year's visits. Do you remember that I told you about my "Trip to Israel" with all of the Hebrew schools this year? Well, one of them included building the Western Wall and writing their wishes in a little note, and guess what?? I saved all of them and I'm taking them with me to Israel. Here's a one-time offer that I would like to give you all now: Until July 27, which is also my birthday (I will be turning 28 this year), I am offering you to send me your notes for the Western Wall. I will accept your wishes through email/mail/Facebook -- if you prefer to keep your wish private

you can send it in a sealed envelope to the Jewish Federation's office -- and I promise to take all those wishes with me, PLUS post a picture from that day to show you all of your notes in the wall. I invite you to take part in it, as I know not all of have been to Israel to have this experience for yourselves. So here's your chance -- "like" me on Facebook at Noam Wolf NH Shlichà, send me an email at shlichà@jewishnh.org, or send your note in an envelope by JULY 27 to the Federation's offices:

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
66 Hanover St., Suite #300
Manchester, NH 03101

I hope you will all take a part in it, and I will see you when I'm back!



JFNH Shlichà Noam Wolf may be busy traversing the state to teach at Hebrew schools, deliver presentations, and participate in synagogue services, but she still makes time to impart skills to the small and enthusiastic JFNH staff. Bookkeeper Karen Cannella (on left) initiated the Hebrew Word of the Day with Noam, and together the staff practices each day.



PJ Library organized a Lag B'Omer sing along and s'mores gathering at Camp Young Judaea in Amherst with NH Shlichà Noam Wolf

PJ Library Annual Conference Offers JFNH Staff Fresh Ideas & Perspectives

By Allyson Guertin, PJ Library Coordinator

What happens when you put PJ Library professionals from across the country in one conference center for three days of learning? You leave feeling inspired and full of fresh ideas!



Many people don't know the powerful and compelling PJ Library story. How just one man, Harold Grinspoon, had this amazing idea to be able to provide families with FREE, well-written, beautifully illustrated Jewish children's books. These books provide families with such a simple way to "bring Jewish" into their homes each day. And now PJ not only continues to provide these free books to families monthly, but offers programs to these families so they can continue to have Jewish experiences, grow traditions, and build friendships. Once a year, the Grinspoon Foundation (parent organization to PJ) hosts an annual conference where PJ Library professionals from communities



L-R: Winnie Sandler Grinspoon (daughter of Harold), JFNH PJ Library coordinator Allyson Guertin, Harold Grinspoon, and JFNH executive director Melanie Zelman McDonald.

across the country (Canada and Australia) spend three days sharing best practices, presenting new ideas, and connecting.

JFNH executive director Melanie Zelman McDonald and I walked into the con-

ference on the first day with the question, "How can we make PJ Library New Hampshire better?" Our program has grown so much during the past two years, not just in subscription numbers (180 to

over 400), but in community and friendship as well. How can the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire help to nurture the families of young children? Over three days, we heard the success stories of other communities, about ways to use parents as my partners in order to grow ideas and offer more. We spent an evening making a mezuzah as we talked about providing programs geared to parents only. How nature, cooking, tzedakah, and mitzvot -- just to name a few -- can play a role in the programs PJ New Hampshire offers to our families.

Melanie and I walked away with our heads full of new ideas and charged up with creative energy. We felt good about how PJ New Hampshire is evolving, and we were excited to return home with new tools in our PJ arsenal. We hope you'll stay tuned as PJ programming evolves to include more parent-to-parent connections, programming for older children, and more programming infused with the Jewish values we all hold dear! For more info on PJ Library New Hampshire and to discuss ways you can get involved, contact Allyson at (603) 627-7679 or via email at pjlibrary@jewishnh.org.

South Carolina Becomes 1st State to Pass Landmark Bill to Confront Campus Anti-Semitism

Advocates Hoping This Momentous Step Will Launch National Wave

Washington, D.C. — The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law (LDB) has applauded the South Carolina General Assembly for being the first state to pass legislation that will help tackle the rising anti-Semitism plaguing U.S. college campuses.

The legislation, which was included as part of a larger state spending package, was approved in April in the Senate by a vote of 37-4, and the House of Representatives passed it by a vote of 116-2 in March. South Carolina governor Henry McMaster has already endorsed the anti-Semitism measure, and has committed to sign it into law.

"There has been an alarming increase in anti-Semitism nationwide, and particularly on our nation's college campuses," stated LDB director of legal initiatives Aviva Vogelstein. "This bill gives South Carolina the tools to protect Jewish students' and all South Carolina students' right to a learning environment free of unlawful discrimina-

tion. Just as two dozen states followed South Carolina's lead on legislation condemning the movement to boycott certain countries, we are hoping this momentous step will result in another national wave to, once and for all, begin defeating rising anti-Semitism." LDB representatives testified at multiple South Carolina hearings on the bill and have been working closely with state legislators to ensure passage.

About The Louis D. Brandeis Center

The Louis D. Brandeis Center, Inc. is an independent, nonprofit organization established to advance the civil and human rights of the Jewish people and promote justice for all. The Brandeis Center conducts research, education, and advocacy to combat the resurgence of anti-Semitism on college and university campuses. It is not affiliated with the Massachusetts university, the Kentucky law school, or any of the other institutions that share the name and honor the memory of the late U.S. Supreme Court justice.

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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
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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.

Meet the Silverstein Family, Our PJ Library – New Hampshire Family of the Month!

JFNH Signature Program

The wonderful thing about PJ Library is that it welcomes all types of families looking for Jewish experiences. There is no mold or criteria a family has to fit into to benefit from the books or attend a program; they just have to share one common goal, raising Jewish children.

Each month, we highlight a family from across New Hampshire, showing how PJ Library and even the smallest experiences and traditions ensure that the history and love of Judaism is passed on to our next generation.

Tell us a little bit about your family

We are the Silverstein Family: Christine, Lee, and Zoey (age 6). Christine is originally from Manchester and Lee from Hanover, where his family is part of the Upper Valley Jewish Community. We moved to Londonderry in 2013. We enjoy traveling, playing board games, and spending time with our extended families.

How long have you been a PJ Library family and how did you learn about the program?

Zoey's grandparents signed her up for the program when she was only 6 months old after they were told about it by friends.

Through the program, we have received over 60 books, CDs, movies, games, and keepsakes. We have had the opportunity to donate materials to Jewish Federations



in Texas and New Jersey as Zoey outgrew them. We have also shared books with Zoey's preschool and kindergarten classes when they are discussing holidays.

Tell us about your experiences with PJ Library and how this program (books and events) has impacted your family

As an interfaith family, the books and other materials we've received through the program have been instrumental in our teaching about the different Jewish holidays, traditions, and customs. The events give the opportunity for Zoey to actually engage in activities that demonstrate being charitable, a sense of community, and acceptance.

One of the monthly deliveries a few years ago was a tzedakah box. Ever since then, we fill it with change and at the end of the year Zoey selects an agency she would like to make a donation to, which has included a coat drive for kids, food pantry, and human service organization benefiting elders.

As PJ parents, what do you value most about your involvement with PJ Library? Why?

We are parents coming from different backgrounds, so we are working to create traditions that align with our family and



The Silverstein Family:
Lee, Christine, and Zoey

lifestyle, and being involved in PJ Library has increased our conversation in this regard. The books and materials we receive monthly encourage discussion about how we would like to celebrate a particular holiday or respond to a question a book triggers for Zoey.

What are your child's favorite PJ books?

When she was younger, Zoey enjoyed Baby Be Kind and Bim Sings the Baby. As she has grown up her favorites include Afikomen Mambo, Ella's Trip to Israel, A Different Kind of Passover, Too Many Cooks, and Noah's Bed.

What has been your child's favorite PJ Library program and why?

Zoey enjoyed attending the SPCA event in Stratham. She liked shopping for the items to donate for the shelter animals.

She was able to see how generous others can be when the owner of the pet store provided a discount on products when he learned they were being donated to such a good cause. Of course, she loved seeing and holding the different animals, especially the guinea pigs!

After attending the Feeding The Hungry Thanksgiving Program, Zoey filled the bag decorated during the program with food donations for a Seacoast food pantry. She delivered the donations and took a tour of the site to learn more about the organization.

What do you wish most people knew about PJ Library – New Hampshire?

While receiving the books and materials is fantastic, having the opportunity to attend the great events has made our appreciation for the program grow. The variety of the events offered ensure there is something for everyone.

Tell us about your favorite Jewish family tradition or a special memory you have.

We enjoy spending the High Holidays with our family in the Upper Valley and have attended their tot services for several years. We also rotate hosting Hanukkah among ourselves, family in Upper Valley, and in New Jersey. There's always a dreidel game with M&Ms and latke making assembly line. Over the last few years, we have begun to include our non-Jewish family and friends into our holiday celebrations to allow them the opportunity to learn more about the Jewish faith.

Dina Michael Chaitowitz of Windham Joins JFNH Board

Manchester — The board of Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is pleased to announce the election of Dina Michael Chaitowitz to our Board of Directors. Dina is currently the President of the Board of Directors for Etz Hayim Synagogue. Although a self-described "lapsed synagogue-goer for many years," Dina's involvement with Etz Hayim Synagogue has grown steadily since she brought her son to Hebrew school over 15 years ago. She has served Etz Hayim in various capacities over the years -- as class parent, Education Committee secretary, a leader in the synagogue's community meals program (Elijah's Table), Board of Directors' secretary, vice president, and women's group chairperson.

"As is likely true of many synagogues, there are countless opportunities at Etz

Hayim to develop your skills and flourish as a person, and I've certainly taken advantage of those opportunities! Recently, for example, I've started giving five-minute cooking classes to the Tuesday night parents. After almost 40 years as a criminal lawyer, I'm learning to develop my fun side and deliver information quickly and simply."

Dina is excited to join the statewide Jewish Federation board. "I'm excited to gain a broader understanding of Jewish life in New Hampshire and to learn how other synagogues engage their membership, and excited to help create programming and opportunities for those Jewish folk in New Hampshire who choose not to affiliate. We are all part of a family, and we need to rejoice in that fact and in our commonality de-



Dina and her son Sam enjoying a wine tour while on a recent trip to Israel.

spite differences in how we choose to engage with our religion."

In addition to serving as president of the Etz Hayim Board of Directors, and now on the JFNH board, Dina is a member of the Board of Trustees of the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education and is helping to launch a civics program for middle school students called "Civics 603." She was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Boston for 30 years, serving as its appellate chief for over 25 of those years. She lives in Windham, New Hampshire, with her husband, Robert J. Lynn, Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Her son, Sam, now a college student, loved Etz's Hebrew school and will be at Middlebury Language School this summer in a seven-week intensive Hebrew language program.

Thank You and Farewell

Manchester — Gratitude and warm wishes to Federation's long-time office assistant Tammy Dorris, who served in that capacity for nearly seven years. In June, Tammy announced that she was trading in her part-time hat for full-time work in

the medical coding and billing industry. Tammy has been a fixture at Federation and has made wonderful friends in our Jewish community over the years. I hope you will join our board and staff in wishing her the best in all of her new adventures!



Tammy Dorris



This year's preschool graduating class as toddlers: (back row, L to R) Miss Wendy holding Max Guertin, Jameson Levasseur, Isabelle Pepin, Salena Pepin, Miss Jenn holding Zoe Hauser; (front row, L to R) Sawyer Rubin, Audrey Hurley, Jakob Huppi, Olivia Howe.

JFNH Preschool Graduation Is Bittersweet

JFNH Signature Program

Manchester — Thirty years passed in the blink of an eye! Every year's graduation is bittersweet, but this year has meant just that much more to me for so many reasons.

This marked the end of 30 years and the beginning of 31 years for the Jewish Federation Preschool, and they said it couldn't be done. When a small group of women met with the Federation board 30 years ago with the hopes of reopening the preschool, they were met with a bit of skepticism. The board's feeling was that as soon as our children no longer needed a preschool it would close behind us, but they were willing to support our endeavor for a few short years. Little did they know!

Three years ago, when the Federation

building was sold, the board once again had mixed feelings about Preschool's survival. And here we are about to start year 31. I feel so grateful to the board for supporting us all these years.

This year holds a very personal and significant moment for me. When Preschool opened 30 years ago, my youngest daughter was among its first students. For three years, I got to watch her grow and learn at the Jewish Federation Preschool, and her "graduating" was a bittersweet moment. For the past four years, my grandson has been a student here, and I have had the privilege to watch him grow and learn. With love and tears as he graduated, I once again had that bittersweet moment.

We can all look forward to a wonderful future for the Jewish Federation Preschool.

Celebrate Israel at 70 at Events Statewide With JFNH

JFNH Signature Program

Manchester — The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's season-long celebration of Israel's 70th continues in July and August! In an effort to provide new on-ramps for all ages to celebrate and explore Israel, the series offers experiences that focus on travel, creative play, world-class music, traditional dance, nature, and Shabbat reflection. This summer, there's something for everyone to enjoy and explore!

Jacob Reuven and The Be'er Sheva Mandolin Soloists in Concert

Sunday, July 29, 8 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

Tickets: \$15 if purchased by July 15 and \$18 after and at the door. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today!

Join us for an afternoon of mandolin quartet music performed by Jacob Reuven, director of the Be'er Sheva Music Conservatory, and three of his outstanding mandolin graduates. Learn about the incredible development of this conservatory, attended by over 600 Israeli, Arab, and Bedouin students who learn music theory, appreciation, and instrument musicianship. The performance program will consist of classical, Israeli, and Andalusian music. Special guests New Hampshire's own August Watters (found-

er of the New England Mandolin Ensemble and former professor at Berklee College of Music) and Noam Wolf, NH Shlichah, will also perform!



For tickets, visit the Facebook event page: Jacob Reuven & The Be'er Sheva Mandolin Quartet in Concert!

Migration Through Israel's Hula Valley: Great Avian Journeys

Sunday, August 19, 2-4 PM, Millyard Museum, Manchester

The Celebrate Israel at 70 series has been organized by Jewish Federation of New Hampshire in partnership with Noam Wolf (Shlichah) and community volunteers. Special thanks to our Series Sponsors, Evelyn and Mike Miller, along with the following Program Partners: Be'er Sheva Conservatory, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Office of the Israeli Consul General to New England, Etz Hayim Synagogue, The Millyard Museum, NH4Israel, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Temple Beth Abraham, Temple Beth Jacob, and Temple Israel (Portsmouth). For more information about this series, visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/jewishfederationofnewhampshire, check the full listings in the calendar of events. To reserve a free seat, please call us at (603) 627-7679.



See what's happening in the community at www.jewishnh.org

Volunteer Spotlight: Nancy Frankel Connects NH Youngsters to Israel and Jewish Summer Camp

Interviewed by Merle Carrus

Nancy Frankel came to New Hampshire, after growing up in Southern Indiana on the Ohio River, just outside Cincinnati. She is a camping professional, having worked for the Girl Scouts of America for 43 years. As she was retiring, Adam Solander, past director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, was clever enough to invite Nancy to join the JFNH Board of Directors. She has continued on the Federation board, serving for six years as secretary and another five years as a member at large.

In Nancy we have found a treasure, who is dedicated to the future of our youth. Her most important role with JFNH is to coordinate the Summer Campership and Israel Experience programs offered through the Federation.

Nancy feels it is a mutually successful relationship, saying "I really enjoy my connection with the Jewish community at large and watching the Federation grow into a statewide organization. I enjoy the friendships I have made, I like being a Board member, and I like the niche that I have found working with the camp and Israel experience grants."

She has found personal satisfaction over the years being connected to JFNH

and building her own community. One of the special experiences Nancy recalled was when she went on the JFNH Mission trip to Israel, "which was remarkable and amazing in itself, but was even more so because these were the local people from the community and those people are still our friends today. We would not have had those connections and friendships just from living here."

Nancy is in charge of awarding grants to campers and children traveling to Israel with a group program. The funding for these two grant-making initiatives comes from the Irving & Bernice Singer Foundation, private donors, and funds allocated from Federation's annual Campaign for Jewish Needs. For the past four years the Board has been receiving matching funds, which Nancy helped set up, from the Foundation for Jewish Camps and has been generously giving money to first-time campers in New Hampshire who attend Jewish camps.

"Understanding the statistics about the power of camp and the power of an Israel experience in creating committed Jewish adults is what is important. Of course, I understand very well the importance of camp and what camp can do for kids and especially Jewish camp for Jewish kids. There is some really solid re-



Mary Atwood (L) and TAY Sisterhood co-president Linda Rockenmacher (R) with TAY Sisterhood Woman of the Year Nancy Frankel (center).

search and evidence to back that up, which is why major funders across the country have put a lot of money into it." Nancy explains, "My part is to connect with the parents. I award the money to the families. We also hope that when people get those grants, that they will continue to support the Federation so that campers and Israel Experience applicants in the future will have the same opportunities their children did."

Nancy says she hears over and over that

kids say they don't have many Jewish friends going to their schools. "This is an opportunity to realize there is a larger Jewish community out there. Our synagogues are small, and we are pretty isolated in New Hampshire. One boy told me he finally did not have to explain why he doesn't eat pepperoni on his pizza. Camperships and Israel Experience give kids friends for life. They stay connected with these friends and meet them again later in life. That keeps me energized."

Arts & Entertainment

2018 NH Jewish Film Festival Announces Audience Choice Awards

JFNH Signature Program

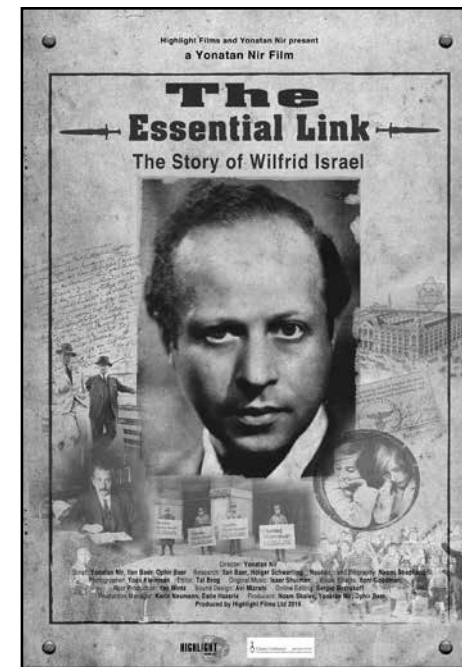
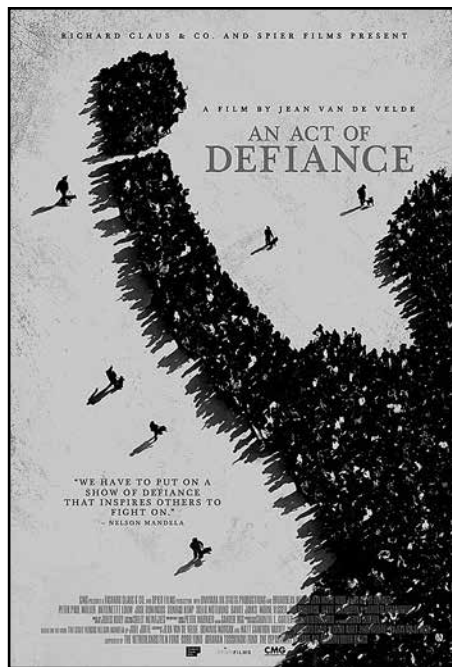
Manchester — Thank you to the NH statewide audience for an exceptional 10th season of the NH Jewish Film Festival. After each screening, festival organizers sought out the audience's opinion of the film they had just viewed. They did this by completing a short written survey to rate the film before leaving the theater. The results have now been tabulated, and we are pleased to announce the winners of 2018 NH Jewish Film Festival.

The Audience Choice Feature Film Award



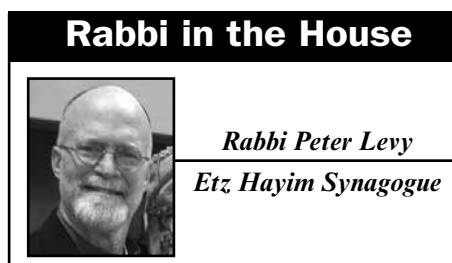
went to the film *Act of Defiance* from Menemsha Films, directed by Jean van de Velde. The Audience Choice Documentary Film Award went to *The Essential Link: The Story of Wilfrid Israel* from Hey Jude Productions, directed by Yonatan Nir. Congratulations to these two films -- and to you, the audience, for helping the NH Jewish Film Festival become better known to a wider audience each year.

Please mark your calendars and save the dates for the 11th season of the Jewish Film Festival, April 4-April 14, 2019. See you at the movies!



Remembering at Tisha B'Av

And you thought that Christmas and Chanukah were difficult times of year. How about July? This year, it contains one of the more enigmatic holidays, Tisha B'Av, the Ninth of Av. This year it is even more problematic, since 9 Av falls on Shabbat. When do we fast? When do we wear which shoes? How can we celebrate the light and joy of Shabbat and the dark and sadness of 9 Av? Do you know the special cantillation mode for Eicha? Can you use a flashlight? Or do you have to use candles? How long can you sit on the floor in the dark? Are the bema steps ok? So many questions. One summer many years ago, the campers at our camp built a wooden mock-up of Jerusalem and then set it on fire. Was this a good educational experience? Or did the fun of doing it invalidate its purpose?



Needless to say, these questions are all moot since many people are in summer mode and away. So is there anything that we can do with this holiday to deconstruct it? Reconstruct it?

Remembrance is a very important part of our tradition. Many people may not be regulars at services, but they do come for the *yahrzeit* of their loved ones. But all of us remember our loved ones at other times, as well. We try to re-

Introducing Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski, New Spiritual Leader of Temple Israel Manchester

By Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski

Manchester — How does a former Catholic altar boy become a rabbi? For as long as I can remember, I had a questioning nature. My mom used to tell me that I wouldn't ride a roller coaster until I had figured out how it worked. That love of introspection, research, and picking things apart in fine detail grew into a lifetime love (and even obsession) with learning. Having grown up in such a religiously devout home, it was only a matter of time before I explored my theology.



Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski

My studies and continued questioning of my faith and belief in God took me on a wild quest to find my spiritual truth, a quest that would lead me to seek the path of Judaism in my mid-20s while living in my hometown of Toledo, Ohio. Because I was taken in by such kind, caring community members who exemplified the ancient and prescient wisdom of Judaism, my appetite for Jewish learning and living grew even more.

My path to the rabbinate is the natural outgrowth of my lifelong pursuit to find spiritual meaning and engage with the Divine in my life. One of the things I love best about Judaism is that it is not a spectator sport; all Jews are called upon to serve God as *mamlechet kohanim v'goy*

Temple Israel of Manchester is pleased to announce that Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski will be taking the pulpit on July 15. Rabbi Jeremy and his wife, Paula, will be moving to Manchester on July 1, and we look forward to having an enriching and enduring relationship.

kadosh, “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6). To live as a Jew is to engage the world through a uniquely Jewish perspective, with moments great and seemingly insignificant both filled with divine potential. Jewish religious observance reinforces that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

The purpose of learning Torah in her myriad forms is to guide us on the path to mindful, meaningful living. Complacency is not a Jewish value, as Torah learning is a lifelong pursuit. God is always waiting for us to engage so that God may teach us, push us, and challenge us to live up to the awesome responsibility of beings created in the Divine Image. When not attempting to solve all of the mysteries of the universe, I enjoy reading, cooking, and hitting the mats for judo and Brazilian jiu jitsu practice. My wife Paula runs a market research technology company, and in our spare time together we love to travel and explore the world, as well as more local areas of interest with our beloved little Boston terrier, Layla.

member the good memories, the ones that bring us solace and comfort. And so this could be our approach to Tisha B'Av. We could look at it as a *yahrzeit* for our loved ones of long ago. After all, if we were all at Sinai, wouldn't we have been there for the intervening years? The fall of Jerusalem? The expulsion from Spain? The Warsaw Ghetto? All of those dark days, and many more, are remembered on this date. The list is long. Just ask Rabbi Google.

So perhaps we could use the process that we use at a time of the loss of our loved one. Even before the funeral, we start to remember. There has been more than one occasion when I have been meeting with a family to prepare a funeral and a eulogy and the stories started to be told. On occasion, tears of sadness became tears of joy as the stories unfolded. Light can pierce the dark.

And so it can be with Tisha B'Av. Yes, the destruction of the Temples was traumatic. But think of what it must have been like in Jerusalem in the years before

586 BCE. On a festival, the throngs of people bringing their offerings from the far corners of the land. The hustle and the hubbub as people renewed old acquaintances. The smell of roasting meat as the altar glowed with sacred fire. Yes, that all came to an end -- until the flames were rekindled about 60 years later. The moment of sadness was bracketed by happiness. Before the Jews were expelled from Spain, it was a time of great Jewish study and learning. After the expulsion, the mystics of Safed reconnected with God and all being.

So this year, we do need to pause and remember the events that occurred on Tisha B'Av. But don't forget to tell the happy stories when we are saddest. It is these stories that sustain us when we are bereft.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecl 3:1 1

Remember on Tisha B'Av. Remember and mourn, but be sure that some of your tears are tears of joy, too.

Rabbi Ira Korinow Named Interim at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Portsmouth — Temple Israel Portsmouth is very pleased to announce that Rabbi Ira Korinow has joined the community as its interim spiritual leader. Rabbi Korinow led the congregation of Temple Emanu-El in



Rabbi Ira Korinow

Haverhill for 36 years before retiring in 2017. Among his many accomplishments and awards, Rabbi Korinow is a past president of the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, chaplain of the Haverhill Police Department, a member of board of directors of the National Conference for Soviet Jewry, and past president of the Haverhill Rotary Club. He has also taken an active role in seeking peaceful relationships between Jews, Christians, and Arabs, traveling to Israel to meet with Arab Rotarians from Nazareth.

Rabbi Korinow will lead services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings three weeks each month. He also will maintain a full schedule at Temple Israel Portsmouth during those weeks to provide pastoral guidance, offer counseling, participate in education programs, meet with Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and

families, and provide spiritual care to ill members of the community.

David Bachrach, board president, said, “The board of directors and entire community of Temple Israel Portsmouth is very excited to have this opportunity to work with and learn from Rabbi Korinow. We welcome all members of the broader Jewish community of New Hampshire and Southern Maine to visit and celebrate with us. Our Friday night services are at 6:15 PM, our Saturday morning services are at 9:30 AM, and our Tuesday evening minyan is at 5:30 PM.”

Temple Israel has been a center of Jewish life on the Seacoast of New Hampshire for more than 100 years. It is the Jewish home for some 270 families from 29 towns. At Temple Israel, an affiliate of United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, all religious practice is egalitarian. Interfaith families and Jews by choice are an integral part of the congregation. Children develop their knowledge of Hebrew and Jewish tradition and history through an after-school and Sunday religious school and a morning preschool. For more information, contact Temple Israel administrative director Heather Tomlinson at 436-5301 x10 or templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org.

Rabbi Boraz Leaving Dartmouth College and Kol Ha'Emek (Upper Valley Jewish Community)

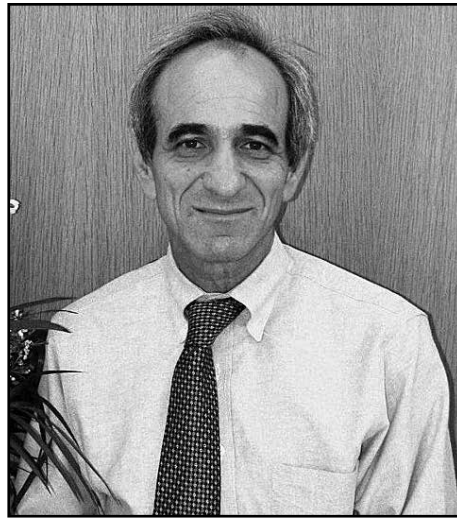
By Paul Etkind

Hanover — Rabbi Edward Boraz, PhD, has announced that, after 20 years, he will be leaving “one of the finest rabbinates in the country,” a post that includes being Executive Director of the Dartmouth College Hillel Chapter; Associate Chaplain of Jewish Life on campus; Rabbi of Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community; and Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine in the Geisel Medical School.

Rabbi Boraz began his professional career as a lawyer. However, his career arc toward the rabbinate began in his childhood, during which he attended a four-day weekly Hebrew School that also included Shabbat services and Sunday School. His Bar Mitzvah, in which “I wanted to do everything, including a full Torah reading,” served as a gateway to continuing Torah and Judaic studies. He changed careers in the late 1980s and was ordained within the Reform movement in 1993. His lead professor for his PhD at the School of Graduate Studies was Rabbi Ben Zion Wacholder, a great Talmudic scholar who was also renowned for his work on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Rabbi Boraz came to Hanover in 1998 after serving as the rabbi in a small congregation in Cincinnati, Ohio. By the time he left there, the congregation had changed from a traditional orientation to being fully egalitarian, developed an award-winning religious school, and expanded its membership three-fold.

The Rabbi's responsibilities within Dartmouth College have included being ultimately responsible for administration, programming, fundraising, and donor stewardship for the Hillel chapter, which is now self-sustaining. The chapter was awarded Hillel International's Standards of Excellence Award in 2005. His work with the students included teaching; empowering students to conduct their own religious holiday services, Passover seders, and weekly Friday evening Shabbat services; providing pastoral care to students from a range of faith traditions; and supporting multi-faith and inter-campus dialogue on a range of issues. He is particularly pleased with creating “Project Preservation: A Study and Response to Genocide.” Now in its 17th year, students from different ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds study the Shoah for 10



Rabbi Edward Boraz

weeks, after which they visit the Auschwitz death camp and then towns in Eastern Europe where students have restored and documented abandoned and neglected Jewish cemeteries. “I cannot begin to describe the sense of fulfillment and satisfaction as I see the students not only develop an intellectual understanding of the Shoah, but also begin to ‘feel’ the enormity of such an event.”

As the spiritual leader of Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, Rabbi Boraz has been responsible, along with the Board and various lay-led committees, for leading the congregation in all areas of synagogue life, including worship, life-long learning, pastoral care, teaching, and administration. He also serves as one of the “faces” of the congregation to the general community. He is particularly pleased that the congregation has developed worship experiences for members coming from across the spectrum of Jewish movements and for maximum inclusion of non-Jewish spouses/partners. High Holy Day services have gone from one service to four (conservative, reform, family, and tots). He guides congregants and their families in all life cycle events. He oversees the Religious School's Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, including students with special needs. Services and communal events are marked by congregant involvement as well as inclusion of music with classical, sacred, and popular origins. Rabbi Boraz is rarely seen at the bimah without his guitar. His brief yet promising debut with Northern Opera earned a standing ovation.

Rabbi Boraz is engaged with the congregation's life-long learning programs.

He leads two Torah study groups, one of which has been meeting for 11 years and the other for seven years. He studies Maimonides' “A Guide for the Perplexed” with a third group. He founded the High School of Jewish Studies Program for post-b'nai mitzvot students and conducts a variety of adult education courses.

At the Geisel Medical School, Rabbi Boraz is a facilitator in an elective course “Health, Society and Physician,” which explores issues of patient care, medical ethics, and patient rights. He co-developed and co-taught the course “Death of the Hippocratic Oath: Physicians and the Holocaust.” This course examines the role of the German medical establishment in facilitating the genocide of World War II.

“One may wonder why, after 20 years, I would choose to step down from one of the finest rabbinates in the country, both Dartmouth College and Kol Ha'Emek. This decision required deep reflection. When I began my appointment, I was charged with serving both communities. Over 20 years, to their credit, their spiritual needs have grown substantially, to the point that no one person can adequately serve both. It was time for these two institutions to consider the kind of spiritual leadership each will need going forward. The two institutions need to engage in reflection to define what each will need to meet the challenges of Judaism in the twenty-first century. I believe they must do this vital work unencumbered, so I chose to voluntarily step down so that each can do this vital work and thus ensure its growth for years to come.”

News of his choice to leave evoked many fond memories and exposed the depths of affection and regard the community has for the rabbi. Comments about his pastoral care included words like “compassionate,” kind-hearted,” and “generous in spirit.” Congregants described his “non-ideological approach” to life cycle events. “He always helped us to find what would lead to peace in the home.” People loved his inclusion of music into services, from prayers sung to folk tunes to including music by Shostakovich in the Yom Kippur service. One who said he has been deeply influenced by his years of Torah study with the Rabbi commented on his scholarship, noting, “The Rabbi has an amazing ability to listen closely and add depth to the conversation without showing off his immense knowledge.”

Finally, several people from the Eastman community in Grantham expressed their deep appreciation for the rabbi and cantorial soloist Bonnie Kimmelman, who lead a monthly Friday night service there. “I am so grateful that he has helped us to create this sacred community that has also resulted in many wonderful friendships.” “I often arrive feeling very harried from a hectic work week. I always leave feeling rejuvenated and peaceful.” “I will carry memories of those services that were delivered with compassion, spirituality and intellect.”

When asked about his next steps, he spoke again of his process of deep reflection. “I realized I still feel the same excitement, enthusiasm, and deep desire to serve the Jewish people as I did when I began my rabbinic training. The most rewarding aspect of my rabbinate has been working with individuals and leadership, and I have learned that a rabbi must do this work one soul at a time.” He also acknowledged that, although he was trained by the Reform movement, he had never served in a Reform congregation. He was hired by such a congregation in Wisconsin, where he will begin working this summer.

Rabbi Boraz continued the interview with thoughts about serving a Jewish community in America. “We live in a complex American and Jewish world. Unlike our ancestors, Judaism is a choice that each of us makes. One may participate on a continuum, from opting out entirely to whole-hearted devotion. The range of Jewish practice, even within a particular movement, is ever widening, thus mirroring American values of diversity, pluralism, and inclusivity. A passionate commitment to Jewish learning and sacred community that nurtures a deep sense of care for one another is essential for the growth of our people.”

He completed the interview with thoughts about his own history and his work into the future. “I am devoted to the rabbinate and to congregational life. It has taken me on a wondrous journey from a small congregation in Cincinnati to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. I have travelled many times to ancestral homes in eastern Europe and Israel. One thing I have learned is we are links in a chain, connected to the history of Sinai. It is our sacred duty to help in its unfolding for the generations that follow.”

Creating a Meaningful Life in the Seventh Decade

By Rahel Limor

I am a NH resident and Jewish community member, and I have taken a bold and life-changing step. At age 63, I realized that "we ain't gettin' any younger." The kids were all grown and enjoying their independent lives. There were no grandchildren yet. As life would have it, I suddenly found myself spending many hours sitting alone in my living room with just my cat. At times, even the sound of my own voice startled me. Friends were busy or struggling with the onset of sudden illness. Sandwiched between caring for their own elderly parents, spouses, still-dependent or unemployed children, and/or looking after grandchildren, many were simply unavailable. Work was dwindling, as was my social network. Social media can only satisfy you for so long. The seventh decade of life was beginning to show hints of what it means to grow older.

"Who will know if something happens to me at home? Should I apply for a lifeline buzzer in case of emergency? Have I reached that stage of life?" I pondered. "Perhaps it's time for a roommate again? Is this what I have to look forward to?"

My work as a Certified Clinical Musician (CCM) granted me glimpses into aging, the challenges of living with chronic and debilitating illness, and the inevitable end-of-life scenarios. I began to witness the isolation that comes with the loss of beloved family members and close friends.

The most dangerous aspects of growing old are feeling your life has become meaningless and that you are of no use anymore, along with isolation. I realized that I was sinking into a desperate situation and that it was solely up to me to create and uphold a meaningful life. This was tantamount to staying healthy, happy, and achieving longevity. "Stay useful! That is the key!" I silently proclaimed.

I am not one to give in to idleness. I had no problem finding ways to be useful. My career in music never failed to open doors to interesting events and amazing people. Yet, when the gig was done and I returned home to an empty house, the reality of my circumstance hit hard. There was one ingredient I had apparently overlooked: isolation.



Rahel Limor performing at the Droryanov School in Tel Aviv on May 18 as part of her world wandering.

It took some time to come to a decision. My children had been urging me to make changes for a few years already. "Why are you just sitting around by yourself? Get out and enjoy life. Just get up and go already, Mom. Go on the adventure you've been dreaming about for years already!" they nudged. I knew they were right, but even the thought of such an endeavor was overwhelming. Life had become at least comfortable and secure. Why upset things now?

It took three long years of profound self-reflection, wishy-washy reasoning, and confidence building support. Finally, in November 2017, I boldly decided to sell my home. I cleared out the majority of my belongings to the bare essentials, which are now housed in a climate-controlled rented storage unit. I had a few destinations in mind but decided to set out to wherever the wind would blow me. It wouldn't be the first time. After all, I had fond memories of my free-wheeling hippie days thumbing around Canada and Europe in the 1970s. I had lived in Israel for 22 years, experiencing

world cultures at my fingertips. In all honesty, I was longing for another chance to feel that ultimate sense of freedom again and to live in and among diverse cultures, populations, and countries.

The time had finally come: I was going. But wait. I suddenly realized, "Hey, I'm not 20 anymore." This adventure would have to be different. Indeed, the times were now different and offer a variety of possibilities to travelers. Rather than thumbing, I would be flying and using public transportation of all kinds. Rather than camping, this time I planned to stay for longer stints in proper accommodations such as Airbnb (bed & breakfast rentals). I surfed the web and learned about programs that offer room and board in return for volunteer work. I have friends in choice countries who have offered to receive me for limited and even unlimited visits. I researched travel blogs, purchased the suggested necessities, including a good travel medical insurance plan, and in March, I set off to start a new life as a nomad.

Will the nomadic life provide for and satisfy the feelings of uselessness and isolation? Where will my travels take me? Will I settle down again at some point and, if so, where? Reaching the seventh decade of life seemed to creep up and hit me suddenly, as if I never saw it coming. We've all heard those words of wisdom imparted by our elderly grandparents, "If you have your health, you have everything." There could not be a truer statement. So my advice is, Get out and live fully as much as you can. Be inspired by those who have overcome even the worst physical challenges and who go on to create useful and meaningful lives because of it. Life is meant to be lived, no matter what your age and circumstance. Just go!

Rahel Limor is a 64-year-old Jewish performing songwriter, Certified Clinical Musician (CCM), educator, and mother of two independent and talented young adults. Her music is uplifting, intelligent, well-crafted, and musically sophisticated. It has served as her guide as she lives her life. Rahel is currently enjoying life on the road as a world traveler. Follow her blog, "Just Go! A Travel Diary for the 7th Decade of Life," at <https://justgorahel.blogspot.com/>.



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Discovering a Holocaust Hero at Mystic Seaport

By Steve Soreff, MD

Mystic, Connecticut — As you plan your summer vacation trips, think of the unexpected piece of Jewish history you can uncover at the Mystic Seaport —the Museum of the Sea in Mystic, Connecticut (www.mysticseaport.org). I am a life-long member of this reconstructed whaling village of the 1840s. So imagine my delight in finding the Gerba III moored next to the whaling bark the Charles W. Morgan. Let me tell you about this vessel and its role in rescuing Danish Jews from Hitler's occupied Denmark.

The story begins with Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, followed by April 9, 1940, when Hitler marched into Denmark. Danish resistance was little, as its forces were few, and the real reason Germany wanted Denmark was for its strategic value to invade Norway and protect access to the Baltic Sea. The Third Reich did not treat Denmark so much as an occupied nation but rather as a colony. It desired its agricultural products and did not demand that its Jews wear the yellow Jewish star. The Danish King said that if Germany required Danish Jews to wear the star, then he too would wear that star. As a result, Germany did not demand Jews wear the yellow star. In fact, the Jews were allowed to live free and worship in their synagogues, which was amazing. But things were going to change in many ways.

Hermann Goring through Colonel Adolf Eichman developed the "final solution" on January 20, 1942. In addition, Hitler appointed SS General Werner Best to be the Obergruppenfuhrer over all of Denmark on September 29, 1942. His role was to incorporate Denmark into Nazi Germany. Metaphorically, the gloves were coming off. Meanwhile, in Denmark resistance was growing. On March 23, 1943, in parliamentary elections, the Nazi candidates were routed. On the night of August 25, 1943, resistance fighters blew up Copenhagen's signature landmark, Forum Hall. It seated a capacity of 16,000, and destroying it was the equivalent of blowing up the Superdome. The building was in the process of being converted to a Nazi barracks for occupying German troops. The German response was swift and decisive. On August 27, Best returned to Copenhagen. Danish Armed Forces were arrested on August 29, and the German army moved into Copenhagen. Meanwhile, the Danish Navy sabotaged its 29 ships. But Best told the Jewish leadership there were no plans against them. He lied.



The Gerda III at Mystic Seaport.

In September, a dramatic series of timed events unfolded. On September 8, Best declared a "state of emergency." He telegraphed Berlin, recommending, "measures should now be taken toward a solution of the problems of the Jews and Freemasons." He wanted to issue order to arrest and deport Jews "at one sweep." But he needed Berlin's approval to go forward. On September 11, Best informed German foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop of Hitler's authorization of his plan to round up and deport the Jews on the Jewish High Holidays. The eve of Rosh Hashanah was October 1.

Best told German diplomat Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz about the Jewish deportations plan. Duckwitz was a civilian member of the German occupation responsible for commercial port operations in Copenhagen. Duckwitz was furious and threatened to resign. He told Best that he was ashamed to remain as a member of his staff, which persecuted the Jews. Best told Duckwitz, "We have to obey orders."

On September 13, Duckwitz flew to Berlin to meet with a foreign ministry official and to intercept Best's telegram of September 8 and prevent it from reaching Hitler. His objective was to dissuade Hitler and Ribbentrop from deportation of Danish Jews. It was too late: Hitler approved the operation. Now, on September 15-20, SS police battalions of the Security Service arrived in Copenhagen with orders to arrest and deport the Jews of Denmark. A week later, on September 19, German transport vessels anchored in Copenhagen harbor to ferry the entire Jewish popula-

tion to concentration camps. At this turning point, Duckwitz wrote in his diary, "I know what I have to do."

On September 21, Duckwitz secretly flew to Sweden to meet with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Per Albin Hansson, to inform him of the impending deportation of Danish Jews, and he urged Hansson to give Jews safe haven in Sweden. Finally, on September 28, the final order to carry out the deportation of Danish Jews reached Best.

Duckwitz set in motion the Jewish rescue. Armed with the deportation order given that day (September 28, 1943), he notified Hans Hedtoft, chairman of the Danish Social Democratic Party, that the deportation was imminent. They had less than 72 hours to inform and hide Denmark's 8,250 Jews.

Niels Bohr, a nuclear physicist, Nobel Prize winner, and the founder of the Copenhagen Institute for Theoretical Physics, then became a figure in the rescue. Hedtoft informed Niels Bohr of the deportation plans. His mother was a prominent member of the Copenhagen synagogue. Rabbi Marcus Melchior, chief rabbi of the main synagogue in Copenhagen, told 100 congregants about the deportation.

Bohr, after hiding in a Copenhagen home, along with his brother Harold and their wives, was smuggled out on a small fishing boat, the Sostjernen, then got on larger vessel and traveled to Sweden.

In Sweden, British aircraft were ready to fly Bohr to London but Bohr refused to go. Sweden assured refuge for Danish Jews. Bohr during the war had been smug-

gling Jewish physicists out of Germany and sending them to safe houses in Copenhagen, from which they were transported to Britain or the United States. When she was 18 years old, actress Greta Garbo had met Niels Bohr, and in August, she had conversations with Bohr urging him to leave. Garbo went to the very top, calling Gustaf V, the king of Sweden, and begging him to grant Bohr an audience. It was given. Bohr persuaded the king to make public Sweden's willingness to provide asylum to the Danish Jews.

The crisis was at hand. On October 1, Danes signed an agreement with Germany to continue to supply agricultural products in the following year. The Swedish minister in Berlin, A. Richert, announced on behalf of the Swedish government its willingness to accept Danish Jews. King Christian X's protest against deportation was presented to Best. Late that night, German troops start rounding up Jews. Best announced that 202 persons have been arrested in Copenhagen. It was the eve of Rosh Hashanah.

High Holidays began, but the Jews had fled. On October 2, Hitler and Himmler were furious with Best, as they had only detained 202 Jews. The Swedish government announced to the German government, in newspaper and on the radio, its willingness to receive all Danish Jews. On October 3, Eichmann was sent to Denmark, and approximately 300 more Jews were transported to Sweden. On October 4, 550 more Jews were transported to Sweden, and on October 5, another 550 Jews were transported to Sweden. On October 6, Best announced the lifting of the State of Emergency and demobilization of Danish Armed Forces, which then became active in the underground resistance. Approximately 700 Jews were transported to Sweden on October 6, and another 700 were transported on October 7. On October 8, Yom Kippur Eve, approximately 1,100 Jews were transported to Sweden, and on October 9, Yom Kippur Day, about 1,400 Jews were transported to Sweden. In all, 7,970 Jews escaped.

Fishermen risked their lives to ferry strangers across the Øresund in an estimated 900 boat trips. In October 1943, Hanny Sondig, the 19-year-old daughter of the boat's manager, took command of Gerda III with a crew of four and nightly smuggled groups of 10 to 15 Jewish refugees in the tiny hold of the lighthouse tender.

The little vessel would set out on her official lighthouse supply duties, but she de-

Gerta continued on page 15

Portsmouth Early Learning Center Says Goodbye to Director Laura Sher, Seeks New Director

Portsmouth -- Laura Sher, who has directed the Temple Israel Early Learning Center since 2011, recently announced her plans to retire, setting off the search for a new director (see job information below). The Early Learning Center, established in 1987, is a New Hampshire State Licensed preschool located in historic downtown Portsmouth. It is one of only two licensed Jewish preschools in New Hampshire.

The Early Learning Center describes itself as “a developmentally appropriate, inquiry-based program where children can grow socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually and family involvement is invited. Jewish values and concepts are integrated into everyday activities, and Jewish holidays are woven into the curriculum.” The ELC welcomes diversity and children of all faiths. The multi-age group program maintains a low student to teacher ratio (7:1) and next year will meet from 8:45 AM to 1 PM Monday to Friday.

In a brief interview, we talked with Laura Sher, outgoing director of the ELC.

When did you start your work at the ELC?

I began as Director/Lead Teacher in 2011, and have just finished my 7th year.

How would you describe the ELC?

The Early Learning Center is a very special and unique program in downtown Portsmouth. Jewish (universal) values, culture, and holidays are woven into the curriculum, creating a joyful and nurturing environment. Because we welcome children of all faiths, we have a diverse classroom where we learn from each other



Laura Sher reading to some of her ELC students.

and respect and honor our differences. The ELC is often this first place that Jewish families new to the community come to, and we love being the connection to Temple Israel.

What are some memories you are especially fond of?

All of the children and their families have touched my life in many different ways and I am forever grateful.

Any particular accomplishments you can share with us?

Accomplishments include: the expansion of the playground to double its size, which is now enclosed within a beautiful

secure fence, the installation of a state of the art play structure, and the creation of raised bed vegetable and flower gardens that enhance our outdoor classroom experiences.

Additionally, a very successful inter-generational partnership with Wentworth Senior Living was created two years ago, and we visit with our “Grand Pals” on a monthly basis.

I’ve built strong classroom–community relationships and regularly host families and friends for holiday celebrations that include Chanukah, Tu B’shevat, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot. I’ve also

The ELC search committee is seeking candidates with a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in early childhood education or a related field and who meet the requirements of a center director/lead teacher as designated by the NH Department of Health and Human Services Child Care Licensing Unit. Strong leadership skills and a strong knowledge of Judaics for early learners are also being sought.

For more information, contact Temple Israel Portsmouth, 200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

built strong relationships within our greater Portsmouth community. We have seen several shows at The Music Hall as part of the “School Day Series,” attended programs at the Portsmouth Public Library, spent time exploring at Strawberry Banke, visited with firefighters at Fire Station Number 1, delivered food to Seacoast Family Food Pantry, mailed letters from the Post Office, and enjoyed many outings to Prescott Park in all seasons of the year.

What is your hope for the ELC in the future?

Going forward, the Early Learning Center will be expanding to a five-day-a-week program to accommodate the needs of our families. My hope is that my successor will continue to create a caring community of children, who will grow and learn in their own special ways, and spread kindness out into the world.

Gerta continued from page 14

toured to the coast of neutral Sweden and put her “cargo” ashore. Although the vessel was regularly boarded and checked by German soldiers, the refugees were never discovered. In the two-week evacuation, over 300 refugees were smuggled aboard Gerda III.

Of the 300 boats that participated in the evacuation, Gerda III is believed to be one of only three that remain afloat. By an act of the Danish Parliament, the Gerda III was donated to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. The vessel was restored to her wartime appearance, complete with neutral flags, by the J. Ring Andersen yard in Denmark. Mystic Seaport is proud to help care for the boat and exhibit her in the United States, where you can visit her today.

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Panel Examines the Role of German Physicians in the Holocaust

By Paul Etkind

The Sunapee-Kearsarge Jewish Community held its annual spring meeting on May 6 and focused on the Shoah. The title of the presentation and subsequent discussion was “From the Hippocratic Oath to Active Participation in the Death Camps: Examining the Role of German Physicians in the Holocaust.” Leading this presentation were Rabbi Edward Boraz, who is celebrating his twentieth year as Director of Hillel at Dartmouth College as well as the rabbi for Congregation Kol Ha’Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community; Dr. James Bernat, an emeritus professor of neurology and emeritus professor of medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth; and Dr. Donald Kollisch, an associate professor of medicine and an associate professor of community and family medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. The three developed this material over the past three years for a six-week medical ethics elective course for medical students. They wanted to explore the question of how educated and trained German physicians could forsake their professional vows to initially abet eugenics, then euthanasia, and then extermination? How might current medical students develop a sense of awareness to realize when/if they might be headed down a path that is contrary to the ethics of their profession?

Rabbi Boraz began the discussion with a review of the legal framework that the Nazi government built over time that culminated in human experimentation and extermination in camps especially designed for such purposes. The first law, passed in April 1933, was entitled Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service. It began with an innocuous, reasonable, mission: to restore a national civil service in which people could be denied that status or could be dismissed if they did not have the required or customary educational background to do the job. However, it then went on to say people could be dismissed for lack of other qualifications. These other qualifications included not being Aryan or those whose political activities offered no assurance they would fully support the state.

In July 1933, the Law for Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases was passed. This eugenics law allowed the State, with a court order, to surgically sterilize an individual if there was a high likelihood his/her offspring will suffer serious physical or mental defects of a hereditary nature. If the courts approved, then sterilization could proceed even if the subject of the court order objected to it. Rabbi Boraz cautioned the audience not to assume a sense of moral superiority regard-



Dr. Donald Kollisch, Dr. James Bernat, and Rabbi Edward Boraz addressing the members of the Sunapee-Kearsarge Jewish Community about the role of German physicians in the Holocaust.

ing eugenics, because the United States had numerous similar laws on the books at that time.

Two more laws were passed in September 1935 that furthered the legal basis for The Final Solution. The first was the Reich Citizenship Law, which says anyone enjoying the protection of the German Reich had specific obligations as a result. It defined a Reich citizen as one who is of German or related blood and proves by his conduct that he is willing and able to faithfully serve the German people and the Reich. The other law passed on that date was Law for Protection of German Blood and German Honor. The preamble states the law was passed because the Reichstag was moved by the understanding that purity of German blood is the essential condition for the continued existence of the German people and was inspired by the inflexible determination to ensure the existence of the German nation for all time. The law forbade marriages between Jews and German citizens and allowed such marriages that occurred prior to the law’s passage to be annulled. Extra-marital affairs between Jews and German citizens were forbidden. Jews were forbidden to employ female subjects of the Reich under the age of 45 years as household help. Finally, Jews were forbidden to fly the Reich or national flag or display Reich colors. Cynically, the law said Jews were protected by law to fly the Jewish colors.

Dr. Bernat then continued the presentation with a discussion of how the German medical profession adopted and supported the Nazi government’s philosophy of Aryan racial superiority. The German medical society agreed that it is the role of physicians to assure the

health of society, so the conditions necessary for societal health as outlined by these laws demanded the support of physicians and their professional organizations. Dr. Bernat pointed out that, in many societies, including the United States, there is a dynamic tension between the rights of individuals and the rights of society. What is good for the individual might not be good for the group, and vice versa. In the Third Reich, the medical professions adopted the government’s view that what is right for society is the primary concern. Thus, services for Jews and other marginalized populations were no longer considered to be very important. Why expend the resources of those contributing to society on those who only drain society of its vigor?

Dr. Bernat recounted the research of a colleague who, in the 1980s, followed up with interviews of German physicians who had worked in the extermination camps. Some had great regrets over their actions, but most felt that they were doing their duty as their government and profession had expected of them.

Dr. Kollisch summarized the two previous presentations and then spoke briefly about the students who have taken this course. His main point was that these legal and cultural frameworks that promote marginalization may not be recognized for what they are doing or are capable of fostering until it is too late. They were developed incrementally so that, by the time the worst outcomes were in place, they seemed more normal and fewer questioned them.

He also spoke of the students who have taken this course over the past three years. Most students take electives that offer concrete skills (e.g., patient interviews), so only approximately nine or so students have taken this course each year. Interestingly, few Jewish students have enrolled. He did not know why that was so. Are Jewish students that aware of the Holocaust that they don’t feel such a course is the best use of their time? Students who have taken the course have expressed gratitude for the content of the information and discussions, and felt it had sharpened their awareness of ethical issues in their chosen profession.

The actions of German medicine and physicians are a little-investigated aspect of the Holocaust, and the audience showed as much with their frequent “Oh’s” and amazed facial expressions. Even with so little data available, the findings of these three teachers were provocative and filled with lessons for today.

The Sunapee-Kearsarge Jewish Community has a mission of Jewish education and fellowship in this area of New Hampshire. It holds quarterly meetings to discuss matters of Jewish interest and provide opportunities for Jewish fellowship.



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Brotherhood-Sisterhood Service Warms Temple Adath Yeshurun

By Linda and Sol Rockenmacher

Manchester — Friday night, May 25, was the evening of another Brotherhood-Sisterhood Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Organized once again by Steve Short and Alan Kaplan, and featuring the TAY choir, the theme of the evening was “Building Bridges.” The service and the music, the welcoming atmosphere, and, not to mention, the food, made for a memorable evening that all those who attended will look back upon very fondly.

Joe Rojek at the keyboard, Ed Chenoweth on acoustic bass, and Elliott

Frank on drums provided the background for the choir, which consisted of Alan Kaplan, Jonathan Baron, Miri Singer, Mandy Frank, Brooke Flanders and Jet Goldberg. The readers were Steve Short, Linda Rockenmacher (who also did the blessing over the candles), Sol Rockenmacher, David Rosenzweig, June Mittlemark, Jonathan Baron, Ted Yegerman, Ruth Kleinfeld, Dot Warshaw, and Len Ruvinsky.

Adding to and topping off this special evening was a sumptuous oneg provided by the Sisterhood. A pleasant and enjoyable time was had by all.

TAY Brotherhood 2018 Holds Spring Dinner Concert ... and All That Jazz!

Manchester — The Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Spring Dinner Concert (formerly known as the Seniors Dinner) was held at TAY on Thursday evening, May 10. And “Oh, What a Night” it was. There were over 70 attendees, including guests, Brotherhood Kitchen Krew members, and members of the Manchester West High School Jazz Ensemble (our evening’s entertainment).

Chairing the event, which included great food, great camaraderie, and great music, once again was Mark Granoff. A delicious meal was prepared by the Brotherhood Kitchen Krew, including Mark G., Bob Katchen, Michael Bank, David Penchansky, Mel Spierer, Jay Hodes, Sol Rockenmacher, and David Rosenzweig (who was also the official photographer of the event). Alan Kaplan set up the audio equipment. Rabbi Beth delivered the pre-meal blessing. Linda Rockenmacher helped with decorations for the tables. Bob and JoAnne LeFevre helped in the kitchen. The main course was chicken with stuffing, a bean dish, and sweet potatoes, with challah on the side. For dessert there was a celebratory cake, cookies, and fruit salad.

A highlight of the evening was an encore outstanding performance by the



Dancing to the music of the 30s and 40s at TAY Brotherhood's Spring Dinner Concert.

Manchester West High School Jazz Band, and it was great to have them back again. They played, and played very well indeed, music from the 40s and 50s. Diane Francoeur is the faculty leader and advisor for this wonderful group of young people. From all the feedback we have had, this was another exceptional Spring Dinner Concert happening.

"Stairway to Heaven": Etz Hayim Synagogue Needs A Ramp

Derry — Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry cares about the communities it serves, including Derry, Londonderry, Windham, Salem, Epping, Chester, Hampstead, and Nashua. Along with its neighbor, the Derry Church of the Transfiguration, it provides free meals to the public, regardless of religion or residence. It also offers free educational programs, movies, and dancing. The synagogue needs to build a ramp so that everyone (including its rabbi) can easily ascend the bimah, the raised platform from which services are led and lectures offered, and it needs help funding this pur-

chase. The synagogue has established a Go Fund Me campaign to raise the funds necessary to build an ADA-compliant ramp. Etz Hayim invites everyone to help meet the campaign goal by contributing at www.gofundme.com/we-needaramp.

Etz Hayim is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. If you would like to pay in some other way, or if you have any questions, please contact Dina Michael Chaitowitz, the president of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Board of Directors, at d.chaitowitz@etzhayim.org. We are grateful for your help.

Hadassah: From Road Race to Books to 360 Degrees of Healing

Manchester — Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah attended NH4Israel's run/walk for healing on April 22. They distributed pamphlets, answered questions about Hadassah, and sold greeting cards. One hundred fifty people participated in the race, and the money raised was for genetic research on ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) being done at Hadassah Medical Hospital in Jerusalem. The chapter is grateful to NH4Israel for its successful effort to raise funds benefiting this genetic research.

On May 3, at the Hadassah chapter meeting, Noam Wolfe, the Federation's Shlichah, shared her personal story in a very interesting and moving slide show. All in attendance were happy to hear about Noam's family and life in Israel, and the contributions that she is making in New Hampshire's Jewish community.

The chapter is planning a book club discussion in July. Details will be on the Federation's website.

Fifteen Israeli youth from Hadassah's Neurim Youth Aliyah Village participated in the international NASA Robotics Competition in Houston. Most are members of Na'aleh (immigrant youth without parents), who come from countries of the former Soviet Union.

Hadassah has a new fundraising project called 360 Degrees of Healing. Since 1960, the population of Israel has tripled, and the demands on HMO and Hadassah



Hadassah members at the 2nd Annual Run/Walk for Healing, which supported ALS research at Hadassah Hospital in Israel.

sah Hospital at the Ein Kerem campus have grown exponentially. The iconic Round Building is the hospital's original inpatient center at Ein Kerem, and Hadassah has planned a renovation and expansion. The new Round Building will be an important healing center for Israel. It will significantly advance the services in its outpatient surgery, maternity, oncology, and dermatology departments. This will ensure that HMO will remain a world-renowned health care leader and a global destination for advanced care, continued innovation, and cutting-edge research.

For additional information about Hadassah, please contact Michele Bank, chapter president at michele.bank@gmail.com.

See what's happening
in the community
at www.jewishnh.org

Help the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire sustain a proud
and vibrant Jewish NH. Make your gift to the Annual Campaign at
www.jewishnh.org/give

Come to the 21st Annual Jewish Food Festival on Sunday, July 8

Laconia — Once again, the event to attend this summer is the 21st Annual Jewish Food Festival at Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia on Sunday, July 8, from 11 AM to 2 PM. People will be coming together from all over New Hampshire and beyond to enjoy the memories of the tastes and smells from the kitchens of Jewish mothers and bubbes (grandmothers) through the ages -- from traditional Jewish cooking to delicatessen delights to amazing desserts and more! Don't just dream of the luscious homemade delicacies from the kitchen of Temple B'nai Israel -- plan to be there.

In addition to the tasty array of homemade products, the Food Festival features corned beef, pastrami, and tongue "imported" from Evan's Deli in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Evan hand cooks his meats in the deli kitchen, and food critics and patrons alike declare, "This meat is out of this world." Treat yourself and your family to a fresh Evan's Deli meat sandwich or any of the other homemade Jewish delicacies, including deli meats or TBI's homemade beef brisket



Barbara Goren serves yummy corned beef at the Jewish Food Festival in Laconia.

with pickle and coleslaw on rye or roll, knishes (meat & potato), blintzes, chopped herring, and chopped chicken

liver. Available for takeout, frozen and ready to heat at home - while supplies last - are deli meats and brisket, matzo ball soup, potato latkes, noodle kugel, stuffed cabbage, rugelach, and strudel. And don't forget the half-sour pickles as well as the fabulous assortment of homemade desserts.

The Jewish Food Festival in Laconia ranks with the best due to TBI's talented cooking crew of women and men who have been gathering before Festival Day for planning and recipe selection as well as participating in dozens of cooking and baking sessions in the temple kitchen. Per Committee chair Stu Needleman, "Our cooking teams have prepared hundreds of servings of the most delectable foods. We have purchased, cooked, and hand sliced nearly 200 pounds of everyone's favorite meats and baked dozens of varieties of cakes, cookies, and other deserts. But no matter how much we have, everything goes quickly. So don't be late and risk having your favorite item sold out!" Food Festival attendees from years past attest to the great food and

festive atmosphere:

- "The best day of the year. This is an epic annual event in Laconia, a valuable cultural event for our community."
- "Absolutely incredible. Our first time here, but not our last! Wonderful people!"
- "The highlight of our weekend. We were warmly welcomed, greeted, and cared for."
- "We'll be back next year with our friends!"

However, this Festival is about more than food. You will find many assorted treasures at the Nearly New Boutique on the front lawn, as well as new Judaica items inside. Attendees meet old and new friends from the community at large, both Jewish food connoisseurs and rookies.

The Jewish Food Festival takes place under the tent on July 8 at Temple B'nai Israel, 210 Court Street in Laconia, rain or shine. Credit cards are accepted. More information can be found at www.tbinh.org. Questions should be directed to foodfestival@tbinh.org.

IsraAID Presentation at Temple Israel in Portsmouth: "Repairing the World"

By Fred Feldman

Portsmouth — Temple Israel of Portsmouth hosted two special programs on Sunday, April 15: one specifically for the children and one for members and the greater community at large. The programs were supported by grants from the Temple Israel Cultural Endowment fund and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

The programs presented the ongoing efforts of a global organization called IsraAID. IsraAID is a nongovernmental, umbrella organization consisting of Jewish and Israeli search and rescue, medical, and relief groups working along with local agencies and resources that provide aid worldwide to people in need, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or disability. It is largely made up of young people, both Jews and Arabs, who believe in the same principles, working tirelessly to help those in the greatest need. The group comprises over 35 humanitarian aid organizations, youth movements, solidarity movements, and friendship societies.

Niv Rabino of IsraAID spoke passionately about the organization's belief in tikkun olam (repairing the world) and its programs to accomplish this. He was formerly IsraAID's head of mission in Lesbos, Greece, dealing with the enormous refugee problem there and currently is

head of mission in Houston, TX, dealing with the aftermath of massive flooding from Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

IsraAID, founded in 2001, is an unusual nonprofit, nongovernmental organization in that it is committed to providing life-saving disaster relief and long-term support. For over a decade, its teams of professional medics, search and rescue squads, post-trauma experts, and community mobilizers have been first on the front lines of nearly every major humanitarian response in the 21st century. Its mission is to efficiently support and meet the changing needs of populations as they strive to move from crisis to reconstruction/rehabilitation, and eventually, to sustainable living.

The majority of refugees in Greece escaped war and brutal violence in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, surviving a dangerous journey to reach an uncertain future in Europe. In addition to supporting adults, IsraAID's team created a safe space for young refugee children aged 6-11 to process their emotions and relax. During weekly sessions, their facilitators provide these children with vital psychological support and the tools to better understand and express how they feel.

Two years ago, a series of major earthquakes hit Kumamoto, Japan, killing at least 50 people and injuring more than 3,000. IsraAID was part of a support



Students from the Temple Israel Portsmouth religious school listened and asked questions during the IsraAID presentation.

program with Japan that provided immediate emergency relief, distributing food, water, and other essential items to over 2,000 people. And last month, IsraAID was in Guatemala assisting people affected by the volcanic eruption.

IsraAID sent a team of seven disaster management experts, mental health experts, and engineers to Houston to help with debris removal and trauma relief when Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc and catastrophic flooding. While working on recovery and building efforts in

Houston, IsraAID is also responding to two other world flooding crises, with teams stationed in Nepal on the border of India, which has been hit by calamitous flooding, and in Sierra Leone.

Today, IsraAID has programs in 20 countries across the globe, ranging from providing mother tongue schooling for refugee children to rebuilding houses damaged by hurricanes in the Caribbean and helping communities recover from disaster and build a better, sustainable future. For more information, visit www.israaid.org.

Federation & Temple Israel Collaboration: Israeli Dancing Party a Hit Celebrating Israel at 70

Portsmouth — The Israeli Dance Party for All was a big hit at Temple Israel Portsmouth (TIP) on Sunday, June 10. About 90 people showed up to dance, enjoy Israeli snacks, meet new people, and greet old friends. The event was sponsored by TIP's Cultural Endowment Fund and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. It was part of the Celebrate Israel at 70 series of events that JFNH has been organizing around the state.

Highlights of the afternoon included a welcome from Temple Israel president David Bachrach; introduction of the new TIP interim rabbi, Ira Korinow; a slide show made up of Israeli travel photos contributed by TIP members and put together by Fran Berman; dance instruction by Eli and Aimee Levy; ceremonial candle lighting of the candles on a giant birthday cake by longtime TIP member Selma Freedman; and the singing of happy birthday to Israel in Hebrew, led by JFNH Shlichah Noam Wolf. The Levinson Social Hall was festooned with blue and white Israeli flags and crepe paper

for the occasion, adding to the party atmosphere. Attendees snacked in Israeli style on delicious falafel, stuffed grape leaves, and hummus.

The dance party drew many new faces, as it was preceded by a New/Prospective Member Orientation organized by the TIP Membership Committee. Between 2 and 3 PM about 35 new or prospective members toured the synagogue, filling up their "travel passports" with stickers from the temple's various areas as they spoke with leaders from the staff, board of directors, temple committees, and the religious school and preschool.

A slew of people volunteered to make the Israeli Dance Party a huge success, including event coordinator Fran Berman, members of the Israel Affairs Committee (Emma Rous, Ken Kowalchek, Tobey Harman, Rachel Kurshan), members of the Membership Committee (Helen Hanan, Margie Wachtel, Ellen Cohen, Robin Albert), head of school Elian Tackeff, leaders from the Temple Israel Dover community (Ken Litvack,



Israeli dancing brought people of all ages together at Temple Israel Portsmouth to celebrate Israel at 70.

Cathi Cherry-Liston), Interim Rabbi Ira Korinow, JFNH Shlichah Noam Wolf and friends, JFNH staff, JFNH volunteers Linda and Dan Gerson, and TIP admin-

istrative director Heather Tomlinson. For information on upcoming Israel at 70 events, check the events calendar in the Reporter.

"We Remember..."

Manchester — On Memorial Day afternoon, May 28, members of the Manchester Jewish community once again gathered at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery. They came not only to venerate those veterans who are buried in the cemetery but to honor all those who have served our great country in the uniformed services throughout the years.

Several days before the ceremony, American flags were placed at the gravesites by Memorial Day volunteers Sue and Jay Niederman, Mark Starin, Bob Katchen, George Bruno, and Sol Rockenmacher.

The service was held in the cemetery chapel as "A Service of Thanks and Memorial" and was led by Rabbi Beth Davidson. David Rosenzweig introduced Manchester's own Ted Yegerman, a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, who reviewed the history of the wars of the 1930s leading up to World War II. He noted how the feeling in general in our country was one of ignoring these overseas issues as being nonthreatening to us until the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and it was then "our" conflict.

Sue, Sol, and Gary Singer read the names of the 131 veterans who are buried in the cemetery. Then Rabbi Beth read the names of Benjamin R. Bron-



Sol Rockenmacher, Mark Starin, Jay and Sue Niederman, and Bob Katchen planting flags at graves of veterans at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery. Photo by George Bruno.

stein, Robert O. Isenberg, Jack Perolman, Zalman R. Rosenberg, and Max Slovack, "who gave their lives in defense of our country and in defense of our ideals." There was a moment of silence and the Mourner's Kaddish was recited. The event concluded with the playing of "Taps."

Before and after the service, attendees visited the graves of loved ones, to meditate and to place a stone.

Not only did we honor those who have served, but we showed once again what we can accomplish when we work together as a Jewish community.



Rabbi Levy leading Shabbat services at Lake Pawtuckaway.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates Shabbat on Pawtuckaway Lake

By Steve Soreff, MD

Derry — On a beautiful late spring Saturday morning June 9, members of Etz Hayim Synagogue held a Shabbat service on the shore of Pawtuckaway Lake. Rabbi Peter Levy conducted the service and Amy Levy provided guitar

music at the home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff. They prayed, they praised God, they enjoyed the wonders of nature, they read poems, they sang, they kayaked and canoed, they discussed Torah, and they ate. They continued the annual tradition of Shabbat on the lake.

NH4Israel Learns About Pogroms and JFNH Shlichah, Noam Wolf

Manchester -- After NH4Israel's second annual main event, the springtime 5-kilometer "Walk/Run for Healing" (this year for Lou Gehrig's Disease/ALS), the group held two more meetings in May: a showing of Diane Covert's exhibit of century old documents and photos of pogroms and a talk by NH's Israeli goodwill emissary (Shlichah) Noam Wolf.

Diane Covert is a documentary artist who previously displayed her "X-Ray Project" in Manchester with NH4Israel. That project showcased x-rays of nails and screws embedded in the bodies of Israeli victims of Islamist suicide bombers at a time before Israel's security wall was erected. Her latest Manchester NH4Israel lecture discussed the pogroms that drove so many Jews out of Eastern Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Diane's exhibit of recently discovered historic photos documenting the pogroms was on display be-

fore and after her talk. The collection is comprised of rare photographs taken during the Soviet Civil War between the "Red" and "White" armies and the militias on both sides, all participants in the pogroms. The photographs were originally in a Soviet hardcover book of 5,000 copies printed in 1926, titled *Jewish Pogroms 1918-1921*. These were likely the first published views and related stories of the Soviet Civil War, precursor to the larger genocide of Jews by the Nazis.

For the display, Diane had digitally enhanced many of these old photos to focus on the after effects of pogroms, with corpses either neatly arranged or still strewn about destroyed property. The photographic exhibit and its source book corroborate the reasons behind the Jewish emigration from the old Pale of Settlement, from which almost 75% of America's Jews came. The book includes documentation by survivors and family mem-

bers, medical providers, regional officials, and archival teams from Moscow who toured the region. In all, there are just under 200 photographs of survivors, family members, victims, perpetrators, local officials, and landscapes from the ravaged communities. Diane is working on an English translation of the 1926 Soviet book to make it available for current and future researchers, since most of the original books have disappeared over time.

At the final meeting of the NH4Israel 2017-2018 season, the JFNH Shlichah, Ms. Noam Wolf, gave a spirited autobiography using PowerPoint and later took questions about life in today's Israel from the audience. Hers is a fascinating story of a young Israeli woman who grew up as the daughter of a general in an "IDF/Army Town." She also served in the IDF, doing part of her duty not only detailed as a "Birthright" resource person in Israel but also as an Israeli Q&A and contact

person at New York summer camps. What perfect training that made for our JFNH Shlichah. If you've yet to meet this vibrant member of our NH community, seek her out at her next visit to your area synagogue.

With the exception of holiday conflicts and summer break, NH4Israel hosts 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, word of the change will be publicized (generally emailed) in advance, as well as posted on the calendar of events at NH4Israel.org. NH4Israel guest speakers address current issues surrounding the state of Israel as well as historical analyses of topics such as the Diaspora, Jew-hatred, and Zionism.

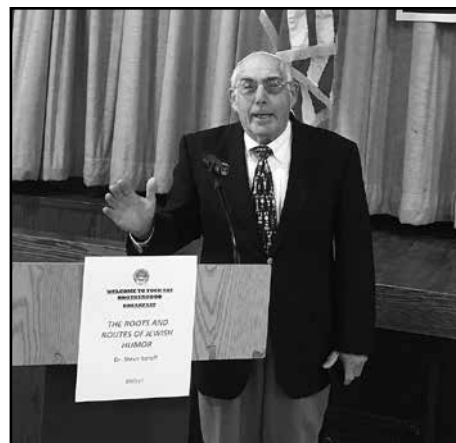
Find out more about NH4Israel and sign up for email updates on guest speakers and hosted events at NH4Israel.org.

The Roots And Route Of Jewish Humor – Dr. Steve Soreff

Manchester — On Sunday morning, April 22, 60 lucky attendees were treated to a very entertaining talk about Jewish humor by Dr. Steve Soreff at the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Breakfast at TAY.

Steve drew on several diverse and interesting sources and themes during his very entertaining presentation:

- Genesis: Sarah "laughs" when told that she will be able to have a son in her old age.
- Sigmund Freud, who wrote a book, *Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious*. Freud suggested that many Jewish jokes point to the ability of the Jewish people to (a) engage in a thorough self-criticism, (b) advocate a democratic way of life, (c) emphasize the moral and social principles of the Jewish religion, (d) criticize its excessive requirements, and (e) reflect on the misery of many Jewish communities. He felt that being able to joke about Jews' shortcomings and their chutzpah indicates a healthy ego.
- "Dry Bones" cartoons.
- Yiddish curses, such as *Es so dir dunern in boykh, vestu meyen az s'iz a homon klaper* (Your stomach will rumble so badly, you'll think it was a Purim noisemaker).
- Badkhn: Jewish comedians who entertained at weddings in countries in Europe with Chasidic populations.
- The humorous folklore involving the



Dr. Steve Soreff gives his take on Jewish humor.

mythical town called Chelm in Poland, where the residents are usually happy, gentle folk who are considered fools by everyone living outside their town. But the Chelmites feel that they are the great sages of the world, the brightest of the bright.

- And, of course, Jewish Mother jokes. Steve reminded us of the benefits of humor and laughter:
- physical health benefits including lowering stress hormones and muscle relaxation;
- mental health benefits including decreasing anxiety and tension, relieving stress, and improving mood; and
- social benefits such as helping to defuse conflict, promoting group bonding, and strengthening relationships. Contributing to the program were audi-

ence members Ted Yegerman, Janice Belmont, and Bodo Schrader, whose own funny comments added to the enjoyable atmosphere. And hats off to the TAY Brotherhood Kitchen Krew for the breakfast of bagels, shmeers, pastry, juice, cof-

fee, and tea.

Dr. Steve, thank you so much for joining us and for "treating us" by dispensing to us a morning of therapeutic humor. It is often said that laughter is the best medicine. A fun time was had by all.

Kol Ha'Emek Women's Group Enjoys Spring Pottery Outing

Hanover -- On April 23, the women's social group of Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, met at Tip Top Pottery in White River Junction, VT, to nosh, drink wine, and paint a "tree of life" canvas with acrylics. Twenty women who are Jewish or raising Jewish children attended.

The women's social group meets quarterly in a variety of venues. The social group aims to bring Jewish women and women raising Jewish children together in a low-key environment to find areas of shared interest and build community in the Upper Valley. We will meet again in August for dinner and then to view stars and planets at Dartmouth College's Shattuck Observatory with the assistance of astronomer Jenica Nelan. Any woman who is Jewish or part of a Jewish family is welcome! To be added to the mailing list and notified of future events, please contact Hilary Ryder at hfryder@gmail.com or 603-252-6719.



Painting brings UVJC women together at Tip Top Pottery.

In the Community

Tradition! The Beat Goes On

Manchester — Over 90 people very much enjoyed the Temple Adath Yeshurun (TAY) Brotherhood Annual Meeting/BBQ, which was held this year on Tuesday night, June 5, at TAY. It was another evening of community togetherness, and a great time to schmooze, *ess* (eat-eat), *fress* (snack) and *H'abn sp'as* (enjoy).

Co-president David Panchansky, the MC for the event, introduced JFNH Shlichah Noam Wolf, who entertained us with her singing. We started the event by singing of "Hatikvah," led by Noam, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. After the motzi by Rabbi Beth Davidson, Noam sang a couple of songs and then it was on to the meal. Kosher chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs topped the menu. (Our cherished antique, the George Silberberg-George Younger grill, is still working after all these years.) Kitchen Krew members David Panchansky, David Rosenzweig, Bob Katchen, Steve Short, Steve Goldberg, Michael Bank, Mel Spierer, Eliot Andler, Bob LeFevre, and Sol Rockenmacher took care of the cooking.

Following the meal, it was on to the presentation of our special awards:

Jonathan Baron introduced this year's Samuel Sugerman Scholarship award winner, Adam Flanders. Adam has been very actively involved in local and region-



JFNH Shlichah Noam Wolf sings at the TAY Brotherhood Annual Meeting-*BBQ*.

al Jewish youth programs, having served as president of MANTY.

Ted Yegerman had the honor of introducing our 2018 Man of the Year, George Bruno, who was selected from a roster of many deserving candidates. These were the citations highlighted on his award:

To a man who has never forgotten his roots and dedicated his life to helping those in need

Who has served his community, his state and his country with dignity and honor

To a man who determined that our democratic way of life requires active participation

Who is the personification of Broth-

erhood and an inspiration to us all.

It was a wonderful evening of good food (no one left hungry), good music, and most of all, warmth and good fellowship. We Brothers recognize that there is a legacy of service, a continuity going back to the founders of the Brotherhood, who wanted to vigorously support the continued existence of their Temple Adath Yeshurun congregation, while also supporting their Jewish community and their continuity at large. We strive to continue the tradition. And so... we hosted the TAY Chanukah and Purim Parties, the MAN-

TY Winter Wonderland Breakfast, and breakfast programs on artificial intelligence and on Jewish humor. We continued our Christmas Mitzvah Program, with volunteers stepping up to serve at the Eliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center information desks, deliver Meals on Wheels, deliver luncheon platters to police and fire stations in Manchester and Bedford, serve meals at New Horizons, and run the Bingo game at the Veterans Administration Hospital. We once again had a Shabbat service with Sisterhood. There was another fabulous Deli Night. Our Spring Dinner Concert once again featured the Manchester West High School Jazz Ensemble. We helped organize the 5th Annual Memorial Day Service at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery, including placing American flags at the graves of 131 veterans buried in the cemetery. And this year, we extended our "community" to include donations to the hurricane-ravaged Jewish communities of Houston, St. Thomas, and Puerto Rico.

We look forward to an active 2018-2019 season, which will see the return of our popular Candidates Breakfast on October 28. Stay tuned! The beat does go on.

Hundreds of Jewish Organizations Join Together to Urge the Administration to End "Zero Tolerance" Family Separation Policy

New York, NY (June 20, 2018) — Almost 350 national, state, and local Jewish organizations -- including the Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox movements -- sent a joint letter urging the Administration to immediately rescind the "zero tolerance" policy of criminally prosecuting all adults who cross the border. This practice forces authorities to separate children from their migrant parents because there are laws protecting immigrant children against prolonged detention.

Organized by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Reform Movement, and HIAS, the letter urges the Administration to uphold the values of family unity and justice on which our nation was built by ending the "zero tolerance" policy. Unfortunately, the executive order

signed yesterday [June 20] fails to terminate this policy, instead opening the door to repealing the laws currently preventing authorities from detaining children for long periods of time. It essentially seeks to replace family separation with indefinite family detention.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, thousands of children have already been torn from their parents since the policy was implemented. Mounting evidence suggests that many children have been threatened, treated poorly, and held in dangerous conditions.

Originally issued last week with 26 national groups, the organizers reopened the letter to include the many organizations around the country that wanted to collectively voice their outrage in response to such an inhumane policy.

More For Your Dollar Food Shopping

"MORE FOR YOUR DOLLAR"

MARKET BASKET

Manchester:

460 Elm Street 626-1070

Bedford:

539 Donald Street 222-1471

Hooksett:

30 Market Drive 624-8126

Race Celebrated Israel at 70 & Moved Us Closer to a Cure for ALS

Derry — NH4Israel would like to thank everyone who made its 2nd Annual Run/Walk for Healing for ALS a success.

The event was held on the interfaith campus of Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Church of the Transfiguration on Sunday, April 22, at 1 PM so that the folks who attend church could run after their morning services.

During registration, James and Gayle O'Hare filled the warm spring air with the beautiful music of their flute and



An enthusiastic supporter waves the Israeli and American flags.



Five brave souls took the Ice Bucket Challenge to raise additional funds for ALS research.



Runners take off for the 5K race.

tambourine. When they played “Hava Nagila,” entrants danced enthusiastically around and around the parking lot.

Linda Gerson greeted the crowd of 150 and talked about Israel’s groundbreaking genetic research taking place at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem that no one has seen before, and the phase III clinical trials there that are offering families hope for the first time (check out NurOwn by Brainstorm).

Linda McGrath, who started the Run for Healing to focus on the positive contributions of Israel to the world, “nominated” everyone in the crowd to take the ice bucket challenge following the race, pledging \$20 for each brave soul.

“Hatikvah” was sung by the Jewish Federation of NH’s Shlichah, Noam Wolf,

and “The Star Spangled Banner” was sung by the Church of the Transfiguration’s choir. Then prayers were offered by Derry clergy Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof, Rev. Ray Bonin, and Rabbi Peter Levy.

The race course consisted of three one-mile loops, which was fun as people were constantly passing one another and runners had three opportunities to pass the water station, which was staffed by six-year-old volunteers from Etz Hayim’s Hebrew Camp. The “real” runners, the joggers, the walkers, the strollers, kids, babies, and dogs all had a picture perfect day.

The day ended with an award ceremony, raffle prizes, food, and five brave souls taking the ice bucket challenge, then running for the towels. NH4Israel will send

\$5,000 to Hadassah Hospital and \$400 to the family of Gene and Patty Connolly.

A very special thank you goes to our Title Sponsors Dr. Michael and Evelyn Miller, who find a myriad of ways to support Israel. Our Platinum Sponsor is the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Gold Sponsors are IAC Israel American Council, Amoskeag Beverages, Grinley Creative, Grodman Financial, The Intermarketing Group-Event Marketing Agency, Merrimack Street Volvo, Southern New Hampshire University, and the William Einhorn Interfaith Education Fund. Silver Sponsors are CCA Global, Dan Habib filmmaker, Drs. Albert and Sarah Sandler, and the Loudon Country Club. The Bronze and Pacesetter sponsors can be viewed at NH4Israel.org.

Congratulations to Dr. Rochelle Lindner

Dr. Rochelle Lindner of Lindner Dental Associates has been named one of the most influential dentists in New Hampshire by Kleeer. Each winner was carefully chosen for their demonstrated excellence as a practitioner and thought leader in dentistry. Kleeer selected influencers from each state by gauging their success across categories including the dentists’ social media footprint, positive patient ratings, overall media presence, and leadership and philanthropic efforts. Three influencers were chosen per state, with the exception of California and Texas, which are each represented by six influencers.

We Care of Temple B’nai Israel Raises Record Funds for Camp Resilience

Laconia — A concert of “Doo Wop” on Saturday evening, May 26, was presented by We Care of Temple B’nai Israel to benefit Gilford-based Camp Resilience. A crowd of about 250 enjoyed the great harmonies of Lee Lewis & the All Stars, followed by The Bel Airs performing their renditions of “Teenager in Love,” “Run Around Sue,” “Da Do Ron Ron,” “Rockin’ Robin,” “Hand Jive,” and so many more great tunes from the 50s and 60s. The energetic style of both groups kept the audience on their feet, swaying to the beat. The attendees were treated to an array of homemade sweets and platters of veggies from Moulton Farms before the show started and during the intermission.

Music, fun, and food aside, the purpose of the concert was to raise funds for

a most worthwhile nonprofit, Camp Resilience, whose mission is to help those who served bounce back in mind, body, and spirit. We Care used a two-prong approach, which resulted in the highest total amount raised to date by combining the net proceeds from ticket sales and a social media campaign to sponsor a vet for a day at Camp Resilience. The Camp Resilience fundraiser is the ninth event that We Care has sponsored and the most successful thus far, with proceeds of nearly \$20,000 given to Camp Resilience. This total includes donations from event sponsors Meredith Village Savings Bank and Miracle Farms.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation for the most successful fund-

raiser in the social media campaign. The first prize award included a two-night stay at the Fireside Inn, dinner for two at Patrick’s Pub, and Inner Circle Membership at the Bank of NH Pavilion. The award was presented to Leslie and Mark Aronson, whose late son Jared reached first place, in spite of his recent untimely passing. Thanks to all those who supported Jared’s campaign.

The next We Care event will take place on October 27, featuring folk rock trio Gathering Time performing in a benefit for Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice. Once again, the concert will take place at the Meredith Community Auditorium located in Interlakes High School.



Recent Events

Want to see your organization's photos here? Send them to thereporter@jewishnh.org.



Students at Congregation Betenu's religious school presented their "10 Commandments" projects.



Congregation Betenu's Sunday school students, teachers, parents, and Rav Sam.



Teachers from Congregation Betenu discussing "The Butterfly Project," which acquainted students with Holocaust history.



Young people attending the grand opening of the Chabad Center for Jewish Living enjoyed a bonfire, a traditional part of the celebration of Lag B'Omer.



The grand opening of the new Chabad Center for Jewish Living at 1234 River Road in Manchester was a historic, much-anticipated event attended by people from across New Hampshire and beyond.



Holocaust survivor Annette Lantos and her daughter, Katrina Lantos Swett, were honored guests at a service at Temple Beth Jacob. Katrina was the speaker at the service, and she spoke about both her mother, Annette Lantos, and her late father, Congressman Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor to serve in the U.S. Congress.



Etz Hayim Synagogue Bar Mitzvah student Jack McNair participated in the April 22 Run for Healing organized by NH4Israel and held at Etz Hayim. This was Jack's first 5K race, and he not only ran it but won in his age category.



On April 26, as part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's continuing education program, "Hot Topics, Cool Stuff," Shlichah Noam Wolf spoke to a packed house from Etz Hayim and the broader community about Israeli culture and the evolution of Israeli music. She was a hit!



Dr. Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, presented "Authentic Jewish Spirituality: Even for Skeptics Who Don't Think There Is Any" at Temple Beth Jacob in Concord to a full house.



Rabbi Yehudah Krinsky, Rabbi Levi Krinsky's father, was a guest speaker at the grand opening ribbon cutting for the new Chabad Center for Jewish Living in May



Etz Hayim Synagogue continues Elijah's Table, its monthly program of free meals for the community. Pictured here are Etz member Bonnie Leshin (the chief chef) and Etz Rabbi Peter Levy, doling out yummy chips to accompany a May 20 meal.

Recent Events



Members of the New England Dance Ensemble of Londonderry, which presented *A Child's View of the Holocaust* to a standing-room-only crowd at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry, with Etz Hayim Hebrew School students (front row), board of directors president Dina Michael Chaitowitz (front row, on right), Rabbi Peter Levy (standing, on right), and NEDE artistic director Barbara Mullen, who choreographed the piece in 1990 (back row, on right).



JFNH Shlichah Noam and Avi performing at the Beit Cafe (coffee house) for Temple Beth Abraham's celebration of Israel's 70th anniversary.



Children and families celebrating Israel's 70th anniversary at Temple Beth Abraham by building a model of ancient Jerusalem out of LEGOs.



Margot Schrader presenting the story of discovering her father's Holocaust experience at the Nashua Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration at Temple Beth Abraham.



The Tuesday night "Five-Minute Cooking Classes" at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry continued on May 1, with board president Dina Michael Chaitowitz demonstrating how to make Israeli hummus. Pictured (L to R) are Hebrew School parent Mary Tarzia Edelstein and her daughter, Lisa Mirkin Rothenberg, Amy Palmer McNair, and Sara Cohen.

Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Eternal Life: An Excellent Novel That Also Provokes Reflections on Human Existence

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live forever, to never die? I know as I am now living in the second half of my life, assuming that 50 is the midpoint, I start to chant the Jewish blessing as an incantation, "May you live to 120." It is based on the most-often-cited sources in Bereishit (Genesis) 6:3 and Devarim (Deuteronomy) 34:7. The age of Moses upon his death is given as 120, and the text explains, "His eye had not dimmed, and his vigor had not diminished." That is also important, that we live a long, healthy, and happy life, the idea being that life is so enjoyable that we do not want to leave.

Author Dara Horn has given us a novel that will keep you thinking about living for eternity for quite some time after you put the book down. As I finished her new novel, *Eternal Life* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2018), I sat wondering what it would be like to continue to live on if those I love in my life did not. It is something many of us have thought about as we age or get sick, wondering if it would be possible to stay the same age or find a cure to keep us alive longer. Right off the top of my head, I think of instances where people have dreamed of ways to stay young: Ponce de Leon and his search for the fountain of youth, and Oscar Wilde's fictional Dorian Gray with his portrait hanging in the attic, realizing his wish to remain young and let the portrait age.

That is similar to the premise of this book. Rachel and Elazar are two young lovers living during the First Temple time. Rachel is the daughter of a scribe, and Elazar is the son of a high priest. They are star-crossed lovers who have to hide to spend time together because they would not be permitted to marry. When Rachel is married off to Zakkai, this relationship should end, but of course it does not, and Rachel finds herself pregnant. The son is born as Zakkai's and then as a small boy becomes deathly ill. To save his life, Rachael and Elazar vow to give their lives for his. They agree without understanding that they will never die. They will continue to live forever while those around them age and pass on to the next life.

Thus begins the extremely long and fruitful lives of Rachel and Elazar, who meet up again throughout the centuries. They never stay together, but marry others and bear children in each new century, and

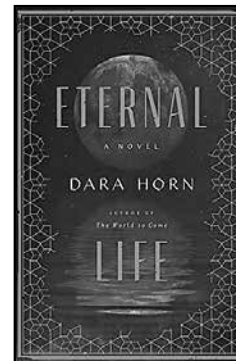
each leaves a long legacy of children, grandchildren, and so on. Each time they start life over again, young, and learn new things as science and time move on, living through wars, disease, modern medicine, and computers, right up until today, with social media and bitcoin.

In a way their lives remind me of what it is like starting to read a new book. Each time I pick up a book, it is like a new relationship. I open it full of the expectations. I read the first chapter with anticipation and hope that I will fall in love. The plot draws me in, and I am hooked. It is exciting to come back to it each day after I have finished my other work. Time passes, and I am in the middle of the book and fully attached, then the end approaches and I am starting to read more slowly and dreading the experience coming to an end. When it is over, I am both at peace and fulfilled by the enjoyment of it and sad that it has come to an end. Then I reach to my bookshelf or to-read pile and pick up the next book, and the process begins again. Would this be similar to living forever while others around you do not?

Dara Horn has created an enticing novel that is enjoyable just on the *p'shat* (basic) level of reading a fascinating plot. She also has given the reader an interesting *d'rash* to contemplate, thinking about what it would be like to live through all the changes in history, to be immortal when those around you are still mortal.

Dara Horn's website gives you the perfect reason to read this novel, saying that it encompasses many emotions: "Gripping, hilarious, and profoundly moving." *Eternal Life* celebrates the bonds between generations, the power of faith, the purpose of death, and the reasons for being alive.

Dara Horn is the author of *The World to Come*, *All Other Nights*, and *A Guide for the Perplexed*, which won and was selected as one of Booklist's Best Books of 2013 and was long-listed for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. She has taught courses in Jewish literature and Israeli history at Sarah Lawrence College and City University of New York, and was a visiting professor in Jewish studies at Harvard, where she taught Yiddish and Hebrew literature. She has lectured at over 200 universities and cultural institutions throughout North America, in Israel, and in Australia. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and four children.





JFNH Tributes

Received by June 10, 2018

Friends of the Reporter

Marvin and Arlene Swartz

JFNH Preschool

JoAnn Meyers in honor of the preschool's 30th anniversary

Kushner-Tumen Family Fund for Children

Norm and Andy Kushner to Kate Caplan and family in memory of her father, Kenneth Atkinson

Norm and Andy Kushner to Tammy Dorris for her seven years of outstanding service to JFNH

Norm and Andy Kushner to David Friedenburt in memory of his father

Norm and Andy Kushner to Roberta Silberberg in honor of her special birthday

Norm and Andy Kushner to Mrs. Carrie Solomon and family in memory of her father, Sheldon Du Brow

Norm and Andy Kushner to Do Younger in honor of her special birthday

PJ Library Program

David Rivilis

Shlichah Program

Ivor and Barbara Freeman

North End Properties

Sidney and Eileen Regen

Social Services Fund

Josh and Stephanie Dobbins

Temple Israel, Manchester

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.

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.

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

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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All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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