

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 39, Number 5

February 2019

Shevat-Adar 5779



SUMMER CAMP SPECIAL EDITION

Federation Makes Sensational Summer 2019 Opportunities Affordable for Children and Teens

JFNH Signature Program

By Nancy Frankel

Plan now for a sensational summer. Attending Jewish summer camp and participating in a Jewish sponsored peer trip to Israel are the two most important factors in creating engagement and connections to build the next generation of our Jewish community. A limited number of grants for camp and Israel Experience programs will be funded by the Jewish Federation of NH on a rolling basis as long as money is available. Funding is offered to families who live in New Hampshire or belong to a NH synagogue.

Jewish Summer Camp

Every child should experience the magic of Jewish summer camp. It's where kids discover who they really are, make lasting friendships, and gain skills they can use for their entire lives. Jewish camp is mission driven, weaving Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the

fabric of camp, helping campers connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. And, it also happens to be a whole lot of fun.

Since 2005, JFNH has offered incentive grants to 138 young people to attend Jewish nonprofit summer camps for the first time. Twelve campers from nine NH communities received camp grants in 2018, and all with whom we have spoken plan to return to their camps in 2019!

Explore Jewish nonprofit summer camps and apply for a JFNH grant through the Foundation for Jewish Camp: www.onehappycamper.org.

2019 Peer Trips to Israel

If you are considering a teen peer group trip to Israel, now is the time to apply for an Israel Experience grant from JFNH. Choose the program that matches your interests and JFNH will contribute up to \$1,800. JFNH believes that continuing Jewish education linked with a peer trip to Israel will forge a strong Jewish identity. Grants are not needs based and are made possible through the Irving and Bernice Singer Endowment and

Camps continued on page 11



First-time campers of all ages are eligible for JFNH first-time camper grants.

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Support What You Love: 2018-19 Campaign Needs Your Help

By Melanie Zalman McDonald,
JFNH Executive Director

Perhaps it's the free PJ Library books that arrive for your children or grandchildren each month.

Maybe it's the engaging and entertaining programs about Israel presented by our shlicha, Noam Wolf?

It could be this month's issue of The Jewish Reporter that you've just started to enjoy.

Your warm feelings about the smell of challah coming out of our Jewish Federation Preschool.

Perhaps it's the plans you are making to enjoy our 11th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival.

Sentimental visions of attending Jewish Summer Camp – or your very first trip to Israel.

Certainly, it's knowing that your support



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

helps those most vulnerable among us. Or that your support helps to provide enrichment for Jewish seniors year-round.

Maybe you support Federation to honor the memory of generations that came before you. Those who opened up the possibility for vibrant Jewish life here in New England.

Whatever your reason, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire needs your support, and there's no time like the present.

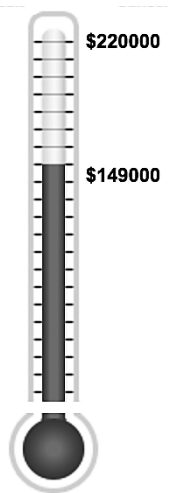
Last year, with your help, we raised approximately \$180,000 – a significant increase over recent years. This year, we are already at \$150,000 with five months remaining in the fiscal year. Our goal this year is \$220,000, and

with your help, we can get there.

In a perfect world, our JFNH budget would break even at year-end.

Our challenge is that at the same time when our resources have plateaued, the needs in our state-wide Jewish community have multiplied. One might argue (and we would agree) that even a non-profit is a business, and that we should find a way to meet these needs despite a diminishing overall revenue stream. We're hoping that you feel as we do:


That no Jewish child in



Campaign continued on page 9

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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

CLAREMONT

TEMPLE MEYER DAVID

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

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

DURHAM

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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

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thereporter@jewishnh.org

Send items for the print and online
JFNH Calendar and E-News to
events@jewishnh.org

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| February 1 | 4:40 PM |
| February 8 | 4:50 PM |
| February 15 | 4:59 PM |
| February 22 | 5:08 PM |



Mitzvah Makers UNITE

To say a Federation director wears many hats feels appropriate and to be expected. One moment, I'm speaking with a rabbi about anti-Semitism and threats to community safety. Another, I'm buying stamps at the post office to mail out thank you notes. The range of activities is mind bending and fills my days with challenges and an unending list of critical tasks.

Our work is to make a vibrant and thriving Jewish community here in New Hampshire, and the trick is to do it all with a tight budget and a small (but very dedicated) staff. And then there are the "helpers" -- so many, with so much passion and skill, like a diverse squad of Federation superheroes who step in (capably and humbly) at a moment's notice and wrap their arms around a task, a project, a

**Melanie Zalman
McDonald**

**Executive
Director**



community need, all in the name of Federation. They never seek recognition -- they are many in a sea of mitzvah makers.

They are known to start conversations with, "Can I do _____ for you?"

Or, "Is this something I can help with?"

They are the first to arrive and the last to leave.

They will work outside their comfort zones when something they love is on the line.

"Do you need Super Sunday callers? I want to make sure that no PJ Library family is turned away for lack of program funding."

"Can I write an article about this for The Jewish Reporter? I want more people to know about this important need."

For a small team like ours, it's like having a massive village of mitzvah makers.

It should be no surprise to learn that these superheroes are also often filling this role within their own communities. They are the soup makers, the ride givers, the fundraisers, the committee members, the Hebrew school volunteers, the synagogue greeters, and more.

In my efforts to value each of these acts of kindness and support, I worry that I fall short. I'm a thank-you note writer, a kudos

giver, a grateful friend to all who see these needs and rise to the occasion. But I fear there are often helpful gestures and deeds that go unnoticed with such an enthusiastic village of superhero mitzvah makers.

And so, from the depths of my heart and on behalf of our devoted board and staff, *TODAH RABAH* to all the helpers here at Federation and within our Jewish community. I know we do these things not to be recognized, or praised, but because mitzvot is the way that we operate in the world. Nonetheless, know that we see you, we appreciate you, and we honor your efforts by continuing this important work together.

In the name of a strong and vibrant Jewish New Hampshire -- Caped Mitzvah Makers UNITE!

Thank You, JFNH Donors, for Helping NH Kids Discover the Wonders of Jewish Camp

I just returned from Israel, where I spent a week working with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) to hire a delegation of Israeli Shlichim (emissaries) to work at Camp Tevya in Brookline, New Hampshire. I was there with my colleagues from the other Cohen Camps, Tel Noar and Pembroke, as well as camp directors from all over the country.

We were all there because of our deep commitment to the transformative experience that Jewish overnight camp provides to our youth. For seven weeks each summer, youth come together to make s'mores around a campfire, to learn to water ski, to participate in Color War, and to play in a tennis tournament. For seven weeks each summer, youth come together to celebrate Shabbat, to sing the *Birkat Hamazon* (complete with hand

**Mindee Greenberg,
Incoming Board
Chair**

Board Column



motions) after each meal, to dance Israeli folk dances under the stars, and to hear stories from our shlichim. These seven weeks are known to change the lives of our youth as they make strong and lifelong connections to friends, to Israel, and to Jewish community.

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire partners with New Hampshire families, the Foundation for Jewish Camp, and camps across the country to make it possible for New Hampshire youth to attend

Jewish overnight camp. Through the dedication and coordination of JFNH volunteer Nancy Frankel, JFNH provides incentive grants of up to \$1,000 for children attending nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time. By providing first-time camper grants, JFNH makes camp accessible to families who are looking for a meaningful and memorable Jewish camp experience for their children. This campership program has existed since 2008, sending over 130 children to camp. It could not exist without the support we receive from our community through our annual campaign and targeted gifts. On behalf of JFNH, I thank all of you who have donated this year so that we can continue to provide camp grants to our children. As we read in their testimonies (see our special Camp

section in this issue), our youth who attend camp also thank you. These grants are truly an incredible investment with lifelong benefits.

As I interviewed potential Shlichim for summer 2019, I listened to each of their stories and thought about how lucky our campers are to have these young adults as role models. I also realized that the lives of those hired will also be forever changed, as we welcome them into our family. As Jewish overnight camp fosters skills such as independence, self-advocacy, and problem solving, it also strengthens Jewish identity and commitment to community. Today, more than ever, this investment is a necessity. For more information about the JFNH campership program, contact Nancy Frankel at corkyatcf@aol.com.

JFNH Board Spotlight: Ross Fishbein

I grew up in Manchester in a household that heavily valued our Jewish identity. I went to Hebrew School, became a Bar Mitzvah, and was confirmed at Temple Adath Yeshurun. After my Bar Mitzvah, I often served as the "lay Rabbi" for summer Friday night services. Many people jokingly referred to me as "Rabbi Ross!" I remember, fondly, getting up early on a Sunday in November every year to pick up bagels, orange juice, and newspapers, and package everything



Ross Fishbein

together for delivery to people in the community as part of one of MANTY's annual events.

As an undergraduate, I attended Brandeis University, which felt, much like Israel did for me the two times I visited, as Jewish "enough" in every respect that I didn't deem it necessary to get involved in particular Jewish activities -- everything was a Jewish activity! There, I met my three closest friends, Oren, Jeff, and Hart. Just a few months ago, Oren was a grooms-

man at my wedding, Hart was my best man, and "Rabbi Jeff" performed the ceremony in such an incredibly personal, touching manner that many of our guests asked if he were available for hire (he's not *really* a rabbi).

After college, I briefly returned to Manchester, where I worked for the Federation entering contribution details into the computer system, and planning and preparing many of the Federation's events that year, including the interfaith Passover seder. Shortly after that event, I moved to Tucson, Arizona, for law school, where I

studied international business and trade law. I found the Jewish community there to be incredibly welcoming, and I attended numerous programs, talks, seminars, and celebrations at their Federation and JCC. I even opted to use the JCC fitness center instead of the University of Arizona's facilities. Being a part of that community made it much easier for me to adapt to living far from home, so that when I was considering whether to move to Austin, Texas, after law school, my first stop when visiting was the local Federation/

Ross Fishbein continued on page 10

Statewide Calendar of Events

Saturday, Feb. 2

Sing Your Heart Out Sing-Along
7 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

Sunday, Feb. 3

Nathan E. Cohen Lecture Series at CAA:
"The Legend of the Thirty-Six: Jews, Righteousness and the Fate of the World"
3 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

Saturday, Feb. 9

Shabbat Services Followed by sponsored Kiddush in Memory of Herta Grabstald
9:30 AM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St, Manchester
For more information, contact Christine at 622-6171.

Family Havdalah Service, Pizza and Movie
4:30PM-7:15PM, Congregation Betenu, Amherst
Cost: \$4 per person.

PJammin' Havdalah Service and Dinner
6 PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St, Manchester
Reservations required. Cost: members no charge, nonmembers \$15. Contact Christine at 622-6171.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Basic Judaism Class with Rabbi Ira Korinow
7 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Meets in the Temple Israel Board Room, 2nd floor.
Topic: "Journey to Judaism: An Exodus of the Heart"
with Rabbi John Borak. Rabbi Borak will share his personal story of how a boy born to a secular

Christian family found his way to Judaism and the bimah. To be added to the class notification list, please contact Rabbi Ira Korinow at rabbik@templeisraelnh.org.

Friday, Feb. 15

Rav Sam Shabbat Services and Pot Luck Supper

6:30 PM for Pot Luck, 7:30 PM Services, Congregation Betenu, Amherst

Saturday, Feb. 16

Ashuelot Concert

7 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

Sunday, Feb. 17

Adult Ed Discussion: "Finding and Framing A Personal Relationship with the Divine"

1 PM, Congregation Betenu, Amherst

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Basic Judaism Class with Rabbi Ira Korinow

7 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth

Meets in the Temple Israel Board Room, 2nd floor.

Topic: "Purim: It's Not for Kids Only." This free, ongoing class covers the how and why of Jewish living. Open to all, including interested non-Jews and Jews who want to further their knowledge of Judaism and enhance their observance. To be added to the class notification list, please contact Rabbi Ira Korinow at rabbik@templeisraelnh.org.

Events For Our Youth

Friday, Feb. 8

MANTY's Winter Wonderland Shabbat Service
8 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St, Manchester

Saturday, Feb. 9

MANTY's Winter Wonderland
Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St, Manchester
Continues through Sunday, Feb. 10.

Saturday, Feb. 23

Junior Congregation
9:30 AM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St, Manchester
Contact Christine at 622-6171 for more information.



SAVE THE DATE
Shows in Manchester, Merrimack, Concord, Peterborough and Portsmouth
April 4-14, 2019
Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH
www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

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



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PJ Library
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& SONGS FOR FAMILIES

Sign up today at
www.jewishnh.org

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

Birthright Israel: The Trip of a Lifetime

On December 2, I departed from Newark Airport with 40 students, most of the students from Dartmouth College plus a few from Union College in NY. More than 20 of them were about to visit Israel for the first time, and I was about to show them my country that I know so well, with its pros and cons, its amazing food and flavors, so different from the United States, and New Hampshire specifically. I was so excited to go back, and I could not wait to see these students experience Israel.

In Tel Aviv, we visited the Innovation Center of Birthright Israel. It's like a museum that presents all the amazing innovations that Israel has developed in agriculture, science, safety and security, transportation, medical and health management, and space. This was only an introduction to some of the things that made Israel the start-up nation that it is today.

After lunch in Tel Aviv (where I finally had my Israeli salad at the cutest coffee shop I used to go to all the time), we drove to the north, and alongside the Sea of Galilee to the hotel where we would spend our first three nights. We lit Chanukah candles together and had dinner. At orientation that night, you could see how impressed the kids were, and how they were not expecting Israel to look like it looks and sound like it sounds. After a long day, we all went to sleep, ready to start our adventure the next morning.



At the Sea of Galilee

We headed on a Jeep ride at the Golan Heights for an off-road ride along the dirt roads of the Golan, exploring its natural beauty and its strategic significance to Israel. Also the huge amount of cows wandering around and warning signs for mines that were placed in the ground by the Syrians a long time ago.



Enjoying the view of the Golan Heights

Noam Wolf

JFNH Shlichah



At Mount Bental, we stopped to overlook the Syrian border and explore the complex relationship between Israel and Syria. We discussed the ramifications of the recent Syrian civil war and had lunch in Kiryat Shmona. I had a chance to see my brother, Roey, who goes to school in that area. It was a great moment -- I have missed him very much. We then drove to Tel Dan nature reserve, where we walked along the streams that have been a source of life and conflict from Biblical times through today and drove to a minerals factory that uses olive waste to create cosmetics and perfumes.



At the Tel Dan Reserve hike

We visited a very special place called Sindianna of the Galilee. This is a unique nonprofit organization led by a team of Arab and Israeli-Jewish women who are working to create social change. We explored their message through their products. Olive oils in many flavors and spices that are unique to the Middle East, such as Za'a'tar. We even made our own box of Za'a'tar using sesame, olive oil, salt, and sumac. Everyone got to take their boxes home, and I was so excited (Za'a'tar is really hard to find in the United States, and it's expensive)!

We Drove to Tzfat, one of the four holy Jewish cities, which has always been shrouded in a mist of mystery and mysticism, being a center of the Kabbala world. There is a special feeling walking through the tangled alleyways of Tzfat, which is why it has always been a magnet for great rabbis, mystics, and artists. The students were excited to hear our next stop was a winery, where we would be trying some wine. The drinking age in Israel is 18, which made them very happy. We tried four different types of wine and learned about the process of making ko-

sher wine. That night, after an amazing program by a former Shlichah about Israeli culture through commercials, we prepared to meet Israeli soldiers the next day in Jerusalem.

After a long drive through the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem, where we had a Shehechyanu ceremony in a beautiful area that overlooks Jerusalem, we finally met the seven Israeli soldiers who would join us for five days. After some icebreakers, we took a walking tour of the old city of Jerusalem. We walked through the Jewish Quarter, exploring the 3,000 years of history that included a visit to the Kotel (Western Wall) of the Temple Mount.



Shehechyanu ceremony in Jerusalem



The Western Wall

We had dinner that night in a burger restaurant in Jerusalem, and everyone was glad to have some American food in Israel. After dinner, I led a program to prepare everyone for our visit to Yad Vashem the next morning. I knew they were going to be very emotional. They had never heard personal stories of Holocaust survivors so vividly; it was direct and a bit difficult for some. One of the girls even found the person who saved her grandma's life back in Hungary during the war!

Birthright continued on page 6

Jewish Federation
Preschool

NOW ENROLLING

The place that inspires a love for Judaism and Learning

30 years of Educating Children

(603) 782-5174
preschool@jewishnh.org

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

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

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

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

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

Federation Voices

Birthright continued from page 5



Selfie of the soldiers and the group in Machane Yehuda Market

Oh, how I have missed the food in Israel! Everything is delicious, the veggies are flavorful and fresh, and I wanted to eat kubbeh selek (beet kubbeh is an Iraq-based delicacy that I love very much), so took a group of the students with me. We bought plenty of rugelach for Shabbat (straight out of the oven) and headed back to do our Kabbalat Shabbat at the hotel. We had a wonderful Shabbat at the hotel with free time to mingle with the group, and just breathe some of that Jerusalem mountain air.

We started Sunday morning at Mount Hertzal. It was after a very rainy weekend, and it was quiet while we walked through Israel's national cemetery, hearing the stories of the leaders who dreamt of and built the state of Israel, and the young people who died fighting for it. It was especially hard for the soldiers and me, because everyone in Israel knows at least one soldier who died or was injured protecting our land. We left Mount Hertzal to see the seam zone barrier, and spoke about the complex realities on the line that divides Israelis and Palestinians. We then got on the bus and headed to Maccabim Reut, my hometown, where my parents live.

We made a very special visit to my house! I introduced my family, told the group about my brother's injury story in



Visiting Noam's hometown, Reut

the protective edge operation in the summer of 2014, had a wonderful discussion, and then lit the Chanukah candles and ate my mom's homemade latkes. I have missed my family so much, and it was so powerful to see them in front of this group of smart, ambitious students. Everyone told me later how much the visit to my house meant to them, how great it was to see an Israeli house from within, and hear the stories of a mother who had to send three children to the army. They really got a chance to experience Israeli reality, and I was honored to be a part of it.

We drove that night to Tel Aviv and had a wonderful night out, exploring the city I used to live in before I came to the United States, with its bars, restaurants, loud streets, and night life scene. This group fell in love with the best city in the world.

The next day, we had a walking tour of Tel Aviv's historical sights and visited the place Israel was announced on Rothschild Street, the Nave Tzedek neighborhood with its beautiful galleries, and had ice cream at the best place in town, Anita Gelato.



Dartmouth girls enjoying lunch at La Guterie, Tel Aviv

In Kfar Hanokdim, a Bedouin encampment, we had a traditional Bedouin experience including a camel ride, Bedouin hospitality, a hafla dinner, and overnight in the Bedouin tent!



Camel ride at Kfar Hanokdim

We woke up the next morning to a wonderful breakfast and drove right to Masada in the Judean Desert. We climbed up through the Roman Ramps and learned how the Masada story affects contemporary Israeli society. We descended the mountain through the snake trail and drove right to Ein Gedi reserve for a short hike to see the falls. It was a surprisingly hot day in the desert for the season, and we enjoyed the waterfalls; some even swam in the pools! We then headed toward the Dead Sea and had a few hours to float around. I have not enjoyed the Dead Sea much since I was a little girl, but being there with the group made me appreciate the amazing assets Israel has, just like a tourist.



Dead Sea view from Masada



Visiting Ein Gedi falls



Bus 1580 floating in the Dead Sea

We started our last day volunteering with children who have a heart condition at the "Save a Child's Heart" center in Holon. This is an Israeli organization that brings children from around the

world to Israel for life-saving heart surgeries. We continued to a program in Tel Aviv and had a great day summarizing everything that happened during our 10-day journey together. The friendships that were made, the memories we'll take with us back to the United States, and we even met the CEO of Birthright Israel. We said goodbye to Israel at a wonderful restaurant called Guetta, with Tripolitanian food with a very homey atmosphere, and drove to the airport.



Farewell dinner at Guetta Restaurant, Jaffa

It was a bitter-sweet goodbye, because although I was sad to separate from this amazing group of students, I was headed toward a week at my parents' house to be spoiled by my mother and eat great food. And little did I know, my boyfriend Avi was about to surprise me and come to Israel without telling me! He walked into my parents' house and asked me to marry him, and of course I said YES!



I said YES!

This was probably the best trip to Israel I could have. I was very happy to be sent to Israel with the Dartmouth College students, and I will do what I can to maintain the relationship between them, Israel, and me. If you know someone who is Jewish, under the age of 32, and would like to go on Birthright for FREE, please contact me at shlichah@jewishnh.org

NH Jewish Community Responds to Recent Hate Crimes

By Laura Aronson

[Reprinted with permission of Manchester Ink Link (<https://manchesterinklink.com>)]

Manchester (Dec. 13, 2018) — This year's eight-day Hanukkah holiday ended on Monday, with its bright candles shining in windows, symbolizing religious freedom and pride in identity. Jews have lived in New Hampshire since Colonial times, and the two Manchester synagogues were founded before 1900. Now, the local Jewish community is responding to recent challenges to Jewish survival and resilience. As the volume of threats increases, there is a sense that Jews in and beyond New Hampshire are increasingly a target of hate from a number of sources.

In November, there was an email threat against the Concord Jewish community. A suspect has been arrested and arraigned. That city's Temple Beth Jacob is in the process of reviewing its security procedures to see how they can be updated and improved. Just over two weeks before that, the name of Rabbi Robin Nafshi, the temple's spiritual leader, appeared on a white supremacists' blog. On December 2, the ceremonial lighting of a 13-foot tall menorah (candelabra) in front of the State House in Concord was delayed for an hour while a state police bomb squad X-rayed a suspicious package beneath it; the package contained food.

In October, eleven Jews at prayer were murdered in a shooting in Tree of Life Synagogues Pittsburgh, and Manchester public properties were painted with swastikas by a local man, who has since been charged. The Pittsburgh attack was particularly vexing for many local Jews who have family, social, and professional ties to Pittsburgh Jews, including the victims.

This season is also painful because November 9 marked the eightieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, when Nazis in Germany torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools, and businesses, and killed close to 100 Jews.

In contrast to the shadows cast by these sad events, local Jews find much reason for hope. Among many vigils and interfaith programs throughout the state, Manchester's November 10 "Take Back Wagner Park" brought together faith leaders and local residents, including Mayor Joyce Craig. In Concord, community members supported the temple through letters, gifts, and standing vigil outside the building during services and religious school. Police have stepped up patrols in Concord and at

other temples. Senator Maggie Hassan telephoned rabbis to offer her support. Over 1,000 people attended the annual commemoration of Kristallnacht in Keene on November 9.

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

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

Rabbi Levi Krinsky, Director Chabad of Manchester, said, "I really believe in humanity and I think a very high percentage, 99.9 percent of Americans, are good, kind, compassionate, caring people. I think the average American would jump into a burning car or house to save an animal or a human life. We have to learn to trust each other."

Jewish Federation takes leadership role, arranging meetings with officials and helping institutions plan security

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH), based in Manchester, has taken a leadership role in responding to the community's intensified security concerns. In the wake of the tragedy at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, JFNH moved swiftly to connect with local, state, and federal officials to create a task force supporting the needs of Jewish entities throughout the state. JFNH also has a long-standing relationship with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a national organization.

"A threat to one of us is a threat to all of us," said Melanie Zalman McDonald, JFNH Executive Director. "Within one week of the tragedy in Pittsburgh, JFNH leadership called a meeting in Concord with our State Security Partners (State Police, FBI, Dept. of Homeland Security, FBI) to discuss our concerns on behalf of the congregations. I felt very reassured at our big meeting a week before Thanksgiving with state police, the FBI, and security officials at the highest level. I was impressed by their willingness to

learn and work with us to keep things culturally aware," McDonald said.

The November meeting began a long-term collaboration with public officials to provide their guidance and expertise, working alongside local Jewish leaders to aid in further hardening of facilities and to prepare New Hampshire's Jewish community in the event of a threat or natural disaster.

JFNH has formed a security committee which is surveying organizations and giving them self-assessment tools. It plans training for active-shooter scenarios, responding to anti-Semitism, and balancing congregational security with a welcoming, open-door policy. It is organizing a presentation and panel discussion on understanding hate crime statutes and working with local and state security partners.

"We are seeing a return to the fold of Jews who were not previously connected. They feel a sense of ownership, concern, and connection. It's not easy to be a Jew in New Hampshire. There is more identifying and more self-presenting," said McDonald.

Rabbis advise on countering anti-Semitism

Rabbi Beth Davidson, of Temple Adath Yeshurun on Prospect Street, described anti-Semitism as "a subtle, societal statement of being an outsider." She said, "In recent years, there has been a very disturbing trend towards marginalizing or demonizing people who are different for skin color, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnic background. I think that we are seeing the dissolution of what used to be American society into these tiny groups of people. It's really disturbing."

The pastor of a New Boston church invited her there to speak about it. She said, "I told them that if you ask any American Jew between the age of 8 and 80, they are all going to share some kind of story about how it personally touched their lives. There was a gasp in the congregation."

Rabbi Davidson then told them, "I'm frankly happy to hear that you all find that so disturbing. But here's what you can do about it. When you hear people telling so-called ethnic jokes, or when you hear people denigrating some other community, call them on it. It's not okay. It's not funny. It's not acceptable behavior. Language is important. And if everybody stood up and said, 'We're not going to put up with that, and here's what's wrong with what you said,' that makes a change. Each and every one of you can be an agent of change if you're willing to

tell your friend or your coworker that it's not acceptable. That is part of our social contract as Americans."

Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski, of Temple Israel on Salmon Street [Manchester], also cited an increase in overt anti-Semitism in the last couple of years. He said, "We have this idea that isn't supposed to happen here in America, of all places. While it's shocking, we have to work through that, from ignorance to denial, shock, and then acceptance."

Rabbi Szczepanski recalled the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA, last year, that stopped in front of the local Reform synagogue and shouted slogans and a counter-protestor was killed by a car plowing the crowd. Rabbi Szczepanski said a colleague and friend had just moved there to an apartment one block away from the fatal incident. He sees it as part of an escalation leading to the killings in Pittsburgh and called it "a wake-up call."

"Never in a million years did we think what happened over in Europe in the '30s and '40s could ever happen here, especially since America was one of the nations that allied together to fight against that," Szczepanski said. He called anti-Semitism an irrational social disease, like a virus.

Local institutions are reviewing and improving security measures

Over 20 years ago, Temple Adath Yeshurun, the largest synagogue in Manchester, kept its doors open whenever people were present. Since then, the temple installed a security system. More recently, it started screening visitors and locking its doors after people enter for services, programs, or education. During heavily-attended High Holidays services, worshippers wear identification badges.

"There was a sense that Manchester was changing, and that we needed to change along with the times," Rabbi Davidson said. "Having the door locked is counter intuitive and counterproductive to what a synagogue should be. But the reality was, we didn't have somebody sitting at the door. And when you're in the sanctuary, you can't hear the doorbell or the front door opening and closing. We want to be aware of people walking into the building." When the synagogue is open to the community, it has police present.

"It's a sad comment on the times that we live in that insurance companies now offer active shooter insurance. That tells you about the change in the world that

Hate Crimes continued on page 8

PJ Our Way Welcomes a National Leadership Team Member From New Hampshire



Jonas Welch, 11, of New Hampshire, has been chosen by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) in partnership with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, to join the new national PJ Our Way Leadership Team!

As part of a Harold Grinspoon Foundation initiative to create kid-driven local programming for tweens, Jonas and nine other team members from across America will participate in monthly leadership trainings, explore what interests excite them, and learn how to translate their enthusiasm into action.



Jonas Welch

The six-month program gives team members opportunities to form friendships with kids from a variety of different Jewish communities. During this time together, they will learn skills such as visioning, goal setting, marketing, and pro-

gram planning. Team Leadership kids will also be paired up with local PJ Library professionals to achieve a goal of creating a program that can be used as a model for tween engagement.

“From our very first meeting where we explored what really matters to us, I realized just how much these kids care about their world and how each one is ready to take action to build something meaningful and fun for their peers,” said Saskia Swenson Moss, who directs the Leadership Team.

Each participating community has been granted \$250 dollars to help make this program happen.

Jonas said, “I want to be part of this team because I think events are a great way to bring a community together. I think that I can be a good contributor to

this team because I am bursting at the seams with ideas, and I am also pretty crafty. I believe that in a good community, there is friendship, teamwork, joy, kindness, and FUN!”

“This is an incredible opportunity for a tween from New Hampshire to have a hand in creating a program his community will get the chance to participate in. As a new PJ Our Way community, I can’t think of a better way to get our tweens excited about programming!” said Allyson Guertin, the PJ Library/PJ Our Way Coordinator for the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

The PJ Library adventure continues with PJ Our Way, where kids ages 9-11 can log in to a child-safe website each month to choose a free Jewish chapter

book. PJ Our Way members can write book reviews, read blogs, watch kid-created book trailers and author interviews, and access activities just for them.

The PJ Our Way program is supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, based in Agawam, MA. Sign-up is available at www.pjourway.org

PJ Library® is an award-winning program started by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that engages families in their Jewish journey by providing free Jewish books and music to families around the world. PJ Library has partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations in more than 200 communities in the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit www.pjlibrary.org.

Hate Crimes continued from page 7

we live in. We want to try to take every reasonable precaution we can and to feel safe in the building and have the community feel safe, but we refuse to live behind a moat,” Davidson said.

Like Temple Adath Yeshurun, Chabad of Manchester, on River Road [Manchester], has a security system and cameras, which were installed when they moved into the newly renovated building last year, according to Rabbi Krinsky.

Manchester hosts a Jewish summer day camp and a preschool. Other camps are in Amherst, Brookline, Hampstead, and Nottingham. JFNH organizes an annual Jewish film festival in the spring at various locations around the state. All have heightened security requirements.

Police described as responsive

Rabbi Davidson praised the Manchester police department for their responsiveness.

“They have been extremely responsive, and we’ve done numerous walk-throughs with them. They sent a mounted patrol after Pittsburgh, which thrilled the kids. It was a good opportunity to talk about how the police are our friends and they’re here to keep us safe,” Davidson said. “Some of the kids thought that the horses were waving at them!” she added, with a laugh.

Rabbi Krinsky agreed the local police have been highly responsive. After a few phone calls, he arranged a state police detail to cover the lighting of the menorah on the State House plaza. It was delayed an hour while the bomb squad X-rayed and cleared a suspicious box.

“The anti-Semites are amongst us and

have always been, and they do from time to time rear their ugly heads, but we should not change who we are or let it define us,” Rabbi Krinsky said. “The synagogue is the backbone of the community. It’s where people come to pray, to socialize, to get to know each other. It’s important that we are able to live and let live.”

Rabbi Krinsky, who has a long beard and a wears a black hat, said he feels safe and comfortable going about his daily business or walking the mile from his home to the synagogue, where neighbors often greet him with friendliness. “By no means am I fearful or feel any sense of concern or safety for my life,” he said. Through people he met while walking, he has been invited to speak to a large French-Canadian club about Jewish faith and beliefs.

“When you withdraw, you give these people in part what they want: They’ve not only created fear for the moment, but they’ve impacted our lives. I don’t want to give them that kind of power over myself or over the community,” Rabbi Davidson said.

Rabbi Szczepanski agreed. “The message of Hanukkah is for Jews to walk tall with our heads held high, not hiding who we are. This is not what these rising factions of anti-Semites here in America want us to do. It’s the nature of terrorism is to disrupt the natural order. We must not let it cripple us or make us feel like we must go into hiding. Our best approach is to strengthen ourselves, create more light (metaphorically speaking), hold stronger values, and do more good deeds for holiness and the sacredness of this world,” Szczepanski said.

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Volunteer Spotlight: Harry Shepler

By Sheila Salenger

Meet Harry Shepler, whose favorite activity is the NH Jewish Film Festival! In fact, during the interview with this active financial guru, we “traded” titles of Israeli films on Netflix.

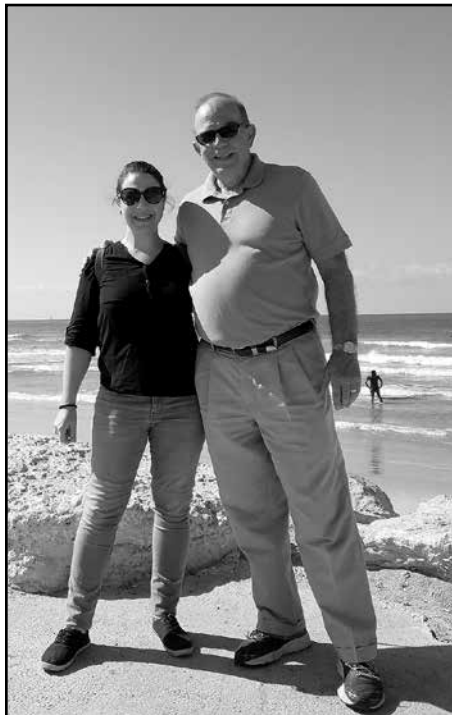
Harry lives in Bedford, and he has racked up more than 40 years in the financial services field, focusing on life insurance and money management. He is a chartered financial consultant as well as a registered investment advisor.

About five or six years ago, Harry’s initial involvement with JFNH made him fully aware of the significance of the position of shlichah. Not only is the work of the shlichah of value for the State of Israel, but for Americans Jews to understand and appreciate the strides achieved by this beleaguered democracy.

Via the shlichah program, Harry met Israelis at the Nashua Film Festival, and since that meeting he has visited them on his trips to Israel. Friendships forged here in New Hampshire do carry over to Israeli sojourns!

Harry serves on the Board of the Currier Museum in Manchester, and he first met JFNH executive director Melanie Zalman McDonald at an event sponsored by the museum.

One of his Federation contributions



Harry Shepler and former JFNH Shlichah Shlomit Bar-Levav on the shore in Tel Aviv last October.

has been making phone calls for donations for JFNH. Harry’s exuberance about being active in JFNH spills over during these calls, as he encourages others to get involved in Jewish causes, both personally as well as through donations, just as he has.

Campaign continued from page 1

New Hampshire should go without access to PJ Library books and programs to provide a gateway to Jewish values and Jewish continuity.

That everyone should have a chance to learn about Israel and to feel a part of it through the important role of our emissary.

That all of those in need should be offered responsive assistance with cultural sensitivity and a warm Jewish perspective.

That young people should have access to early childhood education in a Jewish environment.

That The Jewish Reporter is important: It keeps us connected, informed, and together despite the miles between our shtetls.

And so, we continue to serve you, always doing more with less, always looking to innovate and engage our statewide Jewish community, and always maintaining our high programming standards despite what we may lack in revenue.

As we approach the end of our dark-

est, coldest time of year, I ask that you consider what you love most about JFNH, and I challenge you to support it. If you’ve already made your pledge, we thank you and challenge you to do more: Consider making a monthly automated pledge of \$18 or \$36, earmarked to the program you love the most. If you haven’t already made your donation this year, dig deep, and pledge generously, to ensure that what you love will continue to be a bright light for a long time to come.

Support what you love with a gift in any dollar amount to Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Make your gift before June 30, 2019, and you’ll be listed in our Campaign Honor Roll reflecting a strong and growing spirit of generosity that is the hallmark of our Jewish community. To make your pledge, call us at (603) 627-7679 or visit www.jewishnh.org/give. To speak with us about a gift of appreciated stock, or creating a donor-advised/named legacy fund, please reach out to Melanie at director@jewishnh.org or (603) 627-7679.



Presented by the
Jewish Federation of NH
nhjewishfilmfestival.org

Become a Friend of the Festival The 11th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival premieres April 4-14, 2019

Playing in Theaters Statewide
Manchester, Merrimack, Concord,
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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

NH Jewish Film Festival Offers Sneak Peak at This Year's Highlights

JFNH Signature Program

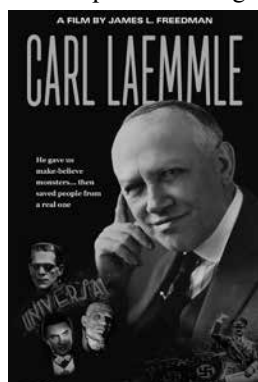
It's hard to believe! The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is celebrating its 11th year this April. As each year passes, we get another year older, better, and more entertaining.

This year's Festival includes 14 films and runs from April 4 to April 14, 2019. We will show films in five New Hampshire locations: Manchester, Concord, Merrimack, Peterborough, and Portsmouth.

Our Jewish Film Festival is an annual Jewish Federation of New Hampshire event with an innovative approach to diversity that encompasses strong Jewish contributions to world culture, using the power of storytelling and film to thematically explore our human experience. The Festival promotes the preservation of Jewish culture by showing films with themes, encouraging a dialogue about a variety of issues. The movies will engage, enlighten, educate, inspire, and entertain moviegoers of all ages. There will be talk-backs, post film discussions, and other surprises.

Here's a sneak peak of the Festival line up:

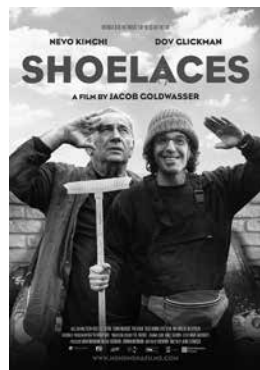
- Our Gala Event, at the Currier Museum in Manchester, will be held on Saturday, April 6. The film is *Carl Laemmle*, a documentary by James Freedman. Carl Laemmle was one of the most powerful moguls of Hollywood's



Golden Era, and an unsung Jewish-American hero who saved over 300 Jewish families from the Holocaust. Laemmle finally gets his due in this captivating biography of a German-born

immigrant who began in the garment trade and went on to found Universal Pictures, thereby helping to establish Hollywood as the world's movie capital. We are delighted to have as a special guest Bob Treitel from Nashua, whose grandparents were saved by Carl Laemmle. James Freedman, the director, will also join us via Skype.

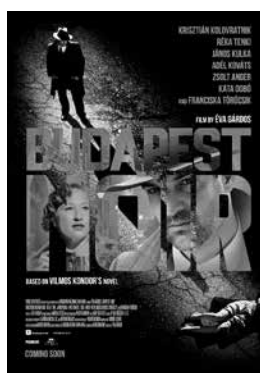
- *Shoelaces*, directed by Jacob Goldwasser, is a 2018 Israeli film starring Nevo Kimchi and Dov Glickman. It tells the story of a complicated relationship between an aging father and his special-needs son, whom he abandoned when



his son was young. Director Jacob Goldwasser states: "*Shoelaces* is a special project for me. As a father of a special needs son, I never felt that the depiction of special needs characters

on film rang true. However, when I saw Nevo Kimchi's work, I was dumfounded. He created a special needs character, who was human and real, filled with humor, optimism, and charm."

- *Budapest Noir*, a 2018 Hungarian thriller directed by Eva Gardos, is based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Vilmos Kondor. A hard-boiled reporter investigates the brutal murder of a prostitute, leading him into the dark underworld of 1930s



pre-Nazi Hungary. When the young Jewish woman is found beaten to death, no one is interested in solving the bizarre crime except the cynical but doggedly inquisitive Zsigmond Gordon (Krisztián Kolovratnik), who feels things are not what they seem. The murky clues eventually lead to a shadowy world of pornographers and brothels, crime syndicates and Communist cells, and the highest echelons of power, just as Hungary's fascist-leaning government prepares to align with Hitler. The more people try to scare him away, the more determined Gordon is to discover the truth. A politically charged tale of corruption and betrayal, this richly

atmospheric murder mystery will leave rapt audiences guessing until its surprising climax.

- Our Closing Event and Wrap Party will be held at Red River Theatre, Concord, on Sunday, April 14. *Heading Home — the Tale of Team Israel*, a documentary directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, and Jeremy Newberger, will be the final film. This film is a stirring story of sports, patriotism, and personal



growth, charting the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team, competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. The team's odyssey takes it from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where its members are greeted as heroes, to Seoul, South Korea, where they must debunk their has-been, wannabe reputation. With their Mensch on

the Bench mascot by their side, the team members laugh, cry, and do much soul-searching, discovering the pride of representing Israel on the world stage. Special guests to be announced.

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is delighted and proud to announce that it has been awarded the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts General Project Grant again this year. The competitive General Project Grant in the amount of \$3,600 will help to support the 11th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival.

The Festival would not be possible without the valued support of grantors and sponsors, such as the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, Business Sponsors, Friends of the Festival, Committee members, the JFNH Board and staff leadership, and film lovers like you. Heartfelt thanks to our loyal and enthusiastic audience for your annual attendance.

Stay tuned for the entire schedule, which will be available in mid-February, and for the announcement that ticket sales are open. You don't want to miss out!

tion that is there to serve the New Hampshire Jewish people in every capacity that might be of importance to individuals. If you care about your young children's development, you can rely on JFNH's work with PJ Library. If you're concerned about the safety of your local synagogue, JFNH's resources and contacts in law enforcement at the local, state, and national level can help maintain vigilance. If you enjoy films with Jewish content, and watching them with other Jews, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival magically appears every year. If you care about the next generation's connection to Israel, the Federation's Israel Experience Program provides grants for teens to spend an entire summer immersed in the grandeur of the Holy Land, much as I did 19 years ago. There truly is some aspect of Federation for everyone!

Ross Fishbein continued from page 3

JCC. I ended up making that move and spent six years there.

My wife likes to say that I moved back from Austin in early 2017 because I needed to find her. That's not *entirely* true. I was actually anticipating being here as part of a short transition period; however, I met my wife, Jennifer, the day after I returned. That changed the entire trajectory of my plans and my life, all for the better! Once I knew I was making New Hampshire my home again, I felt it important, as I had in every previous place I lived, to establish roots with the Jewish community. I find it comforting to be among Jewish people, which is why I immediately became involved locally.

My first year back, I served on the "Young(er) Adult" Jewish Film Festival screening committee, and then I got involved with the NH Jewish Film Festival committee, generally. I love film, particularly independent films or films that don't generally come to local theaters, so being a part of the Film Festival and participating in the screenings of all the films to help choose the ones that best reflect the JFNH mission is a real honor.

I was recently asked to join the JFNH board, where I currently serve on the Film Festival, Audit, and Governance committees, and where I chair the Security committee. I believe it's important to give to JFNH because it is an organiza-

Last summer, I established my own law practice, where I represent technology businesses throughout the United States with their software licensing and other business and legal needs. When not working, my wife and I enjoy hiking and traveling. We just returned in late fall from our honeymoon in South Africa and the Seychelles Islands, and we are planning trips this year to Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Tanzania, and Rwanda. We also consider ourselves foodies, and will drive up to four hours roundtrip for a good meal. We welcome any and all recommendations!



Studying Jewish History in Israel: A Mind-Changing Experience

 JFNH Signature Program

By Eli Feldmann

It felt as though I could have touched it from where I was standing. From the top of a small, sandy cliff and beneath a sunny, clear sky, I was able to see two cities thousands of miles apart, yet, if not for a border and, to put it lightly, a feud, one could drive from one to the other in no more than 15 minutes. Between Gaza City and Sderot, a hill was burnt black, evidence of the violent nature of the disagreement of ideas. Surrounded by some of my closest friends, it was hard to imagine that the place we were looking at contained such radically different opinions and worldviews that it was nearly impossible for the two sides to reconcile and understand each other. However, this type of mind-blowing experience was not out of the ordinary during the four months I studied in Israel. It was but one piece of an ever-complex and changing puzzle I had the privilege to discover.

Each morning over the course of the four months I spent in Israel on the Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI) program, I attended the Jewish/Israel history class with these same friends in an attempt to wrap our heads around stories just like the one between Gaza and Israel. Over the course of the semester, we learned about our ancestors hundreds of generations before us, those we have only black and white pictures of, and movements we knew were history in the making. We discussed the different classes of people who lived in Jerusalem during the time of the second temple and their relationships to each other and the Romans. We discussed the way Jews were treated in Medieval times and the Christian beliefs, like the Witness Theory (Similar to the Mark of Cain -- the mark that shames the

Jews for their crimes but at the same time protects them from danger), that caused this relationship. We learned about the Holocaust and what led up to it, the creation of the State of Israel and many perspectives on it, the wars/tensions its creation has caused, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a never-ending story with many different sides. To analyze each of these stories from every perspective was in no way easy, but it was worthwhile. It was one of the first opportunities I've had to learn about a subject in such an in-depth and effective way.

One day each week, we traveled around Israel to the site of some historic event we were learning about in class. While learning about the Jewish uprising against the Romans, for example, we hiked up Masada to have class and take notes on the Jews' last stand where it actually happened. While learning about the Yom Kippur war, we traveled to the Golan Heights overlooking Syria, and during our studies of Jewish life in Europe before and in the midst of the Holocaust, we spent a week traveling around Poland. Many of these trips were not completely academic; some of the day was spent walking around a mall for lunch, hiking through sandy mountains, or just enjoying a view.

This bombardment of concepts and history taught me that nothing is simple and to never judge a situation or, more importantly, a headline, too quickly. In order to think out a situation logically and reach the truth, it is imperative to trust the facts whether or not they align with your own beliefs. I have gained the tools necessary to solve problems and situations rationally through my experience in the Jewish/Israel history class.

Academics were only half the experience of AMHSI. The other half was meeting, living with, and having copious amounts of fun with over 50 other students. We all lived in one dorm separated



The first hike of the semester, going down Mt. Gilboa, retracing the steps of King Saul in his final battle against the Philistines, during which he died.

into four-person rooms on three floors. Our whole group being in one building made for afternoons hanging out in common areas, organizing basketball games at the courts, or getting involved in various, frequent shenanigans. If we didn't feel like staying on campus, we had the opportu-

nity to go out and experience an Israeli downtown full of stores and restaurants of all kinds. A favorite of many was a smoothie stand called Moshiko's. Some ordered in Domino's every night instead of going to the dining hall, which was free and served very good food three meals a day. Every day was whatever you made it.

I would like to thank the AMHSI Scholarship Committee, the JFNH Israel Experience Grant Program, and the Southern NH Jewish Men's Club Bruce Retchin/Neil Goren Fund for providing me with generous monetary support, which helped me to take a step out of my white, suburban bubble in Londonderry, New Hampshire, to expose myself to different cultures, ideas, and beliefs that taught me openness, understanding, and appreciation toward these differences.

Eli is the son of Marcia and Bob Feldmann of Londonderry. He received an Israel Experience Grant from JFNH for study at AMHSI.

Camps continued from page 1

the JFNH Annual Campaign. In 2018, four NH teens received Israel Experience grants.

For more information and to apply for a grant, contact Nancy Frankel, JFNH Grant Chair: corkysmagic@gmail.com (603-472-3983).

Annabelle and Arnold Cohen Camp Grants

To honor the lifetime contribution of Annabelle and Arnold Cohen to the Jewish Federation of NH, the Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps offer special grants to in-

come-eligible New Hampshire families at all three of their camps: Tevya, TelNoar, and Pembroke. Check them out at: www.cohencamps.org.

For more information and to apply for a grant, contact Nancy Frankel, JFNH Grant Chair: corkysmagic@gmail.com (603-472-3983).

We know that these opportunities are of great significance for our New Hampshire kids who have little opportunity to interact with Jewish peers. Your contribution to the JFNH Annual Campaign makes possible these opportunities for a life-changing experience for our NH children.



Hamantashen Bake

All children 0-8 are welcome

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2:00pm

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A collaboration of PJ Library - New Hampshire and Temple Israel Manchester



Happy New Year – for the Trees, That Is!

The “minor” holiday, Tu, 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, occurs this year on Monday, January 21. It is the day on the Jewish calendar dedicated to the care, appreciation, and love of nature and the environment. Tu B’Shevat is also a spiritual way to connect to the rhythm of the Earth and her seasons. The most popular ritual of this holiday (beyond planting parsley seeds for Passover) is a seder. The 17th century mystics in the ancient *Pri Etz Hadar* provided the first written version of the seder, and it’s been expanded in recent times to include readings, poetry, art, and song. It’s loosely based on the Passover Seder, with a short Haggadah and four glasses of wine that are paired with fruits and nuts. Each of these has symbolic meaning for our spiritual lives.

Mystics say that when we bite into the seder foods, we release intention and di-

| Rabbi in the House | |
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vine sparks of energy into the world. These return to the Ultimate Source, which overflows and brings divine energy back down -- kind of like a spiritual version of the way a tree absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen into the atmosphere. The seder is meant to elevate the spirit, as participants ascend four mystical levels through foods and their blessings. Each helps renew the flow in the Universe and in each of us. Just a “minor” holiday? Think again. The releasing and re-energizing of the “sacred sap” of life happens in

the dead of winter. While all things appear completely frozen over, stuck and numbed in their growth patterns, it’s exactly the opposite. Underneath all the powdery white snow and apparent stagnation, the cycle of life is being renewed -- both in nature and in our own lives.

As a new year for the trees, our ancient and agricultural ancestors used this time of year for annual and agricultural tithes. Thus we learn in the Mishnah that there are actually four “new years” -- Rosh Hashana, Tu B’Shevat, the first of Nissan (beginning of our redemption from Egypt), and the first of Elul (tithing of cattle). As a new year or “birthday for the trees,” our ancestors would also know when it was permissible to eat fruit from fruit-bearing trees (after three years old). Beyond tithing and eating, there’s planting. While it’s not the right weather for us now, a talmudic tale tells us of Choni the

Circle Maker, who famously asked a man planting a tree, “Will you live long enough to enjoy its fruits?” The man answered, “I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I’m planting for my children.”

Of course, it’s up to us to plan for future generations, but Tu B’Shevat also invites us to be grounded in the present. Trees are held in such high esteem in our tradition that they’re to be protected during war, and Shimon bar Yochai taught, “If you are holding a sapling in your hand and someone says the Messiah is coming, first, plant the sapling and only then, go ahead and make your greeting.” Thus, whatever is happening in our own lives, be it good, bad, or of messianic import, a Jewish new year for the trees reminds us of just how important it is to be rooted in the here and now, in the soil and blessings of a new year of life.

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Co-ed • So spirited

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CohenCamps 

Summer Camp

Jewish Summer Camps Deliver Values, Fun, Teamwork, Relationships

The NH Jewish Reporter asked our Jewish summer camps to tell us what makes their camp special and/or what values they seek to instill. Here are their answers:

Camp Young Judaea

One Jewish value that Camp Young Judaea instills in campers is *Chesed*, often translated as kindness. We offer our campers many ways to perform "*gemilut hasidim*," acts of loving kindness, in their everyday life at camp and when they return home. At CYJ, we are intentional about emphasizing the importance of being kind to others and to ourselves. Our staff members model, mentor, and provide opportunities to practice inclusion and understanding through programs like our Big Brother/Big Sister program and Mitzvah Day. At CYJ, "no child is left behind" or left out. Rather than being concerned about family background, physical appearance, or religious practices or beliefs, we focus on the character at-

tributes that make people our friends — kindness, compassion and true friendship -- and creating opportunities to give back to others.

Camp Hadar

Why attend Camp Hadar? Campers experience joy in a Jewish camp community, develop self-confidence, and forge Jewish connections. Research has proven that children who attend Jewish summer camp are more likely to identify as Jewish adults and actively engage in the Jewish community. Camp Hadar is a hidden gem that continues to grow and invest in our facilities and our Jewish youth.

Camp Gan Israel

What makes Camp Gan Israel unique? At Gan Izzy (as it's fondly called,) fun is sacred. It's what keeps our campers coming back, summer after summer. New programs in 2019 will include Hula Dance, a CGI Ball Pit, and this year, SuperME. A typical camp day includes swimming, sports, art, and a new weekly

STEM workshop. The highlight of our week is our Thursday full day trips, which include Coco Keys and Canobie Lake Park! Safety is our priority, and our high staff-to-camper ratio, safety protocols, staff qualifications, and training ensure that your children will always be in capable hands. CGI has a strong focus on Jewish pride and spirit. Jewish singing, stories, and lessons from Jewish heroes all play a role in the fun at camp. Our camper group is very diverse, encompassing all types of backgrounds and observances.

Cohen Camps

At the three Cohen Camps—Pembroke, Tel Noar, and Tevya—campers experience exciting, inspiring Jewish daily life that celebrates heritage, Israel and Jewish values. The camps call their philosophies Our 10 Commitments (cohen-camps.org/values), and #1 is *Chevrot*, Friendship and Teamwork. In the studio and the lake, on the stage and the field, in Shabbat services or late-night bunk talks,

friendships are the starting point for confidence, maturity, and Jewish identity. Together with their forever-friends, young people laugh, cheer, listen, hug, share, and flourish. As a team, staff collaborate and create meaningful experiences. Because the three camps also work as a team, families enjoy the personal nature of a family-run camp along with the resources and professionalism of a well-established nonprofit.

Camp Avoda

Camp Avoda promotes a wide variety of Jewish values. Community participation is a value that is held at a very high level. By developing relationships with peers, older campers, and staff, and modeling camp life for younger newer campers, our boys learn first-hand about how to live as part of a community. Camp Avoda alumni retain very close relationships with one another as well as with camp as they become young adults and beyond!

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CAMP HADAR



Friendships



Memories



Camp Hadar

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New
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Register for 4 or more weeks and
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April 1st and receive an
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Why choose



Remember swimming and boating in a lake?
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Can you feel the camp ruach during special days, overnights?
Can you taste the s'mores and hear the songs by the campfire?

Give your children **THE CLASSIC** summer camp experience that
you remember as a child and have them experience **NEW**
traditions like paddle boarding, kayaking, knock out,
workshops, leagues, Gaga, and more! Register your child for
a summer of friendships and memories at Camp Hadar!



What's New

at  ?

THEME WEEKS

In 2019, we are redesigning our **Special Days** and theming each week of camp!

Workshops, Arts & Crafts, Athletics, Music, Snacks,
Fieldtrips, Flagpole, Special Days, and MORE will all be part
of the weekly themed experience!

2019

Theme Weeks

- Week 1: HOLIDAYS
- Week 2: Spirit Week
- Week 3: Wet N' Wild Week
- Week 4: Adventure Week
- Week 5: Hollywood Week
- Week 6: Color War
- Week 7: All Star Sports Week
- Week 8: Friendships and
Memories Week

Summer Camp

Thank You, JFNH!

JFNH Signature Program

By Jack and Sam Krasnof

Thank you so much for providing scholarships so that we could attend Camp Bauercrest in Amesbury, MA, for the first time this past summer. We spent 3½ weeks at overnight camp, where we made new friends, played lots of sports, and learned many new games such as European handball, shutterball, Newcomb and Gaga ball. We loved boating and waterskiing on Lake Attitash, and the huge in-ground pool with daily free swim was the best part of our day.

We took part in several electives, including card games, broadcasting, and DIY crafts. The highlights for us were the special activities like Army/Navy Day, when the whole camp competed in various activities, and the Casino Day. We also enjoyed field trips to Water Country and Boda Borg.



Jack and Sam enjoying the swimming pool at Camp Bauercrest.

Our parents chose to send us to Camp Bauercrest because it has an excellent reputation and they knew that we would enjoy meeting other Jewish boys and playing lots of sports. We are so happy they sent us that we have registered to go back this coming summer and hope that we can stay even longer this time.

Jack and Sam are the sons of Rebecca and Bruce Krasnof of Windham. They received JFNH Campership Grants for children attending Jewish summer camp for the first time.

Sci Tech Camp Was a Hit

JFNH Signature Program

By Leah Shuldiner

Both my kids attended URJ 6 Points Sci Tech Academy, a camp in Byfield, MA, last summer. My son has gone for four years, and my daughter went for the first time this summer. Both kids plan to return in the fall, and my son is looking forward to his 10th grade summer with Sci Tech Israel.

I think the best way to tell you about camp is to quote a letter from my daughter, Elisabetta. "Dear Mom and Dad, I love this camp. There is something I want to tell you. I find this funny and



David (14) and Elisabetta (10) had great fun at URJ 6 Points Sci Tech.

weird. The thing is that I have not felt the tiniest bit homesick. I think it is because it feels like home."

Elisabetta Shuldiner received a JFNH Campership Grant to attend URJ 6 Points Sci Tech East. This grant goes to NH children attending Jewish summer camp for the first time.

Elisabetta Shuldiner received a JFNH Campership Grant to attend URJ 6 Points Sci Tech East. This grant goes to NH children attending Jewish summer camp for the first time.

URJ 6 Points Academy: Super Fun!

JFNH Signature Program

By Jack Atkins

I am so thankful for the grant that allowed me to try my first Jewish sleep-away camp. Going to URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy was the highlight of my summer. The camp is housed on the campus of Governors Academy in Newbury, MA, so campers have one or two roommates in dorms and use the beautiful state-of-the-art facilities on campus. The food was great, too!

My favorite parts of my two weeks were the color war and playing in the common room with my hallmates in our section of our dorm. The color war is when campers and counselors of any dorm and all ages are split up into teams represented by different colors and all the teams do stations that are different each

session depending on the theme. The theme for the session I was there was live action role play, or LARP.

What makes Sci-Tech really different than other camps is that campers choose a workshop concentration for the longest section of the daily schedule. There are other electives and free time, as well. The workshop I chose was chemistry. We did many fun experiments, and I learned a lot. My favorite experiment was when we used different chemicals to change the color of fire! Overall, Sci-Tech was super fun, and I am definitely going back next year.



Jack discovered chemistry could be fun at URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy

Thank you so much for the grant I was so lucky to get!

Jack is the son of Elise and Doug Atkins of Salem. He received a JFNH first-time campership grant to attend URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy.

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Tel Aviv Wedding Party and the Discovery of a Different Israel

By Stephen Soreff, MD

Since 1960, I have made a number of trips to Israel. This time, on December 28, 2018, I landed at Ben Gurion Airport to attend the wedding party of my daughter, Matana. Her real, official marriage was in Boston on September 16, conducted by my Rabbi Peter Levy. Because of Israel's marriage regulations, they preferred an American wedding to just flying to Cyprus for the occasion. So the "wedding" in Israel was a celebration party for the families and their friends. It was also held on secular New Year's Eve.

I have always said, "You can never predict what your child will become." This is my maxim to all parents. Growing up, Matana was not too fond of her Jewish female friends, nor was she thrilled with her Bat Mitzvah. But time moved on, and she went to Suffolk University in Boston. There, she heard about Birthright and worked to get accepted and go. She liked the American Jews and Israelis she met during her Birthright trip. After two internship programs in Israel, she made aliyah. Later, she met a marvelous Israeli named Daniel, whom she married.

Since I came to Israel for my daughter's wedding, as Matana's mother-in-law put it, "You are a visitor, not a tourist." In that spirit, I discovered different aspects of Israeli life. As a tourist, my focus was on seeing things. I stayed in hotels where staff catered to us. This time, we stayed in a rented apartment. Family structured the activities, sung to the tune of "getting to know you, getting to know all about you." And, as an apartment-renting "resident" of Tel Aviv for a week, I could live for the moment as an Israeli. Thus, my first official act in this new status was to purchase toilet paper. It turns out I could only locate packages of 12 rolls. As a result, I gave Matana and Daniel another wedding gift: nine rolls of toilet paper.

As a temporary, proud resident of Tel Aviv, I made some observations about Israelis and Israel. First, I found that they are always in a hurry. Here is a riddle: What is the world's shortest time interval? Answer: The time between the traffic light turning green and an Israeli driver honking his horn. They are remarkably impatient. As an Israeli engineering project organizer once said, "We build first; plan later."

Israelis are masters of multitasking. Daily, I witnessed women and men on their bicycles with a small infant in a bike

seat, maneuvering through a variety of obstacles, all while talking on their cell phones. One of my taxi drivers did a crossword puzzle while stopped for a red light. I occasionally reminded him that the light had turned green. However, in that situation, the horn on green made sense. Whatever, they are doing it, while talking on the mobile phone.

Israelis walk seemingly deliberately without regard for others in their path. Some might say it is arrogance or even chutzpah. There was a famous joke: "How does an Israeli commit suicide? By jumping off his ego!" What we see here is an Israeli feeling of confidence. As one cab driver told me, "I fought in the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, and the invasion of Lebanon. We won because had to win." He said this with pride and determination. They show by their gait, their posture, and their presence that they can take care of themselves. I felt more secure about Israel's future when I was there than I did back in America watching the news.

Yes, we did walk and walk and walk in Tel Aviv. But it was to see folks, have dinner, or just chat. On several occasions, we ambled to the Mediterranean. But even there on the beach, what was most memorable was our conversation with a couple who had just visited Mount Sinai. I recall seeing a movie featuring a British soldier who said, "I've been from Singapore to Suez, but what I remember are the people I met." This was so true of my visit. I replayed mentally with delight all the folks I met on this visit.

Speaking of people, as Peggy (my partner) and I roamed the streets of Tel Aviv, I had two lasting impressions. First, we were the only folks there without a dog. Everyone and everywhere, people were walking their dogs. Second, I never saw a typical Israeli. They come in all shapes and sizes. Many are young and attractive. All are hurrying and on their cell phones. I found that Israel is a nation of immigrants. Yes, even the Sabras had stories to tell of their parents or grandparents moving to Israel, from India, England, Ukraine, Argentina, Norway, and the United States, to name a few. Israel is a nation of nations.

In our apartment, there was a magnificent bouquet of white tulips, which Matana's new employer had given to her. Just after secular new year, she was to take on a new job. I was impressed by how nice a gesture that was. I discovered the compassion and kindness Israelis

show to each other. When a woman tripped and fell in the Carmel market, a dozen folks hurried to her aid. I once asked Matana the reason she liked Israel so much. She replied that one cold winter's night she was without a coat. A woman came up to her and told her to wear a heavier jacket. In Israel, everyone is a Jewish mother and, moreover, everyone is family.

I also fell in love with the Israeli sense of humor. In Tel Aviv, there is a plastic statue of David Ben Gurion in a bathing suit standing on his head. He was famous for that posture as a health treatment. Even so, that is funny. Imagine a statue of George Washington with that pose.

Even funnier was how the couple turned their party into a delightful "wedding" ceremony. Remember, the real one had already occurred in Boston. The bride and groom walked arm in arm to be under a chuppah. The chuppah was held up by four wooden poles supported by male friends or relatives. Also under the chuppah was a poster picture of their cat, CJ. Matana's friend served as the master of ceremonies. He noted in Israel, new employees go through a three-month "grace" period. During that time, both the employee and the employer can see if they are suited to the job. He would apply that principle to their marriage. What followed was so cool. Seven friends and

relatives recited a quote each from seven movies. This corresponded to the seven blessings at a wedding. Then he asked them three questions about the marriage. They responded positively to each inquiry. With that done, he asked if the couple wished their marriage to continue. They both said yes, and with his permission, they kissed. The 170 guests cheered.

One other quality I noticed about Israelis is how their shows of affection can be over the top. I saw a marvelous example of this at the dinner that my son-in-law's father hosted at his restaurant the night before the wedding party. The restaurant is in Jaffa, in a building constructed during the Ottoman control of the region. There were about 40 folks there. The appetizers and desserts were amazing in both variety and quantity. But the centerpiece of the meal was an entire roasted lamb. He was so proud of it that he asked all the guests to take pictures of it. I also witnessed numerous loving moments of parents to their children.

So, flying home I carried memories of Israelis in my mind and heart and a few pictures in the camera. I saw a different Israel this time. Yes, I shall return to Israel both as a visitor and a tourist. There is so much to see and do in Israel. But it is family I will really return to. I love Israelis and Israel.

Patriots Owner Robert Kraft Honored With Genesis Prize

Israel — The Genesis Prize Foundation has announced that the owner of the New England Patriots football team, Robert Kraft, is its 2019 Genesis Prize Laureate. Mr. Kraft is a prominent American-Jewish philanthropist who, over the course of his long career, has dedicated significant time and resources to fight anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry and hate. The \$1 million Genesis Prize award will be donated in Mr. Kraft's honor to global initiatives combating anti-Semitism and attempts to de-legitimize the State of Israel, including BDS.

Larry Summers, a member of the Genesis Prize Committee, President Emeritus of Harvard University, and the U.S. Treasury Secretary in the Clinton administra-

tion, said: "Robert Kraft's extraordinary vision and leadership brought enthusiasm and pride to the world of sports. His compassionate philanthropy and the charitable programs funded by the New England Patriots touch many lives in the U.S. and Israel. He is an American patriot and a great global citizen firmly connected to his Jewish heritage and devoted to the State of Israel. He is truly a worthy Genesis Prize Laureate."

Mr. Kraft will accept the award from the Prime Minister of Israel at a gala ceremony in Jerusalem on June 20. Joining Mr. Kraft at the ceremony and throughout his week-long visit to Israel will be approximately 20 former and current New England Patriots players and their spouses.



Robert Kraft

Local Chapter Raises Funds for Hadassah Hospital

By Michele Bank

Manchester — The Manchester Chapter of Hadassah recently held a ticket drawing with the donations going toward Hadassah's Full Circle Campaign and the renovation and expansion of Hadassah's Round Building in Jerusalem. The first prize winner was Simonne Sydell, who received a \$175 gift certificate to Taipei & Tokyo Restaurant. The second prize winner was Rachel Spierer, who received a \$50 gift certificate to Hanover Street Chophouse. Hadassah thanks the many participants in this drawing, which raised nearly \$1,000 for Hadassah Hospital. Members of the chapter attended a luncheon honoring Phyllis Berlow. She was

presented with the Myrtle Leaf Award for her more than 50 years of Hadassah leadership. Among many positions held, she is a Past President of the Northern New England Region of Hadassah. The honored guest speaker was Hadassah national president Ellen Hershkin.

Recently, a mailing was sent out to membership to solicit ads for the chapter's annual membership/ad book. Funds raised from the ads will go toward renovation of the Round Building of Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem. Listings and ads start at \$10 each, and the chapter hopes that you will consider placing an ad.

Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski of Temple Israel will prepare a Hadassah Shabbat

service in the spring. Members of the chapter will participate in the service and will hostess the Oneg afterwards.

Also, the chapter is starting to plan for its annual brunch to be held on Sunday, June 24, at the Manchester Country Club. Details will follow as they become available. This is always a fun event, and we hope that you will save the date.

Last month, the cornerstone was laid for the new Rehabilitation Center at Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus. The ceremony included the unveiling of a robotic Lokomat, Israel's most sophisticated robotic treadmill therapy. It was donated by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. Dr. Isabella Schwartz, head of the Department of Physical Medicine and

Rehabilitation, explained that "the Lokomat stimulates the natural flow of movement better and provides feedback on the progress of training, adjusting the regimen to move the patient ahead. The computer aided electric motors are attached to the patient's legs and stabilizes them.

Whatever the patient cannot do yet, such as lifting their legs, will be done by the robot. Sensors record the exertion and independent movements of the patients. Robotic support and weight relief can be reduced to promote or extend existing residual movements."

For more information about Hadassah, or contributing to the ad book, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com or 488-5657.

Yedidim – Bringing Jewish Families Together

By Jessie Mocle

Nashua — Yedidim keeps picking up steam! Thanks to the kind sponsorship of member family Rina and Jeff Zampieron, Yedidim celebrated its first inaugural Chanukah party! Popup Potluck Havdalah: Chanukah Edition saw delicious potluck offerings, coupled with Chef Jeff's spectacular latkes. There was plenty of playtime for the kids, and scintillating conversation topped with a *l'chayim* of refreshing moscato for the adults! As always, we enjoyed the camaraderie of a joyous and peaceful Havdalah (plus some Chanukah songs) to round out the fun.

The next day, we had a very special guest at our Yedidim Family Sunday School. Rabbi Jon came in with his guitar, and we had a wonderful Chanukah dance party to celebrate the last night of Chanukah. In addition to learning about the holiday, our cohort of 2-3 year olds are well on their way to learning Hebrew. They are becoming increasingly comfortable understanding and using simple verbs like *la'amod* (stand) and *lashevet* (sit), as well as body parts and colors. We keep increasing our class size as new students join us. If you're interested, there's always room for more!



Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett leads Yedidim families in songs during a Chanukah celebration.

Please visit our website at www.tbanashua.org/yedidim.html for information on how you can participate. Upcoming events include Build-a-Shabbat, Popup Potluck Havdalah, Yedidim Family Sunday School, and Yedidim Dad's Night Out. In February we're planning a really special Yedidim outing -- stay tuned!



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Join Seniors Forever Young
at The Palace Theatre
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We'll meet at the ticket office at 11:15am.
Show begins at 12pm

Tickets are \$30/per person and must be paid to the Jewish Federation by February 28th to ensure your seat

*Limited tickets available

After the show join us for an early dinner at Ignite
(next door to The Palace Theatre)

*this is not included in the cost of the ticket

Please send payments to JFNH
Attn: Seniors
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or call (603)627-7679 to pay by credit card
Please indicate if you will be joining us for dinner when you RSVP



Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 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

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

Many Ways to Explore Judaism Across the State With OLLI

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Granite State College (GSC), better known as OLLI to its many participants, offers a multitude of learning opportunities for members 50 years of age and older. OLLI has many locations on GSC campuses across the state of New Hampshire. There is one in Manchester, along with sites in Concord, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Conway.

This semester, OLLI is offering four classes related to Judaism out of their plethora of 75 classes. Guest lecturer Thomas M. White, from Keene State College's Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies, will lead two courses this spring studying the horrors of World War II: *Remembering the Holocaust: Memory and Prevention and Rise of the Nazis and the Holocaust: Lessons for Democratic Citizenship*. Rabbi Robin Nafshi from Temple Beth Jacob in Concord will lead a class on *Judaism and Home Traditions*, and Rabbi Beth Davidson, Temple Adath Yeshurun, will teach *Introduction to Judaism*. In addition, *New Middle East Dynamic: Where Do We Go From Here?* will explore the new dynamics in the Middle East, taught by Joseph Constance, a former librarian

and professor of politics at St. Anselm College and fellow at the Schusterman Institute at Brandeis University.

The variety and knowledge of the lecturers for these offerings is terrific. The classes offer intellectually stimulating and entertaining experiences. They are also a great chance to meet up with old friends and make new friends.

OLLI at GSC is celebrating 15 years as a "learning for the fun of it" member-driven, volunteer-based educational program for lifelong learners age 50 and better. OLLI is hosted in New Hampshire by Granite State College, with classes on campuses in Manchester, Concord, Portsmouth, Conway, and Rochester. OLLI at GSC is one of 122 Osher Lifelong Institutes across the country on college and university campuses, as part of the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Registration for the new semester of classes begins February 4, 2019.

The main office for OLLI is at Granite State College, 25 Hall Street, Concord. For more information, visit olli.granite.edu, email olli.office@granite.edu, or call 603-513-1377.



New Hampshire's Merle Carrus, EJ Cohen, Deborah Hirsch Mayer, and Elian Tackeff met up at Limmud Boston on Dec. 2.

Limmud Boston Boosts Jewish Learning

By Merle Carrus

Newton, MA — On the first Sunday in December, I crossed the border from New Hampshire to Massachusetts and spent a day surrounded by Jewish educators, lay leaders and just other fellow Jews hungry for learning and a connection to a larger Jewish community. Limmud Boston is over for this year, but those who attended had a terrific experience and you can ask them about it and then remember to attend next year.

Limmud is a program of Jewish study that started in Britain in 1980. Every year, thousands of people interested in Jewish learning take their personal learning journey one step further and attend the largest Limmud in the world, in Britain. Limmud Britain continues for a week. But around the world, other communities have started to hold their own days of study. Boston has a day of study every year at the beginning of December.

This year, Limmud Boston took place at Temple Reyim in Newton, MA. About 200 people attended their choice of about 50 classes. There was a variety of offerings, with everything from "Whose Han-

nukah? The Maccabees, the Rabbis, the Halutzim, the Americans?" to "Jewish Food; The History of the Famous Triumvirate: Bagels, Cream Cheese, and Lox". There were music classes ("Building Community Through Music"), poetry discussions ("Gems of Jewish Poetry"), and classes about how to run a synagogue ("If You Build It -- A Transformative Model in Urban Millennial Judaism"). Special guest speaker Jonathan Sarna, a Brandeis University professor, spoke about "American Jews and the Land of Israel." There was also a discussion panel about "Standing With Israel and What it Means in This Political Era."

Limmud is not affiliated with any individual strand of Judaism and presents itself as open to "anyone interested in Jewish learning." There are silent auction items to bid on and exhibitors showing their wares. A kosher lunch is served, and even a Camp Limmud is available for the younger attendees. Limmud Boston is an entertaining, lively, friendly way to spend a day of education and enlightenment. To end the event on the first night of Chanukah, there was a group candle lighting and sing along.

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The “Chanukah The Game Show” audience just rolled along with the show at Temple Adath Yeshurun.



Reynolds wrap time, with MC Joel Gordon, Jack Krasnof, Jesse Sag, Max and Sam Woods, and Simon Ratinoff, along with helpers Joshua Sag, Kaitlyn Woods, and clown Kugel.

TAY Students and Parents Compete in “Chanukah, the Game Show”

Manchester — Step aside Monty Hall! On Sunday morning, December 9, the TAY Brotherhood brought a game show Chanukah party to the Temple Adath Yeshurun community and Religious School. Our own Monty, Joel Gordon, was once again in charge, and he was decked out in a very special Chanukah suit. Joel was assisted by our clown Kugel (aka Nancy Frankel). Students and parents competed individually and in teams in a host of contests to win prizes and the adoration of the audience.

Competitions included emptying Kleenex boxes, stacking champagne

glasses, a toilet paper wrapping event involving the audience, Reynolds-wrapping, and a whipped cream toss. Parents and teachers joined in with children. And let’s not forget gourmet latkes, prepared fresh by the Brotherhood Kitchen Krew and served with not only applesauce and sour cream, but with whipped cream, chocolate bits and syrup, coconut, and butterscotch (who knew?). To complement the latkes, there were kosher hot dogs (served baseball park style) and, of course, chocolate gelt for all the participants. It was another very special TAY Brotherhood happening.

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Yoav Horesh, Haim Ozer Street, Jerusalem. 3/21/2002, August 2003, gelatin silver print, 16” x 20”

UNH Exhibit Features Israeli Photographer Yoav Horesh

Durham — From 2002 to 2005, Yoav Horesh photographed hundreds of sites in Israel of suicide bombings, months and even years after the destructive blasts. The apparent return to normalcy or the abandonment of spaces reveals a society accustomed to random violence on a massive scale. In an increasingly desensitized environment of war imagery, Horesh challenges us to think about the aftermath.

The exhibit, Yoav Horesh: Aftermath, is free and open to the public at the Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, from January 24 to March 30, 2019. An Artist Talk with

Yoav Horesh is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 12:10 -1 PM at the Paul Creative Arts Center, A218. In addition, Community Conversations, a series of three drop-in moderated sessions, will take place on Thursday, February 7, 6:15-7 PM;

Wednesday, February 20, 12:10-1 PM; and Thursday, March 7, 6:15-7 PM. These moderated sessions will discuss photography that contextualizes topics relevant to the current exhibition, Yoav Horesh: Aftermath. Moderators will be UNH Civil Discourse lab students. All programs are free and open to the public.



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Once More, Again with Feeling: Gemilut Hasadim 2018

By Dr. Sol Rockenmacher,
TAY Brotherhood

Manchester — *The Jewish Almanac* notes: “In Jewish tradition, gemilut hasadim are a category of *mitzvot* (good deeds) that obligate the individual to act in certain ways on certain occasions as a mark of basic human decency and respect towards others, living or dead, rich or poor, using one’s time, effort, and money whenever necessary.” They are deeds of loving kindness involving “a degree of gentleness, extreme care, affection, tenderness – a summoning of all the human resources of sympathy for the

benefit of others.”

The Temple Adath Yeshurun Christmas Mitzvah Program, organized by the TAY Brotherhood, has been in existence now for well over 40 years. It is a fine example of how members of our Manchester Jewish community have been giving back to their non-Jewish community, with enthusiasm, feeling, and caring.

This year, once again, approximately 100 adults and children volunteered to participate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The programs include staffing the Information Desks at Catholic Medical Center and the Elliot Hospital as friendly greeters to visitors, delivering lun-

cheon platters to the Police and Fire Stations in Manchester and Bedford on Christmas Day, serving meals at New Horizons Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, providing hospitality as well to those less fortunate, and helping with the evening Bingo game at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester on Christmas night. Fortunately there were no weather issues this year.

The volunteers came from Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Israel and some are not yet affiliated with a congregation. They came to participate to help others, by covering for their Christian neighbors so that they could celebrate

their holiday, by helping the less fortunate in our community, by delivering luncheon platters as a token of gratitude to those who are serving us so well in our local communities, and by spending some time socializing with veterans who have served our nation. “Think globally, act locally” can be one starting point directive in the process of *tikkun olam* (healing the world).

Thank you to all who participated, some of whom have been on board for many, many years. Judging from the very warm messages of gratitude we have received this program is very much appreciated by our Christian friends.



Mitzvah New Horizons crew Rachel and Mel Spierer, Pam Englander, Peter and Linda Hunt, Elda Cordero-Goodman, Pat Kalik, Sandy Whipple, and Steve Soreff



VA Bingo Bunch Adam, Brooke, Stephanie and Mark Flanders, Barry and Barbara Scotch, Bruce Berk, Becky Laforge, Sol and Linda Rockenmacher, and Jake Berry.



About to deliver Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day are John Greenwood and Sonia Ascher; Jonathan, Joshua, and Al Shamash; and Steve, Donna, Caleb, and Alea Dolman.

NH4Israel Presents Funds to ALS Researcher From 2nd Annual Walk/Run for Healing

Jerusalem, Israel — NH4Israel is proud to share announce that the 2018 2nd Annual Run/Walk for Healing raised \$5,000 for ALS research. The 3rd Annual Run/Walk for Healing for pancreatic cancer research has already been scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2019, on the Interfaith Campus of Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Church of the Transfiguration at 1½ Hood Road, Derry.

Brenda Johnston, who was visiting Israel this winter, presented the \$5,000 raised from our annual event to Dr. Marc Gotkine, a researcher in the neurology clinic at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem concentrating on Lou Gehrig’s Disease (ALS). NH4Israel chose to support Dr. Gotkine to highlight his groundbreaking work regarding ALS, which includes finding new targets for curative and preventive therapy and providing hope to families who are dealing with this tragic disease.

Next year’s recipient of the Run/Walk proceeds will be Dr. Dror Kolodkin Gal. He and his team are focused on the use

of state-of-the-art models in order to understand the processes leading to the development of pancreatic cancer. The goal is to find the Achilles heel of this very malignant cancer, again providing families hope.

NH4Israel’s mission is to educate the New Hampshire community about Israel. We are using research into ALS and pancreatic cancer to highlight the gifts Israel continues to give to the world. Israel is one of the smallest and youngest countries on earth, under constant threat, and yet Israel continues to make great contributions to mankind. Just some of Israel’s medical breakthroughs include ReWalk, BrainGate, “Seeing” with sound,” CureXCell, NanoRetina, OrCam, Brainstorm, PillCam, and the list goes on and on. That is why Israel is the number 2 destination for venture capital in the world, more than all of Europe combined!

All of the members of NH4Israel would like to thank Brenda for bringing Marc and Dror together. We wish we

could be there and hope to join you next year in Israel.

Sign up for our weekly email at NH4Israel.org to follow our progress for next

year’s race to battle pancreatic cancer and also to find out how you can help. Don’t forget to mark your calendar now for May 5!



Brenda Johnston (center) presents a \$5,000 check raised by the 2018 Run/Walk for Healing to Dr. Gotkine (right) at Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, on behalf of NH4Israel. Next year’s recipient, pancreatic cancer researcher Dr. Dror Kolodkin, is on the left.

How the Hebrew Psalms Helped Me Heal

By Ann R. Silverman-Limor, aka Rahel

In 1995, as my marriage was failing, I found myself sitting alone in my room with my guitar in hand. At that time I was a wife and a mother of two young children aged four and seven years old. I was, and still am, a musician and songwriter. As I stared blankly at the walls in front of me my fingers began to gently pluck the strings of the guitar. Sweet sounds began to fill the darkened room as my thoughts swirled around in my mind. Randomly, with no particular focus, rhyme, or reason, the thoughts came and went as I continued to sit and pluck on the guitar. Emotions were all that filled the emptiness I was immersed in.

Sadness, anger, loneliness... what was I doing? Where was I going? How did I get here? What now?

I had acquired a book about the Tikkun HaKlali – The General Remedy, a

set of 10 psalms that were revealed and designated by Rebbe Nachman of Breslov to be used for personal healing. Rebbe Nachman (1772–1810) is an icon in the world of Chassidism, a stream of Orthodox Judaism. He was the great grandson of the Baal Shem Tov (Master of the Good Name), founder of Chassidic Judaism. Rebbe Nachman had a decent following in his time. Today, nearly 200 years since his passing, his followers number in the tens of thousands. It is taught that the Tikkun HaKlali provides a way for one to move ahead despite any spiritual stumbling. Some even use it as a sort of amulet, a preventive against illness, misfortune, or harm.

At that time, I didn't know anything about the rabbi, the remedy, or even much about the psalms. As it happened, or perhaps Divinely directed, a book I had then recently purchased about the Tikkun HaKlali was sitting right there by my side.

After glaring aimlessly at the walls, and while plucking the guitar strings with no particular purpose in mind, I opened up the book to random pages. My gaze became focused. I looked upon the pages that were written in Hebrew and English. It was as if I were looking at a 3-D screen; verses from the psalms began to jump out at me in big, bold fonts. I began to sing beautiful melodies as they appeared. Before I knew it, I was gifted with 27 melodies that had now become musical prayer and song. They flowed to and through me as I sat in that room, mindlessly receiving their healing energy and dutifully recording each psalm, or song, onto a cassette tape, the media of the time. It felt like a tsunami of love, kindness, and warmth overwhelming me; the Divine embracing me, wrapping me in a cloak of sweet song. My emotions channeled themselves through the verses, revealing, embracing,

and releasing my sadness, anger, and petition and finally offering me a feeling of immense comfort and joy. This continued for three days. At the end of the three days, I felt cleansed, healed of my previous wounded state of being.

A well-known saying attributed to Rebbe Nachman is, "If you believe it is possible to destroy, believe it is possible to repair." The three days I spent with the Tikkun HaKlali did wonders. I was now ready to move on with my life. The psalms had reached deeply into my heart and soul and renewed my confidence and strength.

Rahel Limor aka "Acoustic Breezes – Rahel" is a Certified Clinical Musician (CCM) and singer-songwriter. Her musical work, "Tikkun," drawn on the "Tikkun HaKlali," inspires meditation, healing, and well-being. She is currently living and working in Busan, South Korea. For more information visit www.rahelmusic.com.

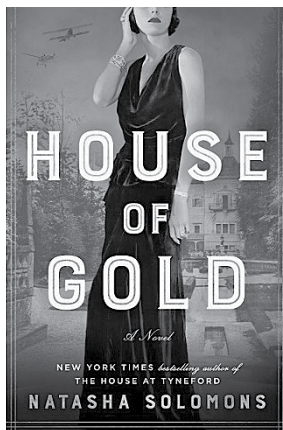
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

House of Gold: A Sweeping Family Saga

House of Gold (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2018) is a great book by Natasha Solomons. I loved this book for its historical content and the family dynamics. It is the sweeping family saga of the Goldbaum dynasty, a Jewish family, that is a dynasty of moneylenders, who use their position, influence, and power to assist their countries' governments. Family members live in France, England, and Austria, where the men control the banks and the women marry distant cousins to keep the wealth and power within the family. Though as Jews they are outsiders, they have always commanded respect. But now the world around them is changing.

As the story begins, Vienna-born Greta Goldbaum has just been married off to her English cousin, Albert. A young girl in a new country with a husband she does



not yet love, her loyalty is tested by the outbreak of WWI. Her brother, who has always been her best friend, comes to England to try and help her adjust. Her mother-in-law, who also was once a young Viennese bride, shares that her secret to happiness, which is to find a project of your own. Greta, like her mother-in-law, decides to create a garden that she

can make all the decisions about.

As the war begins and the men are sent off to battle, Greta is able to build a garden that will distract her from the horrific world around her. She discovers that she can grow any kind of plants she wants and can employ only women to work in the garden. As the war rages on, Greta helps the war effort by bringing young, pregnant women to live in the house until they go into labor. She sets up a make-

shift hospital there, and the young women learn gardening, which will give them work experience to improve their lives after they give birth.

Using this family saga as the plot driving the novel, we are also informed of the historical significance of this time period. Increasing Russian pogroms, growing anti-Semitism, and socialist reform all led to the First World War. Also explored in this book is the European-United States relationship. As the war continues in Europe, Britain and Germany borrow money from the United States. This influx of financial stability

leads us to the Roaring '20s, a time of economic boom in the United States. That is followed by financial collapse and the Great Depression. This book shows us the unavoidable dichotomy of the global shift of power. Beautifully written, it is captivating both as a historical novel and a family drama.

A screenwriter and novelist, Natasha Solomons lives in Dorset, England, with her husband and young son. She is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The House at Tyneford*, *The Gallery of Vanished Husbands*, and *The Song of Hartgrove Hall*.



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Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, held an event in honor of Chanukah at the UN headquarters in New York with the participation of US Ambassador Nikki Haley.



Congregation Betenu members appreciate the Chanukah potluck



Board of Directors president Dina Michael Chaitowitz hosted a "Peace Rocks" paint party, where Religious school parents and students painted rocks with messages of peace, which they later distributed to local churches, libraries, schools, gyms, and favorite eating establishments.



During five-minute cooking classes for Etz Hayim Synagogue religious school parents, a group of parents made apple roses. Pictured are (L-R) Mary Tarzia Edelstein and Arlene Agosto.



Congregation Betenu members light candles during the annual community Chanukah celebration.



Etz Hayim Synagogue members helping with the Community Meals Network's annual free Thanksgiving Day dinner. Pictured are (L-R): Kayla Patterson (front row, left), Eliana Patterson (fifth person), Barry Leshin (to right of Eliana), and Bonnie Leshin.



On December 16, Etz Hayim Synagogue members joyfully hosted a free holiday breakfast for local residents, part of a free meals program conducted in collaboration with the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration.

Recent Events



TAY Chanukah latke lads Mark Granoff and David Penchansky at work.



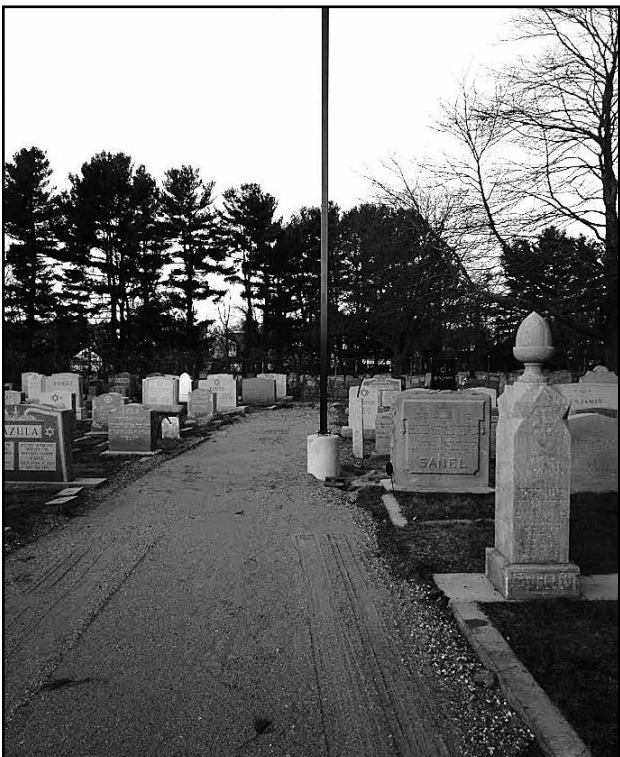
Team Ratnoff-Leapley (Eric, Nicole, Alex, and Simon) are set to deliver luncheon platters to Manchester Police and Fire Department on Christmas Day, one of the TAY Mitzvah Program's many activities



Seniors Forever Young hosted its Annual Chanukah Party with entertainment by saxophonist Avi Rafaelov



NH4Israel had a de-light-full Chanukah party on December 5 at Temple Israel Manchester.



Work at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery is progressing nicely, with most of the roads graded and new lighting installed. Photo courtesy of Christine Dame



Benjamin Conley rehearses for his Bar Mitzvah as Congregation Betenu religious school students observe.



Stephanie, Mark, and Brooke Flanders helped out at Elliot Hospital Information Desk on Christmas Eve as part of the TAY Mitzvah Program.

Recent Events



Beth Abraham's Bar/Bat Mitzvah class with staff member Shane Sullivan at the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, after serving dinner and preparing take-home meals for children.



Beth Abraham Zimria choir members Nancy Ferman, Davida Rubin-Baker, director Julie Oliver, and Cheryl Lieblich at the Chanukkah party.



Temple B'nai Israel's cantorial soloist, Melody Funk, thought she had retired from teaching, but she has generously stepped up to coordinate and teach in our small but mighty Religious School. Here she is working with some of the younger students, while students studying for their Bat Mitzvahs work with other volunteer teachers.



Rabbi Jon with State Rep. Latha Mangipudi helping to kick off the Nashua Winter Holiday Stroll with a light ceremony of interfaith and communal unity.



Temple B'nai Israel began Chanukkah celebration with a latke dinner (many thanks to Rick Notkin, Deb Notkin and Ysrael Funesti, and other volunteer chefs) and lighting menorahs in the Chertok Social Hall. Celebration continued at the home of Marsha Ostroff and Karen Rines, playing dreidel for charities. This year the most proceeds were donated to Jesse Doiron and Olivia Garbett, who will participate in the Dana Farber Marathon Challenge, while the children at the party voted to donate their proceeds to the Lakes Region Humane Society.



CONTY Youth Group members from Temple Beth Jacob celebrate Havdalah and Chanukah with Rabbi Robin.



Temple Israel Manchester members enjoyed a festive and happy Chanukah party. Photo courtesy of David Winthrop



Temple Israel Manchester members gathered for the traditional lighting of the menorah on the temple steps. Photo courtesy of David Winthrop.



Bunny Tikvah and Bear Judah, donated by Hannah Jacobs, are sporting kippot made by teacher Joan Vick of Temple Israel Manchester's Religious School. Photo courtesy of Karen Jacobs.



JFNH Tributes

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Lauren and Kenny Kushner to Alex Freidin and Dan Cruz in memory of Jay Freidin of Florida
Norm and Andy Kushner to Joni Taube and Eliot Sirkin in honor of their granddaughter Ari
Norm and Andy Kushner to Sol and Bernyce Taube in honor of the birth of great granddaughter Ari
Norm and Andy Kushner to Mrs. Roberta White and family in memory of husband and father, Norman White

Seniors Program

Faith Canner in memory of Arnold Canner
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New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

JoAnn Meyers to Roberta Brayer in honor of the achievements of grandchildren Lindsey Brayer and Matthew Brayer
Brenda Schadick to Roberta Brayer in honor of grandson Matthew Brayer's Bar Mitzvah

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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.

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.

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Federation Renews Shlichut Contract: Funding Needed to Sustain Emissary Program

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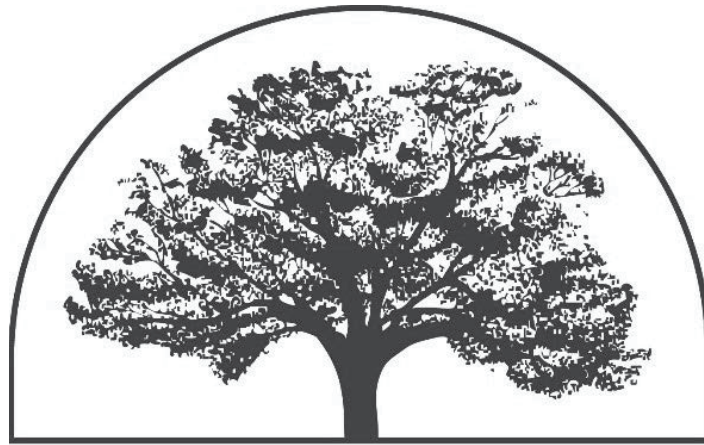
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