

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
*Jewish* **Reporter**

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New Hampshire

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Tammuz-Av 5780



SUMMER FUN

**Jewish Federation Preschool – A Final Goodbye**

By Preschool Director Alane Sabel

Thirty-two wonderful years. Six hundred plus children who have become doctors, lawyers, teachers, and even a Hollywood movie producer. A staff of teachers who I am privileged to have not only worked with over these many years, but who have become lifelong friends.

As this chapter comes to an end, I look back on the evolution of the Jewish Federation Preschool, from a three morning a week program to five full days. I have had the honor to be part of this wonderful school and vibrant and supportive Jewish community, and the opportunity to teach so many children. At the Jewish Federation Preschool, we not only started these young children on their academic journeys, but we guided them and their families on the path to discovering their Jewish identities. The



beauty of Shabbat, the importance of *tzedakah*, the joys and responsibility of doing *mitzot*: lessons to carry them through a lifetime.

These thirty-two years have not only

allowed me to be part of the lives of so many wonderful families, but also to become part of the wonderful Jewish community, a community that I will continue to have in my life. As I close

the doors and hand in the keys, I want to say thank you, both to the Jewish Federation and to everyone who has enriched my life.

Thank you.

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<b>jewishnh.org</b>	

**The JFNH Tree is Strong - and Growing**

By Board Member Stephen Soreff, MD

Thank you for this opportunity to share my utter joy and delight with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Looking back on my time on the Board, I was there when the seed was planted. The seed would grow into vibrant, thriving tree as the voice for ALL the Jews of New Hampshire. I have seen this young tender plant grow and mature. Now, I am thrilled to say it is blooming into a beautiful, strong, multi-branched tree.



Board Member Stephen Soreff, MD

That is a little bit too abstract. Let me explain. I joined the Board in 2012 because I wanted there to be a Jewish voice for New Hampshire. At that time, the seed was

planted for the Federation to grow from its Queen City origins to a king-sized, statewide program. That, I am pleased to report, has happened. JFNH now encompasses the state from Bethlehem to Nashua, from Manchester to Portsmouth, and from Laconia to Derry. It connects all the synagogues, the rabbis, and the Hebrew schools to each other and to the entire community of New Hampshire.

The JFNH Tree has branched out to Israel. It has an amazing *shlichah* program, as well as a sister city connection to Hof Ha Carmel. The *shlichah* program connects Israel to the entire Jewish community of New Hampshire. And now, the Momentum Program, in which mothers rearing Jewish children go to Israel, is here.

Meanwhile, other branches of the JFNH Tree have grown and become stronger. These include PJ Library, social service initiatives, individual grants, and direct financial support to synagogues and Hebrew schools. JFNH champions campaigns against anti-


Semitism. It has sponsored training for synagogue security. It promoted the inclusion of Holocaust education in the New Hampshire school curriculum. Then there is the immensely popular and successful New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. JFNH supports programs which send New Hampshire's Jewish children to Jewish summer camps and to Israel, as well as offering activities for young adults and seniors. And there is its connecting voice, *The Reporter*.

But that's not all! The JFNH Tree needs to be nurtured and to be fed with nutrients, so it not only thrives but also grows. That means people need to step up and step in to participate. They can attend events and volunteer for the Board. It means giving money to it. This is yours and my Jewish New Hampshire. Help make it go, grow and be heard!

I was there when the seed was planted, and now stand proudly by the JFNH Tree, the voice for Jewish New Hampshire.

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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

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum  
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 Slavatticki  
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  
office@uvjc.org  
Services: Friday night Shabbat service at 6 PM  
Saturday morning Shabbat service 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.achim@gmail.com  
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM  
Monthly Shabbat morning services at 10 AM  
Check the website for time variations

## LACONIA

### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Dan Danson  
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  
www.templeisraelnh.org  
Services: Fridays at 6 PM  
Saturday at 9:30 AM  
Minyans: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM. Call Stephen Singer 603-774-4048 for 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 Marlena Fuerstman  
PO Box 474, Bartlett  
(978) 853-4900  
harlavancommunity@gmail.com  
Services: Wed. mornings 9 AM online via Zoom  
Enter meeting ID <https://zoom.us/j/381930069>  
Holiday service times, locations TBA

## PORTSMOUTH

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

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

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

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

To submit Calendar items for the print and online JFNH Calendar and E-News, go to <https://jewishnh.org/community-calendar>, click the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in the form with your event information.

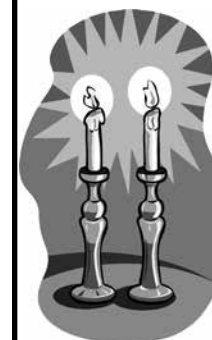
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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



July 3	8:10 PM
July 10	8:08 PM
July 17	8:03 PM
July 24	7:57 PM
July 31	7:50 PM

## Come Join Life: Online!

By Larry Rubin

In mid-March, all of my in-person hobbies were cancelled as a result of Covid-19. So, I quickly started looking for other things to keep me busy. Through our JFNH *Shlichah* Avia Sagron's Facebook page, I discovered that Rotem Ur, the *shlichah* serving the Shaare Torah Congregation in Gaithersburg, Maryland, had just started a virtual learning initiative named Life: Online. Rotem worked with *shlichim* in and beyond the greater Washington area to create a large variety of virtual learning sessions.

If you're interested in cooking, arts and crafts, Israeli news, Israeli culture, Israeli innovations, dancing, yoga, exercise, daily chanting/meditation, or Kabbalat Shabbat, Life: Online is definitely for you!

Here's a list of some of the outstanding sessions I regularly attend:

1. Fill up Your Cup – Weekly News from Israel – hosted by Shy Ashkenazi, *Shaliach* for Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
2. Religion and State in Israel – a 4-week series to learn about Israel's religion and state matters – hosted by Rotem Ur, the *Shlichah* for Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg, Maryland
3. Leading Ladies of Israel – a series of weekly interviews with Leading La-

dies of Israel – hosted by Talia Garber, the *Shlichah* for Adas Israel Congregation, Washington D.C.

4. The Israeli Backpacker – Each week, Avia Sagron, our New Hampshire *Shlichah*, hosts a guest to share travel stories and pictures.
5. Hebrew through Song – Each week the participants translate a modern Israeli song with Rotem's Ur's guidance. So far, we have a small group that includes some New Hampshire attendees: me, my wife Robin, Michael Rosenblum, and Rabbi Amy Loewenthal. It's a fun group, so please come join us!

I am in awe of how quickly the *shlichim* got this effort up and running and of their hard work and enthusiasm. Please take advantage of these educational and fun opportunities that have been provided thanks to the Jewish Federation!

Life: Online has a Facebook group, administered by Idan Sharon, *Shaliach* for Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, Maryland. Join the Facebook group to find out what's going on each week. You can also sign up to receive a weekly email by emailing [lifeonlineproject20@gmail.com](mailto:lifeonlineproject20@gmail.com) or by using the following link: <https://bit.ly/34rxrT4>.

Larry Rubin is a member of Temple Beth Abraham.



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OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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A Member of The Jewish  
Federations of North America

May 31, 2020

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Jewish Clergy are heartbroken by the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and stands with the African American Community in their fight against systemic racism, injustice, and hatred. Our Jewish community is a family of many colors, linked by a shared faith that has at its bedrock the commandment to "love your neighbor." Today, and always, we support our neighbors, friends, and teammates in the fight against bigotry.

We pray for equal rights and equal opportunity for all. We will continue working tirelessly to eliminate racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice and to ensure safety and justice for all.

Our deepest sympathies and our strong support for you during this trying time.

The Board and Directors of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire  
The NH Jewish Clergy Council

273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110 P: 603-627-7679 www.JewishNH.org

## JFNH Salutes Director of Outreach Allyson Guertin

At a time of transition and uncertainty, Director of Outreach and Engagement Allyson Guertin switched

seamlessly to working remotely, didn't miss a beat while coming up with creative, innovative ways to keep the com-

munity connected, and stayed organized, cheerful, and positive. We can't imagine a better ambassador for the

organization and are grateful to have her in our corner. Allyson, thank you for everything you do!

"You know the old saying 'never judge a book by its cover?' That really applies to Allyson Guertin. At a glance, Allyson Guertin is a petite, light-framed, very "cute" young woman that talks with a rapid cadence. Little would one guess that under this facade lurks a powerhouse of a woman that meets challenges thrown at her with the determination to say 'mission accomplished' at the end.

Her office is usually cluttered, but it's her notebook that she faithfully carries around that keeps her organized. Whether it is by phone or speaking in person, Allyson will record your request on her notepad and, like a miracle, in a few days she has acted on it. But what is more amazing to me is that through all this, Allyson has been asked to wear numerous different hats of authority to cover unforeseeable circumstances. One day she is directing a Chanukah baking activity with many preschoolers and their parents, the next day she is finding out how a person can make a donation to the Federation by donating stocks to the organization, next she is being requested to set up a series of interviews with young Israeli applicants who are applying for the job of becoming our next NH *shlichah*. Finally, she is jumping into her car loaded with PJ Library props to run off to relate kindly with young Jewish children and help them form their positive Jewish identities. Is the sky falling? Don't worry, Allyson is there to save the day!"

- Evelyn Miller



"Allyson has been instrumental in creating our first Momentum community for NH moms. Allyson has put in countless hours working with the Momentum staff and interviewing interested moms to create our participant group. Thanks to all of Allyson's work, we have a great group of 10 Jewish moms from NH headed

to Israel in November and spending the next year learning and growing together."

- Tracy Richmond

"Allyson has always been available, helpful and cheerful. She has a great attitude and gets things done. She is insightful and knowledgeable."

- Steve Soreff

"Allyson always goes above and beyond and always with a smile. She also has unending patience with any question that I ask."

- Pat Kalik

"She does everything so seemingly seamlessly. And with tremendous grace."

- Dina Michael Chaitowitz

"I love Allyson Guertin! Not a day of Jewish New Hampshire goes by without my being impressed with her ideas, initiatives, and professionalism. She IS JFNH!"

- Sarit Itenberg

## Thanks for the Memories: 32 Years of JFNH Preschool

"As the third in my family to attend JFNH preschool, the loving teachers, such as Miss Alane, Miss Gail, and Miss Andy were household names. I am grateful to the entire staff at the preschool for being one of the first steps towards my lifelong passion for Judaism in New Hampshire! It all came full circle when I was invited back to the preschool in recent years to teach a Hebrew class; a special experience for me."

- Chanchie Krinsky



"It meant the world for Flynn to learn the Jewish traditions and to meet other Jewish kids. He never would know how yummy Challah is or how to count in Hebrew without the JFNH preschool. He's ready for Sunday school and kindergarten."

-Beth Stern ElGeneidy



"After moving to NH from NYC, the Jewish Federation Preschool was the first community we had here. They welcomed and valued my children as their own - whether it was taking a crying child out of my car or working with me to add after school hours when I went back to work. I treasure the memories we made there and am so thankful for what they gave our family."

-Erin Fisher



"The lesson and the love, the challah and the hugs, from A to Z...without a doubt was the perfect experience for my sons to begin their education."

-Sharon Curole



"Thank you to Alane and the entire JFNH Preschool staff for all that you have done for our children through the years. We have such fond memories of our time at the preschool, and it is because of the amazing care and the warm learning environment that you provided to the kids, and because of all of the love that you so generously gave. We are so grateful that we were able to be a part of this community with you. You will always hold a very special place in our hearts."

Love, the DePasse family



"We have been lucky to know Alane for over 30 years now, and have had many of our children in her loving care at the Jewish Federation Preschool for quite a few of those years. In turn, the JFNH preschool has taken part in many programs at Chabad. We have had a great mutual relationship that we are sad to see come to an end. We wish Alane lots of success as she moves onward and look forward to a continued working and personal relationship for many more years to come."

-Rabbi Levi and Shternie Krinsky



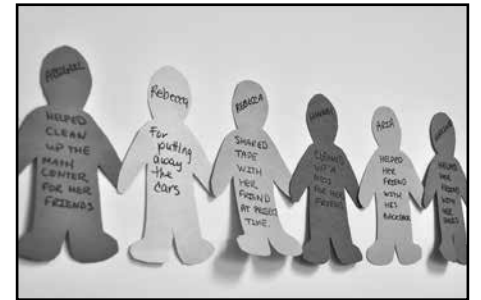
"We just loved the Federation and the families we met there over the last eight years. Thank you all for being such an inspiration to our community and our children. We love you all so very much. Please stay healthy and safe. *Zay gezunt.*"

-Jacqueline Dale



"The Jewish Federation Preschool was a wonderful place for me to start my son's Jewish foundation. I have had the privilege of teaching, making many friends and relationships through the years at the Preschool as well. It has been a wonderful experience working at the Jewish Federation Preschool for so many years."

-Missy Rosenberg



# Federation Voices

Dear Alane, I will never forget the first day I met you when I came to explore JFNH Preschool when we first moved to NH in 2012. You made it so clear how much you love what you do and the children you teach and how connected you are to the families who walk through those preschool halls. In the middle of a morning, you made time to meet me. Not just time for a tour but time to make me feel part of the family right away. You



have this way about you. Alane, you are so special. You make me wish I had grown up here. Even though I grew up in a wonderful Jewish community, my lens now, as a mother of young children, feels this Jewish community is so much more special. The families I have met since meeting you who have benefited from your early childhood education are a testament to how Jewish NH really is. We may not have tons of kosher stores or restaurants or even day schools, but what we do have is special and the roots begin with you. For decades, you have accomplished something so great. Not only did you raise beautiful children, but you now have adorable Jewish grandchildren who I am certain admire you and love you all at the same time. Not only do you have your family, you have the family of Jewish NH. You have built something from nothing and used your mind and heart and, at times, your muscles, for sure! The success is so palpable. I love when I hear from the high school graduates and even college students who graduated your preschool and remember it with such warmth and and it is so special the home you gave them those years - they are all still friends with each other, too!

Alane, in my eyes, you have been the reason Jewish NH has been so successful all these years. Who better to support than the toddlers who are beginning to learn Jewish values? In times like these we would all agree, early education and Jewish values are a combination that could change the world in a positive way!

*Kol hakavod and mazel tov and toda rabah!!!*

- Sarit Itenberg



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## The Holocaust and Genocide Education Bill: What is Happening and How You Can Help

By Board Member Dina Michael  
Chaitowitz

When we last reported to you on the progress of Senate Bill 727, An Act Relative to Holocaust and Genocide Studies Legislation and Establishing a Commission to Study Genocide Education, it had just passed the full Senate unanimously. In New Hampshire, every bill has to pass both the Senate and the House before it can become state law. Therefore, after it passed the Senate, SB 727 had to be considered by the House. It was scheduled to go to the House on Crossover Day, March 26, 2020. The General Court suspended its activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic before Crossover Day, however.

The General Court has resumed some of its activities and has had to become

creative to meet its demanding workload. Bills, including important ones like SB 727, have had to be consolidated to expedite their consideration. Thus, SB 727 has been combined with House Bill 1135 as Amendment 1251. HB 1135 had been considered by the House and crossed over to the Senate prior to the suspension of activities, and is thus further along in the legislative process than SB 727. The bill and amendment were considered, and approved, by the Senate Transportation Committee on May 29, 2020. They are now scheduled to go to the full Senate on June 16, 2020, and perhaps will have passed the full Senate by the time you read this article. Hopefully, HB 1135 and Amendment 1251 will be considered by the full House by the end of June. For a summary of HB 1135 and the amendments to it, please

visit: [http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars\\_journals/calendars/2020/sc%2020A.pdf](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2020/sc%2020A.pdf).

In anticipation of the hearing before the Transportation Committee on May 29, a number of our good friends submitted letters which we reproduce here for you: Attorney Robert Dunn from the Diocese of Manchester; Ashley Eugenia Harbel, a very passionate high school teacher who has made it her mission to teach the Holocaust; Robert Trestan, the New England Regional Director for the Anti-Defamation League; Rev. Jason Wells, the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Council of Churches; and Tom White, the Coordinator for Educational Outreach for Keene State College's Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Dr. Sarit Itenberg, the Chairperson of JF-

NH's Board of Directors, also wrote a letter. These people, and many others, previously wrote letters in support of the bill.

State Senator Jay Kahn (District 10), Chair of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee, sponsored SB 727 and is hopeful that it will be enacted into law. In a recent conversation, he noted, "The strong bipartisan support from my Senate colleagues for this legislation reinforces the importance and timeliness of linking Holocaust and genocide studies with studies of history, humanities, civics, and government." He could not be more accurate about the timeliness of the need to educate our students on "how intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, and religious hatred and discrimination have evolved in the past, and can evolve, into genocide and mass violence," "the fragility of democracy," "the importance of democratic principles, and the power of individual choices in preventing genocide." (See the "Findings and Purpose" section of SB 727). The federal Never Again Education Act, signed into law on May 29, 2020 (by coincidence, the same day that HB 1135 and Amendment 1251 were approved by the Senate Transportation Committee), likewise recognizes the importance of Holocaust education programming. According to its Findings, "As intolerance, antisemitism, and bigotry are promoted by hate groups, Holocaust education provides a context in which to learn about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of the oppression of others."

**We need your help in anticipation of Amendment 1251's arrival in the House.** We urge you to call or write the Chair (Chairman Mel Myler) or Vice Chair (Vice Chairman David Luneau) of the House Education Committee, your state representative, or any member of the House with whom you may have an acquaintance. It will be especially useful if you share concrete examples of antisemitism in schools or in your community that you or a friend or relative may have encountered, as well as any knowledge you have of inadequate education on the topic or experience with the free resources that are available to teach the topic in a meaningful way. For the name of your state representative and the con-

*Holocaust continued on page 7*

A gift from the  
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Sign up your children ages 6 months through 11 years old and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and resources delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and culture through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions, and heritage.

Through the program your family will be enriched by experiencing the joys 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

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

**SIGN UP** Ages 6 mos. through 8  
[pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org)  
**UP** Ages 9 through 11  
[pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org)

## Holocaust continued from page 6

tact information of the representatives, please visit “The General Court of New Hampshire” on the internet (<http://gen-court.state.nh.us/house/default.aspx>).

In speaking with a House member, it may be useful for you to know some of the concerns that might be raised, and possible responses:

### 1. There have been many other genocides; why should New Hampshire only require Holocaust education?

The bill mandates both Holocaust and genocide education. The bill would amend RSA 189:11, by inserting after subparagraph (i) the following new subparagraph: “(j) How intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred and discrimination have evolved in the past, and can evolve, into genocide and mass violence, such as the Holocaust, and how to

prevent the evolution of such practices.”

2. **New Hampshire has traditionally delegated the development of curricula to local school boards; why should we authorize mandated curricula?** The bill does not mandate curricula. Instead, it requires education on the Holocaust and other genocides, and leaves the process of identifying and deciding curricula to the Department of Education and local schools. The bill also creates a commission to, among other things (a) “[r]ecommend model school district policies for Holocaust and genocide education”; (b) “[r]ecommend to the state board of education rules for fulfilling the Holocaust and genocide education requirement”; (c) “[i]dentify best practices for teaching Holocaust and genocide education and the appropriate number of hours of instruction at multiple grade levels”; and (d) “[i]dentify

existing teaching materials and curriculum as well as strategies and content for providing and enhancing genocide education to students.” The commission will thus provide school boards with the information they need to fashion their own curricula, but will not dictate the curricula.

3. **Students are already educated on the Holocaust; we don’t need this legislation.** Education on the Holocaust and other genocides is not uniform or mandatory around the state. We have heard directly from New Hampshire students and teachers that it is possible to complete high school without receiving any education, or meaningful education, on the historical facts of the Holocaust.

4. **The Holocaust happened in Germany, not in America; why should our teachers be forced to teach it?** There are many reasons. Here are three. One, the Holocaust is part of America’s

story. The United States was an integral part of the Allies’ fight against the Axis powers. It was in large measure through the efforts of American forces that, in the spring of 1945, Nazi Germany and its Axis collaborators were defeated. Over 415,000 American soldiers died during World War II. Two, more generally, as a world leader, America’s response, or non-response, to genocides that occur outside its borders is an important fact about which students should be educated -- to understand America’s role in world affairs and the reasons for and consequences of its decision-making. Three, intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial and religious hatred and discrimination exist today in America: as set out in the “Findings” section of the federal Never Again Edu-

*Holocaust continued on page 8*

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May 29, 2020


Senator David Watters, Chair  
Senator Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair  
Senator Martha Hennessey  
Senator Melanie Levesque  
Senator Ruth Ward  
Senate Transportation Committee  
107 North Main Street, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:


On behalf of the many organizations supporting mandatory Holocaust and genocide education in New Hampshire, **we strongly urge you to endorse Senator Jay Kahn’s amendment to HB 1135 that incorporates the text of SB 727, An Act Relative to Holocaust and genocide studies, into the bill.** SB 727, sponsored by Senator Jay Kahn, unanimously passed in the New Hampshire Senate in February. Given the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in, this bill is now being considered by the Senate again as an amendment to HB 1135.

The amendment would require the inclusion of Holocaust and genocide prevention education in the criteria for an adequate education in New Hampshire and would establish a commission to study best practices for teaching the subject. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has been joined by many organizations in supporting this initiative, including the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, Keene State University’s Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Council of Churches and the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education.** A number of New Hampshire public school teachers who have initiated elective programs in Holocaust and genocide education are also supporting this bill.

The need for Holocaust and genocide education in our schools could not be more urgent. ADL’s most recent data documented 2,107 antisemitic incidents across the country in 2019 alone—the highest number on record since ADL started tracking incidents in 1979. 411 of these incidents occurred in K-12 schools, representing a 19 percent increase in school-based incidents relative to 2018. Here in New Hampshire,



ADL New England  
40 Court Street, Boston, MA 02108 | t: 617.406.6300 | f: 617.406.6310 | boston@adl.org



we learned during the Senate hearing on SB 727 that antisemitic occurrences in schools have included the use of antisemitic epithets and the defacement of school property with swastikas. With the move to online education in the wake of the pandemic, these incidents have shifted to online occurrences.

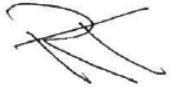
New Hampshire has an opportunity through this proposed legislation to use education to address this hate. When students do not understand the history of the Holocaust and other genocides or the elements leading to these tragedies, they cannot fully grasp the significance of their own biased actions or the lasting impact that they can have on the community at large.

New Hampshire has ample curricula and resources to support this growing need to teach about the Holocaust and genocide, including many that are available at no cost, through the ADL, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and New Hampshire’s Keene State Cohen Center. The proposed legislation does not dictate the materials that must be used; nor does it require a special, standalone course to educate our grade 8 – 12 students.

We have both a unique opportunity and an important obligation to empower a new generation to learn from our past to build a stronger and more tolerant society in the future. As we have seen during this global pandemic, hate and antisemitism do not rest. Education is a powerful way to confront this hate, and New Hampshire has the opportunity to lead through its adoption of this important and essential initiative for mandatory Holocaust and genocide education in the state.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge you to support this important amendment.

Sincerely,



Robert Trestan  
Regional Director

ADL New England  
40 Court Street, Boston, MA 02108 | t: 617.406.6300 | f: 617.406.6310 | boston@adl.org

## Holocaust continued from page 6

education Act, “Holocaust education provides a context in which to learn about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of the oppression of others; learning how and why the Holocaust happened is an important component of the education of citizens of the United States.”

5. **Adding to the curricula will cost money; schools cannot afford the expenditure.** Schools can add meaningful Holocaust and genocide education to their curricula without cost. In addition to the free programming and teacher resources (including curricula) offered by organizations like the Anti-Defamation League and Keene State College’s Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the United States just passed the Never Again Education Act which will also provide schools with free resources. The Never Again Education Act,

signed by the President on May 29, 2020, granted the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum \$10 million dollars over five years to “develop and nationally disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about how and why the Holocaust happened,” including “principles of sound pedagogy teaching about the Holocaust,” print resources, traveling exhibitions, and teacher trainings.

Although it may be hard or disturbing to believe that there could be objection to this important and bipartisan bill, there may be. **Please reach out to a House member as soon as you are able.** Let him or her know of your belief in the importance of this legislation and, if applicable, your experiences with antisemitism or insufficient education on the Holocaust and other genocides in New Hampshire schools. Your voice is important.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Dina Michael Chaitowitz at [dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com](mailto:dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com).

*Holocaust continued on next page 9*



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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to Hitler’s ovens,” and our own (former) executive director targeted on Gab, a social media site for neo-Nazis and white supremacists (the same site used by Robert Bowers before killing 11 people at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018 and by John Earnest before opening fire at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in 2019). As I mentioned in my letter to the Senate Workforce and Development Committee, the JFNH was also informed that a New Hampshire teacher who taught the Holocaust to her classroom received a threatening late-night phone call from a Holocaust-denying parent. Sadly, the coronavirus is stirring antisemitism around the world.

That antisemitism is on the rise and that we are in critical need of Holocaust and genocide education is underscored not only by statistics, including statistics showing that knowledge of the Holocaust is sorely lacking, but also by the fact that, on May 13, 2020, Congress passed the Never Again Education Act (expected to be signed by President Trump this week). In that act, Congress found, among other things, that:

- As intolerance, antisemitism, and bigotry are promoted by hate groups, Holocaust education provides a context in which to learn about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of the oppression of others; learning how and why the Holocaust happened is an important component of the education of citizens of the United States; and

- Today, those who deny that the Holocaust occurred or distort the true nature of the Holocaust continue to find forums, especially online; this denial and distortion dishonors those who were persecuted, and murdered, making it even more of a national imperative to educate students in the United States so that they may explore the lessons that the Holocaust provides for all people, sensitize communities to the circumstances that gave rise to the Holocaust, and help youth be less susceptible to the falsehood of Holocaust denial and distortion and to the destructive messages of hate that arise from Holocaust denial and distortion.

Significantly, the Never Again Education Act grants the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum funds to develop resources to promote understanding about how and why the Holocaust happened and principles of sound pedagogy for teaching about the Holocaust for teachers around the country. The full text of the act may be found here: <https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/congress/house-bill/943/text>.

As I mentioned in my letter to, and testimony before, the Senate Workforce and Development Committee, other organizations—including the ADL and the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies—also provide free curricula on the Holocaust and other genocides to school teachers. The JFNH will do everything in its power to support the Act, including work with the state Department of Education and New Hampshire teachers to incorporate these resources into New Hampshire curricula.

2



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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The Never Again Education Act identifies 12 states that have mandated Holocaust education. New Hampshire should be a leader in this important educational initiative as well.

Our state needs this education -- to ensure that our students are taught both the facts of the Holocaust and other genocides and the skills needed to apply their lessons to contemporary issues and, ultimately, to secure a more informed, tolerant, responsible, and caring citizenry and a safer future for all of us.

As you know, the Senate voted unanimously in support of the Act in March. Please affirm this commitment to Holocaust and genocide education by voting in favor of Amendment 1259 to House Bill 1135.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

*/s/ Sarit Itenberg*

Dr. Sarit Itenberg  
Chair, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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**Director of Outreach and Engagement**

Allyson Guertin

A Member of The Jewish  
Federations of North America

May 28, 2020

Submitted via email to: [remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us)

Senator David Watters, Chair  
Senator Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair  
Senator Martha Hennessey  
Senator Melanie Levesque  
Senator Ruth Ward  
Senate Transportation Committee  
The New Hampshire State Senate  
107 North Main Street, Room 103  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: AMENDMENT 1259 TO HOUSE BILL 1135 AND AN ACT  
RELATIVE TO HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES**

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (“JFNH”), I write to seek your support of Amendment 1259 To House Bill 1135, which incorporates Senate Bill 727, An Act Relative to Holocaust and Genocide Studies Legislation and Establishing a Commission to Study Genocide Education (“the Act”). If passed, the Act will ensure that New Hampshire students are taught the historical facts of the Holocaust and other genocides, and how intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, and religious hatred and discrimination can have a devastating impact on society.

The Act is supported by a diverse and broad group of people and organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League (“ADL”), the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester, Keene State College’s Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the New Hampshire Council of Churches, and the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education. As you may be aware, representatives of many of these organizations testified in support of the Act at the hearing before the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee, as did a Holocaust survivor and a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, three public high school teachers, a Jewish high school student who was the victim of antisemitism at a New Hampshire public school, and the mother of a Jewish New Hampshire junior high school student who was the subject of a vicious antisemitic YouTube video.

Data collected by the ADL unmistakably shows that antisemitism is on the rise around the country and here in our home state. Shockingly and frighteningly, we have witnessed swastikas painted in public spaces, Jewish students being told to “go back

1

*Holocaust continued from page 8*

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ashley Harbel and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 727 that is attached to House Bill 1135. I have been teaching English for 13 years and currently teach at Sanborn Regional High School in Kingston, NH. I have been very involved in the study of the Holocaust for the last 8 or 9 years of my career, taking part in various professional development programs, and have found my passion in Holocaust Education.

In my 13 years as an educator, I have seen a change in the climate of my school and students. I have found swastikas drawn on whiteboards and etched into tables. I have overheard students making jokes about gas chambers. I have seen a student stand in the middle of the cafeteria and yell "Heil Hitler" while his classmates looked on with laughter. And while I can address those individuals in those moments, a better approach would be to teach Holocaust Education before these incidents occur.

However, over the course of K-12 education in New Hampshire, it is possible to never learn about the Holocaust. Some of our students enter high school not knowing what the word even means. It is possible for a student to never encounter any Holocaust curriculum in their career in our district, as it really only makes an appearance in one unit in English or in my elective.

This hole in the curriculum is one of the reasons why I pushed my district to allow me to teach a Holocaust Studies course. Holocaust education is the story of people, of humanity. My students read memoirs and listen to testimony. They see themselves reflected in these everyday people of the past. It is my hope that through Holocaust education, students will not only gain an understanding of how something like this could happen in our world but also allow our students to become a voice against injustice, against prejudice and bigotry today and say "never again".

While funding for Holocaust Education, for memoirs and stories, for special programming that brings survivors to our students and our students to museums is welcomed, I could teach my whole course without additional funding. There are many organizations that have free lessons and resources. I use Echoes and Reflections, a partnership of the ADL, Yad Vashem, and the USC Shoah Foundation, which is all free. I use resources from museums, like the Museum of Jewish Heritage and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Many of these and other organizations provide free online professional development as well as provide opportunities for summer training for educators in the field.

It is time for us to say "Never Again" and see it happen. But this won't happen without education.



Ashley E. Harbel  
English Teacher  
Sanborn Regional High School



## NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

May 29, 2020

Dear Members of the Senate Transportation Committee:

The New Hampshire Council of Churches is an ecumenical Christian body of nine diverse denominations: American Baptist, Greek Orthodox, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran, Society of Friends (Quaker), Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, United Methodist and Unitarian Universalist. All together, these denominations comprise nearly 400 congregations in the Granite State.

As the Executive Director of the Council, I stand with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire in urging you to support amendment #1259 to HB1135, incorporating the text of SB727. My urging is based on the beliefs and actions of the Council and its member denominations and our local congregations, for specifically three reasons:

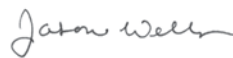
First, our member denominations oppose antisemitism, genocide and the Holocaust. This opposition takes various forms, including legislatively-approved position statements, endorsements of the Christian anti-Nazi document the *Theological Declaration of Barmen* and the repeated, spoken words of bishops and others holding an official teaching capacity.

Second, the NH Council of Churches hosted in 2019 and will host again teaching on the legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor who led Christian resistance to Nazi rule. Bonhoeffer was killed at the Flossenbürg death camp on April 9, 1945. The Council has invited speakers to educate church members on Bonhoeffer's witness and the legacy of Christian resistance to the Holocaust. The Council also hopes to educate our state's churches on the dangers of Christian complicity and silence in the face of antisemitism.

Thirdly and finally, I urge support of this amendment to HB1135 because of the current witness of New Hampshire's churches. For many years, churches of all kinds have attended and supported the Holocaust memorial programs led by local synagogues. They have received with sadness the increasingly frequent reports of threats directed at their neighbor synagogues. They have expressed grief and solidarity during shared vigils following the Tree of Life synagogue murders and other antisemitic hate crimes.

With these three supports from our member denominations, from the state Council of Churches and from our local congregations, there is a foundation for Holocaust and genocide education already happening here. As good as this is, this needed education cannot be limited to our faith communities. I urge your support for amendment #1259 to HB1135, incorporating the text of SB727 which can bring this education into broader venues and prevent future silence and complicity in the face of such evils.

With gratitude and hope,



Rev. Jason Wells, Executive Director

PO Box 1087, Concord, NH 03302-1087  
(603) 219-0889

140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275  
info@nhchurches.org www.nhchurches.org

## A Message from JFNH Vice-Chair Ken Litvack

By JFNH Vice-Chair Ken Litvack

The past few months have been a whirlwind, but the Board has continued its work online.

I'm glad to report that the campaign exceeded its goals, showing an almost ten percent increase over the previous fiscal year.



JFNH Vice-Chair  
Ken Litvack.

These donations allow us to continue offering cultural, educational, and practical services to the community, and we thank everyone who contributed. We truly couldn't do what we do without your help.

Please note that there are still some pledges outstanding, and the office has sent reminders. If you haven't yet made your donation, we urge you to do so as soon as possible, either via the website or by sending a check to the office.

Thank you and stay well.

[www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org)

To submit Calendar items for the print and online JFNH Calendar and E-News, go to <https://jewishnh.org/community-calendar>, click the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in the form with your event information.

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## Jewish Federation of New Hampshire seeks an Executive Director

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH) seeks an experienced Jewish Professional to serve as its leader in the capacity of Executive Director. Reporting to the Chair of the Board of Directors, this person is responsible for the successful achievement of JFNH's vision and mission.

The ideal candidate is a multi-tasker with strategic and tactical ability, able to lead all JFNH fundraising through individual giving, major gifts, stewardship and annual giving campaigns while also managing JFNH administration, financial oversight and personnel.

Our leader must eagerly become involved in communities statewide while supporting the JFNH mission with analytical and team-building skills that take our programs to the next level. This leader will be a visible, involved member of the Jewish community throughout the state of NH and must possess a passion for Jewish life both in NH and Israel.

A successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years of direct fundraising experience, will be a self-starter, and possess excellent interpersonal skills. Prior management experience is required. This position is based out of our headquarters in Bedford, NH and this job requires the ability to work within this office and travel throughout the state of NH to meet with stakeholders, government leaders and organizations and support programming as needed. Weekends and evenings are required. Flexibility is a must.

The successful candidate is expected to live within commuting distance of the JFNH office or be willing to relocate to New Hampshire.

# Lights, Camera, Action!

## New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Announces Virtual Series

By Zach Camenker

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Committee is pleased to announce that they will host a FREE Virtual Summer Film Series in place of the previously scheduled festival in March. Given the need to avoid large crowds during the COVID-19 pandemic, the accessibility of streaming services, and the success of a recent virtual event, the committee, co-chaired by Pat Kalik and Ross Fishbein, decided it was best to proceed with a virtual version of the Festival this year.

After a test run with the virtual format in May for the documentary *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, which had over 350 registrations and more than 80 participants in the post-film Zoom discussion with Broadway actress Joanne Borts, the Committee felt comfortable moving forward with a series. The Summer Film Series includes the following titles, previously scheduled to screen at this year's New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival: *Love in Suspenders*, *My Name is Sara*, *Future's Past*, *Shooting Life*, and *Paris Song*.

Each film will be available on Thursdays beginning at 6:00 PM, and can be streamed during a 72 hour screening window. Zoom discussions will be held on Sundays at 7:00 PM for three of the five films. Links for each film and Zoom discussion will be sent via email.

The series will begin with *Love in Suspenders*, available starting July 9 at 6 PM. An Israeli comedy that was scheduled to make its New Hampshire Premiere at the Festival, this piece follows absentminded Israeli widow Tami as she accidentally bumps 70-year-old widower Beno with her car. While the last thing on Tami's mind is romance, she invites Beno to her apartment, hoping he won't sue her. Circumstances conspire to continually bring the two lonely elders together. Against her wishes, the financially comfortable Tami starts falling for the money-strapped Beno, who is head over heels in love with her. Will their budding relationship survive their own preconceptions and the scrutiny of their children? Tune in on July 9 to find out! There will be no post discussion for this film.



Beginning July 23 at 6 PM, *My Name is Sara* will be the next film in the series. Shown at eight other Jewish Film Festivals, this piece is the true story of Sara Goralnik, a 13-year-old Polish Jew whose entire family was killed by Nazis in September 1942. After making a grueling escape to the Ukrainian countryside, Sara steals her Christian best friend's identity and finds refuge in a small village, where she is taken in by a farmer and his young wife. She soon discovers the dark secrets of her employers' marriage, compounding her own greatest secret that she must strive to protect her true identity. We hope you'll join us for this film, which includes a Zoom discussion with screenwriter David Himelstein on Sunday, July 26 at 7 PM.

The third film in the series is *Futures Past*, which will be available starting August 6 at 6 PM. *Futures Past* captures the power struggle between filmmaker Jordan Melamed and his father, Leo Melamed, Holocaust survivor and kingpin of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange as it marks its final days. What begins as a documentary of the end of an era becomes a deeply personal exploration by a son returning to the "kill or be killed" world he was raised in. Critic Richard Roeper referred to the film as "one of the best...I've seen this year by far," upon its initial release in 2016, while the *Hollywood Report* said that the "conversations and confrontations with Leo" are where "Jordan strikes documentary-film gold." A Zoom discussion with Jordan will be held on Sunday, August 9 at 7 PM.

*Shooting Life* will be the penultimate film in the series, available starting August 20 at 6 PM. This Israeli film, which was selected for Jewish Film Festivals in Vienna, Atlanta, Montreal, and Washington, tells the story of Igal Gazit, an unemployed film director from Tel Aviv, who moves to Sderot and takes a teaching

job at the high school. However, Igal's first meeting with his new students doesn't go well. The students, sensing that he is patronizing them, make fun of the "enlightenment" he brings from Tel Aviv. Igal promises the school principal that all the kids will pass the State Film Exams. The road to fulfilling that promise is one that the students will never forget. There will not be a Zoom discussion after this movie.

The final film in the series is Jeff Vespa's *Paris Song*, available starting August 27 at 6 PM. Originally scheduled for our "Sociable Saturday Night" event, *Paris Song* chronicles the true story of small-

town singer Amre Kashabayev's journey from Soviet-ruled Kazakhstan to Paris to compete in an international singing competition at the 1925 Paris Expo. Unexpectedly embraced by the high-culture Paris elite, Amre forms a beautiful and unlikely friendship with American Jewish songwriters George Gershwin and Irving Berlin and with photographer Lee Abbott. The recipient of Best Narrative and Best Actor prizes at the Richmond International Film Festival and the Hollywood Silver Screen Prize of Kazakhstan at the Hollywood Film Festival, this inspiring film focuses on the theme of feeling like an outsider. On Sunday, August 30 at 7 PM, the virtual series will conclude with one final



Zoom discussion featuring director Jeff Vespa himself. You won't want to miss this or any of the other film viewing opportunities!

In order to participate in this exciting opportunity, advanced registration is required. Registration for the entire film series is free, though there is a suggested donation of \$18, which can be contributed directly toward the Film Festival so that we can continue to offer this programming in the future.

Additionally, for those of you who have missed some of the great classic films of the American Jewish experience, the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival will also be virtual this year. They will be offering free film forums with guest speakers and Zoom discussions, which you can watch from the comfort of your living room. Check out the schedule on page 22.

The Film Festival is supported in part by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, a grant from the New Hampshire State Council of the Arts, many corporate sponsors, and friends of the Festival. We thank them for continuing to support us as we move to a virtual format. We couldn't do it without them!

Plenty of opportunities remain for cultural engagement during the pandemic and we hope you embrace this chance to see some excellent Jewish films this summer. See you at the virtual movies!



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## VIRTUAL SUMMER FILM SERIES

Register for FREE Summer Film Series in advance  
Online at [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org)

By phone (603-627-7679) through the Jewish Federation Office,  
Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–3 PM

Information: Call 603-627-7679 or visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org)  
for the latest on the NH Jewish Film Festival.



On Facebook, visit Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and  
New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival for updated information.



New Hampshire  
State Council on the Arts

Supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire  
State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment  
for the Arts.

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



### PRODUCERS



### DIRECTORS AND FILM STARS



Maryellen and Mark Bilech • Pam Grich and Louis Fink  
Sarit Itenberg and Jonathan Greenblatt • Nancy and Richard Kudler  
Honey Weiss and David Lewis • Julia and Ido Preis  
Barbara and Barry Scotch • Anonymous

## FREE Virtual Summer Film Series

All films premiere on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM,  
and are available for streaming for 72 hours.

ZOOM discussion sessions begin at 7:00 PM on Sunday evenings,  
July 26, August 9 and August 30 at the end of the streaming window.

Please find the link for each film and accompanying Zoom event in  
your email by 4:00 PM on each new streaming day.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER FILM SERIES**



### Love In Suspenders July 9, 6 PM

Director: Jorge Weller  
Comedy, 2019, Israel  
102 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles  
Content Warning: Adult Content



### My Name is Sara July 23, 6 PM

Post film discussion with screenwriter  
David Himmelstein on Sunday, July 26, 7 PM  
Director: Steven Orritt  
Drama, 2019, USA  
111 minutes, English  
Content Warning: Adult Content, Sexual Situations



### Futures Past August 6, 6 PM

Post film discussion with Director  
Jordan Melamed on Sunday, August 9, 7 PM  
Director: Jordan Melamed  
Documentary, 2016, USA  
89 minutes, English



### Shooting Life August 20, 6 PM

Director: David Kreiner  
Drama, 2018, Israel  
84 minutes  
Hebrew with English subtitles



### Paris Song August 27, 6 PM

Post film discussion with Director  
Jeff Vespa on Sunday, August 30, 7 PM  
Director: Jeff Vespa  
Historical Drama, 2018, Kazakhstan, Latvia, USA  
90 minutes  
English, Arabic, French, Hebrew



Presented by  
**Jewish Federation**  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## LIFE: ONLINE

### JFNH Signature Program

By Avia Sagron

All of us probably heard everything that can be said about Covid-19. If someone had told me a few months ago what the future held for us, I don't think I would have been able to believe it. But hey, how many times can you say that you were part of history in the making?

In the past few months, I've learned so many new things. Social distancing became an "everyday" practice. It's very challenging for a hugger like me!

I think we are living a new reality, one that forces us to appreciate the most natural, normal things...like hugging loved ones and seeing each other's smiles.

I've been asked many times what it's like to be a *shlichah* these days. Like everyone, in the beginning I didn't find it easy. I used to meet a lot of people every single day, talk about Israel in Hebrew schools every week, and be involved in different communities all around the state. Then we started to get used to Zoom meetings. I swear I look better in person than in that little box!

When it all just started, we didn't know what would happen tomorrow (we still don't). A group of several *shlichot* friends and I started the LIFE:ONLINE project. We are different *shlichim* from different places — community *shlichim* like me, synagogue and JCC *shlichim* — and we are stronger together, with so much to offer as a group. We created a daily program schedule that became a weekly schedule. After three months, from a project it became a community!

We got the opportunity to get people together on a much bigger scale, not



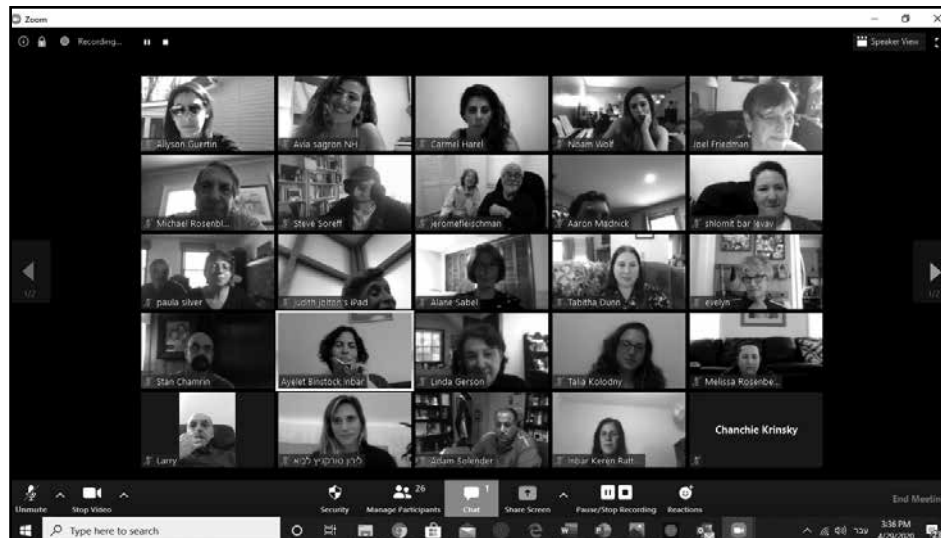
Avia Sagron

only in New Hampshire, but in different Jewish communities around the United States and the world. We created wonderful virtual programs that would only be possible this way. We hosted my brother Omri and he shared his Cyber Security experience with us. We had cooking classes and classes on Israeli music, Israeli and Judaic history, Israeli leading ladies, dance, Hebrew and more.

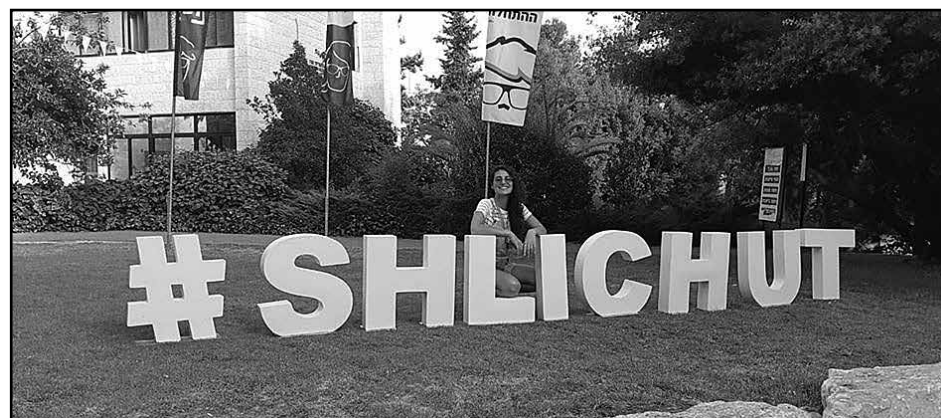
Each one of us did our best and used his own vision and strength. The results have been wonderful!

The Federation and I also created special programs for our New Hampshire community, like Mimouna, the Moroccan celebration after Passover, a "Taste of Memory" program for Yom HaZikaron, a reunion of former New Hampshire *shlichot* for Yom Ha'atzmaut, "Israel in a box" and Shavuot kits that we delivered to kids and seniors and more.

"When life gives you lemons, make



Until we meet again: a virtual gathering.



A dedicated group of *shlichim* have banded together to offer host online classes and programs.

lemonade," is a saying that I always have in mind. No, I never imagined that something like this would happen during my *shlichot*, when I'm so far from home and my family, but I feel very lucky to be surrounded by our community. I truly feel like I have one more big family right here. I will continue to create different programs and share my

love for Israel with you guys, and I hope to think outside the box every single day.

I hope that we will be able to meet in person soon! To hug each other, have great programs in the Federation building, meet at different synagogues for Shabbat services, share Shabbat dinners, and enjoy great company!

Most important, stay safe and healthy!

## The Federation Observes *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*

By Stephen Soreff, MD

In this era of the new normal, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire celebrated *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day) on April 29 on Zoom. First, through the brilliance of Avia Sagron, our current *shlichah*, and the work of Allyson Guertin, the *Shlichut* Reunion was held on Zoom on April 29. It featured Noam Wolf, 2017-19; Inbar Keren, 2012-13; Ore Ayah Dagan, 2010-12; Shlomit Bar-Levev, 2009-10; Ayelet Binstock, 2008-9; Carmel Harel, 2007-8; Liron Lavi, 2006-7; and Talia Greenblatt-Kolodny 2005-6.



JFNH Shlichah Avia Sagron.



Co-Host Talia Garber, Shlichah to Washington DC

It was great to see and hear from each of them. All had great careers and some are now married with children. They talked not only about their experiences in New Hampshire, but also how being a *shlichah* here changed their lives. We learned from them and they learned

from us.

Also at the Zoom meeting were many members of the New Hampshire Jewish community who have worked with them. This included Adam Solender, the Federation's first director, who helped initiate the *shlichah* program, and Alane Sabel, the Federation Preschool Director, who had all the *shlichim* as teachers there. Many of the New Hampshire folk referred to the *shlichim* as "our children." There were tears all around.


The reunion was followed by "72

Years of Israeli Music," also on Zoom. Co-hosted by current New Hampshire *Shlichah* Avia Sagron and Washington DC *Shlichah* Talia Garber, the presentation featured popular Israeli music and musical artists. New Jersey *Shlichah* Ohad Porat provided historical and musical commentary. All the *shlichim* provided personal experiences with the pieces. The Israeli music they played showed their diverse backgrounds. The music had been influenced by Arab and American music as well as the Beatles. It was great to enjoy Israeli music with folks from all over the United States and the world. What a nice way to celebrate!

## Tisha B'Av: Mourning a Way of Life

Tisha B'Av is observed on the secular calendar at the end of this month. Literally, the ninth of the month of Av, it commemorates the destructions of the First Temple (586 bce) and Second Temple (70 ce), as well as other calamities that have befallen the Jewish people, as added by Jewish leadership over time. Modern Jews often ask if Tisha B'Av has any meaning for us today; after all, animal sacrifices and the hierarchy of the priesthood are, as many of us are fond of saying, best left to biblical times.

But modern Jews must also recognize that the destruction of the two Temples is not only about the loss of the physical buildings. People died, too, and the communities were forced to mourn their ways of living and reinvent themselves. During the Babylonian exile following the destruction of the First Temple, our people began to develop prayers. They shifted their theology from one in which God judges to one in which God saves. The biblical texts from this period – par-

Rabbi in the House	
	<i>Robin Nafshi</i> <i>Temple Beth Jacob</i>

ticularly from the prophet Isaiah – speak of the Israelites being gathered together again and purified, as God's love returns in exchange for their repentance. During this time, the Torah probably took its final form and became the central text of our people.

Following the destruction of the Second Temple, the Jews were dispersed (hence, the diaspora), and two primary communities developed: one in northern Israel and the other in Babylonia, where descendants of the Jews sent there after the destruction of the First Temple thrived. Now, the Jews fully substituted prayers for sacrifices, rabbis for priests,

and Torah celebrations for agricultural pilgrimage festivals. They developed a legal code (the Mishnah, around 200 ce) and the Talmud a few centuries later. This new era, the Rabbinic era, followed the Biblical era.

We Jews are good at reinventing ourselves when we must. The Medieval era followed the Rabbinic period. Then came the Modern era. Where we are today is anyone's guess.

This year, perhaps more than any other in recent memory, invites us to again mourn a way of life. Our synagogue buildings have been closed since March. Praying together has been over Zoom or Facebook, via our own live-streaming equipment, or on some other platform. When we come together, we see small boxes with other faces or have no idea who is with us. We can't sing together because the technology doesn't allow for it or it generates a terrible delay or echo. Religious school was online. Adult education is online. Meetings are online. Pas-

sage sessions are online. You get it. It's all online. I refuse to say it's virtual because our gatherings are real and sometimes the only contacts we have with others in the course of a day or week. But these gatherings are also weird and disjointed, and do not fulfill the very human need for human contact.

And yet ... we are learning a lot about our communities by gathering online. Many of us have seen an increase in attendance at services these past few months. Meetings online are efficient and allow for everyone to participate, regardless of where they live. We are innovating and streamlining and identifying what really matters for our communities. When it is safe to return to our congregations, no doubt we will take with us many of the lessons learned during the pandemic to bring our Jewish community to the next stage of Jewish life. For as we mourn our losses, we also celebrate our creativity and ability to remake ourselves.

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### Bat Mitzvah at Home via Zoom



Kayla Hyett, of Temple Israel, Portsmouth, celebrated her bat mitzvah at home via Zoom on May 16. Mazel tov!

## Temple Beth Abraham Welcomes New Director of Education

By Mathew Lee

Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua is pleased to welcome Sarit Ferreira to the TBA family as our new Director of Education and Community Engagement.

Sarit was born and raised in Israel. Her family moved between Dimona, a small city in the Negev Desert, and Kibbutz Ginosar, where Sarit's grandparents were founding members and her mother was born and raised. Growing up, Sarit enjoyed a variety of artistic pursuits and took classes in drawing, ceramics, and graphic design. She could also be found swimming in the lake, hiking, or camping with her family and friends. Sarit worked in a variety of agricultural and service jobs within the Kibbutz, such as the grapefruit grove, the banana plantation, and the dining hall. However, her favorite job was working as a caretaker with the infants, toddlers, and children of the kibbutz.

As required of all Israeli citizens, Sarit served in the IDF after graduating from high school. There, as part of the Air Force Intelligence unit, she worked in aerial photo analysis. When her service was complete, Sarit moved to Massachusetts, where her sister was residing. Once there, she decided to combine her love of the arts with her passion for working with children by pursuing a bachelor's degree in education, with a second major in art.



*Sarit Ferreira has joined TBA at the new Director of Education and Community Engagement.*

Sarit brings significant experience to the role, having been directly involved in Jewish education since 2000, first as a teacher and later as the Director of Education at Temple Beth Torah in Holliston, MA, and then as the Director of Education at Temple Chayai Shalom in Easton, MA. In March of this year, Sarit and her colleagues on very short notice (being notified by the state on Friday, March 13 that they must close their school due to COVID-19), shifted their in-person educational and engagement models online. In a matter of days, they were up and running, only missing



*The Ferreira Family.*

one Sunday of their SULAM program.

As a Jewish educator, Sarit loves finding relevant and exciting ways to engage children and their families in Jewish experiences. She believes that Judaism can guide us toward becoming the best versions of ourselves – that it is a way of being. Sarit is especially interested in experiential and self-directed learning, through which learners of any age can explore what is most meaningful to them. Sarit has experience with teaching and guiding staff in Project Based Learning, Torah Godly Play, and incorporating games as a tool for more effective and enjoyable Hebrew language instruction. Sarit is currently pursuing an advanced degree at Hebrew Union College's Executive Master's Program in Jewish Education.

The primary focus of her work at TBA will be to oversee and transform Jewish

education and engagement programs for families with children ages 0-18, including our Religious School, Shabbat, and holiday programming. In addition to the above, Sarit's experience integrating online learning and engagement models and creating a wide variety of digital content and her fluency in online engagement and social media models are key strengths she brings to our community.

Sarit is married to David, an Assistant Creative Director at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund. David and Sarit have two sons: Ben (20), who is studying Game Art and Development at Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester NH campus), and Ethan (16), a homeschooler who is self-directing his education by taking classes at community college and with a tutor. Daisy, a playful calico cat, completes the Ferreira family.

We look forward to working with Sarit, and hope you will take advantage of upcoming opportunities to meet and welcome Sarit into our community.

Temple Beth Abraham is an open and inclusive congregation serving Jewish families throughout Southern New Hampshire and the nearby areas of Massachusetts. Our members come from all over the country and the world and from all kinds of Jewish backgrounds. We welcome interfaith families to our community.

## Graduates




*Ari Friedman, Hollis Brookline High School. Ari will attend Syracuse University in the fall.*



*Michael Ziv, Londonderry High School. Michael was a goalie on the varsity ice hockey team and received the Teamwork and Dedication Award for personality and good sportsmanship. Michael will attend the Business School at UNH in the fall.*



*Zara Foroohar, ALB from Harvard University (Extension Studies). Zara is from Warner and will be attending the University of Oxford for a Masters in Classics next year.*



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## In the Community

# Favorite Moments of BHC Come Alive Through Members' Fond Memories

By Eileen Regen

Though the centennial celebration for Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation has been postponed to 2021, members and friends continue to relish the stories of beloved members of this intrepid North Country synagogue found in the 90th anniversary book, *Jewish Light of the White Mountains, Volume I*, published in 2010.

Blanche Morgenroth –Octogenarian Hot-rodder

“An apt description of Blanche by her daughters, Lynda and Diane Morgenroth! They surprised their mother by sponsoring the Shabbat *Kiddush* lunch October 9 in honor of Blanche’s eightieth birthday. Lynda and Diane brought all the food with them from New York and Boston, giving us even more to *kvell* about.

Blanche, in turn, gave BHC a present. She donated her beloved 1971 Chevrolet Chevelle Malibu to the synagogue. It was a difficult decision, but she wanted to help the synagogue with its fundraiser. This vintage muscle car was the very first car Blanche owned. When she learned to drive, her husband gave it to her. Blanche is also very wise. (One is at eighty!) She had learned that she would be able to take a charitable tax deduction for the



value of the car. She didn’t need to bother selling the car herself or find a place to store it for the winter. It was a good deal for both BHC and for Blanche.”

This item, written by Bernice Dinner, was originally published in the November-December 2004-January 2005 issue of *The Star*.

Neil Hochstadt Remembers . . . Camp Ha-Ha-Ra – An Excerpt

“My first summer at Camp Na-Ha-Ra [National Hay Fever Relief Association] was the first time I left the confines of New York City. This was quite the adventure since we went by train – an all day trip that did not get us into the Whitefield Station until close to midnight.

The camp itself was very basic, but I was in exotic New Hampshire and to this day, New Hampshire is a magical place for me. Perhaps some people feel that way about Paris or Vienna –for me it’s New Hampshire, and more specifically, Bethlehem.

The basic camp had no swimming pool but we did have a small softball field we built ourselves. The bunks up on



Octogenarian Hot Rodder Blanche Morgenroth shakes the lulav at BHC.

the hill were fine and had space for thirty-six boys. Below the bunks were two main houses close to the road that administrative offices, rooms for staff, a dining room. Nothing fancy. Days were spent playing ball, hiking, and playing games. Compared to camps today, such as the ones that my children have gone to, this camp would not have drawn a single camper. However, we had great

fun. It was a treat for a city kid to be in the beautiful mountain environment. I spent six summers at Camp Na-Ha-Ra. My love of the outdoors was kindled by my experiences at Na-Ha-Ra in Bethlehem and remains with me today. I am an avid hiker and bicyclist – having hiked and biked all over the world. But I always return to New Hampshire –I was imprinted when I was young and it is hard to shake.

My connection to Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation occurred when Rosh Hashanah fell during a few of our camp seasons. The camp arranged for the Jewish boys (this was a culturally diverse camp long before cultural diversity became fashionable) to go to services at BHC. We walked into town – I recall that it was about a three-and-a-half to four-mile walk each way. But no one complained because it was so beautiful and it was an adventure. We went to services each day of the holiday and were warmly welcomed by the congregation. Many years later, in the mid-1990’s, my wife and I spent Rosh Hashanah at BHC and had a very lovely holiday.

I return to New Hampshire at least every other year and always drive through Bethlehem, past the site of the camp, and I always stop at the BHC Synagogue on Strawberry Hill.”

## A Virtual Bat Mitzvah

By Madeline Lee

I had been preparing for my Bat Mitzvah for the past year — memorizing my Torah portion, learning the prayers, preparing my D’var Torah, and completing my bat mitzvah project. We had planned the *kiddush* luncheon, coordinated with the Raymond Street Klezmer Band, sent out the invitations, arranged for the flowers, and ordered a large box of lavender *kippot* printed with my name and the date of my bat mitzvah, March 21, 2020.

Everything seemed very certain until early March, when things started to shut down in order to slow the progression of a virus that had seemed like a distant problem only weeks before. Our plans changed daily as we tried to figure out which aspects of the bat mitzvah we could keep, and what would need to change in order to preserve the safety of

the community. Perhaps the food could be served by waiters instead of having a buffet. Maybe we could just listen to the klezmer band instead of dancing. Perhaps we could have the service, and wait until later to have the celebration.

Less than a week before my bat mitzvah, we learned that the synagogue would be closed temporarily. March 21st would be the last service at Temple Beth Abraham, but the first one ever to be broadcast by Zoom. We were permitted to have enough guests for a minyan, but no more. The party would have to happen at another time. I was disappointed about the party, and about the guests who would not be able to attend in person, but I wanted everyone to be safe and I understood the reason for the precautions. At least I could still have my bat mitzvah in the sanctuary.

On the morning of my bat mitzvah, we arrived at a nearly empty synagogue,



Madeline Lee celebrated her bat mitzvah in March.

and were joined only by a few guests. The rabbi fiddled with the computers as he tried to get Zoom up and running, and my siblings squirmed in the front row, waiting for me to begin. As the time of the service came closer, I waited in nervous anticipation. At least I couldn’t see everyone who was watching me. As the service began, it all melted away, and I became absorbed in the prayers. I chanted my Torah portions and the Haftorah. I received my Tallit and gave my D’var Torah. It was over before I knew it. In that empty sanctuary, with my other guests appearing in squares on a screen, I felt connected to the community and to our traditions.

I am still looking forward to my party when I can celebrate with my friends, and eat all of the desserts we had planned. No matter how many months have passed, we can all wear the lavender *kippot*, and remember March 21, 2020.

## “Car Mitzvah” and Other Adventures on the Road to Resuming

By Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett

Ask any rabbi in the state about “reopening” and we will remind you: we have never closed. There are Jewish gatherings online, for instance, every single day of the week in New Hampshire. We have spoken on the phone with hundreds of members of our community, of all ages, during the past few months.

Of course we are longing to be together. In one place; in three dimensions. In the broader media, “reopening” sounds like a binary. But I’ve put together a list of 40 different types of ways Beth Abraham alone hosts or enables people to be together. We’re asking about every single one: Why is this important is this to who we are as a community? If it’s important, how could we do it safely, for participants and the wider community? Could we actually pull it off?

Along the way are the experiments. Short visits, very few people, way more than six feet of distance. These are precious moments in themselves, and teach us what it will mean to do other things.

Thus was born the “Car Mitzvah.”

It actually began earlier. Somewhere along the way I heard an idea about the High Holy Days: to bring the shofar out in front of every Jewish home. Then our congregant Esther Kosofsky, a Jewish educator in our state and Greater Boston with her ear to all the online Jewish resources, suggested we use Shavuot as a pilot opportunity to try things that might work next fall.

On the afternoons of Shavuot at the end of May, Jessie Mole and I went around to homes with kids all over our

area. Jessie is the creator of our Yedidim young family program. She called this: “A Truly Moving Torah Experience!” A two-car caravan. In one, me with a Torah scroll, and in the other, Jessie with ice cream and gifts.

Nine families signed up. Jessie and I covered a lot of ground after our morning traditional Zoom service ended – from Wilton to Lowell. At each place, we arrived and I set up a Bluetooth speaker about 20 feet away. I held up the Torah open to the Ten Commandments and chanted into my iPhone as a microphone. Jessie set the goodies down by the speaker.

We were outside and far enough away from each other so that no one had to wear a mask. We got to talk for ten minutes with parents and kids. It felt almost illicit! It was sad to drive off, but exhilarating to continue the trek. I chanted in quiet cul-de-sacs, in front of quizzical neighbors, on the curbside of a busy road! It took all afternoon to get everywhere, but what a special Shabbat and festival.

A week later would be Beth Abraham’s first all-Zoom Bar Mitzvah. I decided that Shavuot was enough of a success, and felt safe enough, that I would bring the Torah to the curbside of the Bar Mitzvah and his family. I brought my camera, so they could dress up and I could take photos of them with each other and the Torah. Again I stood far off. I opened up the Torah scroll in the back of my car the first time, so the boy could read from the actual Torah; on Shabbat it would have to be through a screen. That’s when it came to me: the “Car Mitzvah” before the Bar Mitzvah!

I got some video of that Torah



Seth Brown celebrated his bar mitzvah with a “car mitzvah.”

reading as well. I dropped off for each family prayerbooks to use on Shabbat, along with the gifts that our congregation would present to them on Shabbat.

I was so grateful, to Seth Brown’s family in Hampstead and Aaron Ebersman’s family in Dunstable, for giving us reason to celebrate, and for letting me bring them the Torah.

Part of me is intrigued by these experiments not just for the time of COVID-19. Maybe we should always be doing this, bringing the Torah physically out in the world. It was fascinating to take Jewish ritual and Torah out into the world, into the streets. Isn’t this what we are always talking about doing?

As I write this, and maybe as this arrives in the mail, I have no idea what the coming months will bring. I don’t know yet how much and in what ways

we can gather. I know what Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky taught when we first stopped meeting in person: Every act of being apart must be matched with an act of closeness. We must not allow each other to be isolated or abandoned.

Experiments like the “Car Mitzvah” are going to teach us a lot about what we’ll be able to do come the High Holy Days. The goal isn’t just to simulate, on your screen. It’s to make sure you have Torah. It’s to be there for you and with each other. This month it was Torah and driveways and curbsides. Maybe in the fall it will be shofar and rivers and parks. What I do know is that it will be powerful and three-dimensional.

And I can’t wait to see you.

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett is the rabbi at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua.

## Betenu Welcomes New Rabbinic Intern

Amherst — Congregation Betenu is excited to announce that Dena Glasgow will be joining them as a Rabbinic Intern and spiritual leader for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Dena is an accomplished Jewish educator with extensive experience in family education, adult Jewish learning, and service leading.

Dena will lead High Holy Day services at Betenu this fall. She will then be at Betenu one weekend each month, during which she will lead Friday evening services, work with Religious School students, and lead Sunday Adult Education sessions.

Prior to entering Rabbinic training at Hebrew College, Dena was a faculty

member there, serving as Director of Faculty and Curriculum for Adult Learning. She developed and continues to teach “Parenting through a Jewish Lens,” which focuses on facilitating conversations for interfaith parents, parents of young children, and parents of tweens and teens. She was previously Director of the Boston-area Jewish Education Program at Brandeis University. She has served as a Book Selection Committee member for PJ Library, a cutting-edge Jewish program that sends out free, high-quality Jewish books to children around the world. Her teaching background includes 6th through 11th grade students at Prozdor Hebrew College, a central hub for Judaic



Amherst’s Congregation Betenu will welcome Rabbinic Intern Dena Glasgow this fall.

and Hebrew studies in the Greater Boston area.

Dena will be taking the place of outgoing Rabbinic Intern Sam Blumberg, who has been with Betenu for the past three years, as he moves onto a full-time pulpit. The Betenu Board was impressed with Dena’s warmth, intelligence, and energy, as well as her expertise and is looking forward to welcoming her to the Betenu community.

Congregation Betenu is located at 5 Northern Boulevard, Unit 1, in Amherst, New Hampshire. For more information about services and programming, visit us on the web at betenu.org or call 603-886-1633.

**To Alane Sabel and all the current and former JFNH Preschool teachers and staff:**

Ami Bach, Gail Cohen, Ellen Covici, Liz Eckman, Wendy Green, Carol Greenberg, Allyson Guertin, Nancy Kudler, Andy Kushner, Jen Olsen, Missy Rosenberg, Maryellen Rothenberg, Kellie Rubin, Edda Shaffer, Jane Silberberg, Liz Tack, Arielle Welch, and Lorie Wilson

**With great appreciation and love, we thank you for all you have done for our children.**

The JFNH Preschool has been a place of wonder and joy, and of learning and growing for the past thirty-two years. Our children were able to have such a wonderful experience in your care, to be given the opportunity to grow and succeed, and to be cheered on with a smile. This was all done with such loving kindness.

We are fortunate to have been a part of the JFNH Preschool family, and we thank you.

Fondly, JFNH Preschool Families and Alumni

**Dear Alane,**

**The impact you have made on our children is everlasting,  
your love and dedication throughout the years is immense.**

**What a legacy you leave!**

**We are forever grateful.**

**From the bottom of our hearts, we THANK YOU.**

**with gratitude,  
JFNH Board of Directors**

## Chabad Community Trades Torah Study for Treats

Manchester — The hallmark event of the holiday of Shavuot is the reading of the Ten Commandments. It is a mitzvah for people of all ages to hear the passage being read from Jethro in the Book of Exodus, and to relive the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. However, this year, as Shavuot was approaching, it fast became clear that going to *shul* would not be in the cards. The question was, how to bring Shavuot to our homes? At Chabad, we believe where there's a will there's a way!

The team at Chabad came up with the "Shavuot Pledge." They put together a package made up of a bottle of wine, homemade challah, delicious dairy muffins, and a booklet with learning materials. This package was acquired in exchange for a pledge to study Torah on Shavuot.

Shavuot is about more than goodies. It is recognizing and honoring our greatest gift, the Torah. For no monetary cost, just the commitment to study a little bit of Torah, this project treated both bodies and souls.

Just over 30 households proudly took



Everyone who took "the Shavuot Pledge" received a package of homemade goodies, wine, and study materials.

the pledge and picked up their Shavuot gift packages curbside at Chabad. We are delighted to have been able to offer this to the community, and not let Shavuot be forgotten during the pandemic.

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## COVID-19 Update: What We've Learned so Far, and What May Lie Ahead

By Alexander Granok, MD

As always, I'll preface this by saying that our knowledge about this disease continues to change incredibly fast. That said, I'll try to give some highlights about some of the major findings about this disease, and mention where we're going from here.



Infectious Disease Specialist  
 Dr. Alexander Granok.

1. The pandemic has slowed, but isn't going away, and likely won't, for many months. Cities like New York have seen a decrease in new cases, but they're still seeing them. Likewise, our rate of case doubling, an indicator of the overall pace of the infection, is now around 20 days. So, if we've had around 5000 cases by now, in 20 days we'd expect to have around 10,000 cases, if nothing changes. So, it's still with us, and a significant number of people with the infection (35%) have no symptoms. It therefore remains critical to continue to practice social distancing and mask use while in public, two things that have now definitely been shown to reduce the spread of the infection. This is especially important as businesses start to open up. We're hoping not to have to deal with a COVID-19 surge at the same time we're dealing with seasonal influenza, in the fall and winter months.
2. We now have an antiviral drug to fight the infection. In May, the FDA granted an emergency use authorization (EUA) for a medication called Remdesivir, based on preliminary data from a large, clinical trial. The drug, when given to patients who are hospitalized and severely ill with this infection, shortens the time to recovery. We don't know if it will save lives, but longer follow-up of the patients may help us to answer this question. Studies are also underway to determine if it will help patients who aren't as sick. The trouble is that it has to be given intravenously, and our supplies are very limited.
3. Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) hasn't done well in clinical trials. Thus

far, it hasn't been shown to save lives, shorten infections or to prevent infections in those who take it as a preventive medication, despite some early reports to the contrary. It also has some serious potential side effects. Most infectious disease specialists don't recommend it for these purposes, except in the setting of a clinical trial.

4. The Massachusetts-based company, Moderna, had some encouraging reports on its SARS-COV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) vaccine. In a very small group of healthy volunteers, the vaccine was shown to be safe and the people who took it developed antibodies against the virus. This is the first step, as now the company will conduct a clinical trial with several thousand volunteers to see if it actually protects them against the infection. This trial would be expected to take many months to conduct; the most optimistic time frame to complete it would be at the end of 2020, perhaps early 2021. There are other vaccines in development, as well, both in the U.S. and abroad, but we haven't heard any results about these, yet.
5. We are learning more about how this disease can damage the body. We've seen an unusual type of inflammatory syndrome in children, similar to something called Kawasaki's disease, and are recognizing that a significant part of how people suffer and die from this infection seems to be related to clotting in blood vessels. These observations may help us find new ways to treat patients.
6. Schools from kindergarten to the university level are still wrestling with the decision about whether or not to reopen in the fall, and what school in an age of COVID-19 might look like. This discussion is equal parts public health, economics, and politics, and there's no right answer, here. Stay safe.

*Dr. Granok is an infectious disease specialist with Infectious Disease Associates and Travel Medicine, in Merrimack. He is on the medical staffs of Southern NH Medical Center, St. Joseph Hospital, Elliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center. He, his wife April, and their son, Eadric, have been Manchester residents since 2001.*

## Jewish Clergy Urge Caution as State Considers Reopening for Religious Worship

*This letter was sent by the undersigned Jewish clergy from across the state to the Governor's Economic Re-Opening Task Force during its period of deliberation in May.*

May 18, 2020

Dear Senator Giuda and Members of the Governor's Economic Re-Opening Task Force:

We are writing to follow up on our earlier letter to the task force. As rabbis and cantors serving congregations of many Jewish denominations in every part of New Hampshire, we have been working to support people whose families in the recent months have experienced deaths and illness, from COVID-19 and other causes, as well as the loss of jobs and business and income. Like every synagogue of every stream of Judaism throughout the United States, we have been closed for in-person worship, even for groups of ten or less. Our value of *pikuach nefesh*, the preservation of life, is a core Biblical idea that extends to our members and everyone in the wider community.

We are living with the loss of face-to-face community, which is at the core of Jewish experience not only for its benefits to individual well-being but as a fundamental good in itself. As religious leaders we have had to figure out new ways to be a community and to try to protect our congregants from the terrible effects of isolation.

So we know painfully what it means

to want, all at the same time, to protect life, to gather in community, and to restore the livelihoods of our members. **From that vantage point, we want you to hear a voice of caution about reopening for religious worship from religious leaders, in the name of both our religious values and the civic responsibility that comes with our First Amendment rights.**

We do not regard the stay-at-home restrictions to be an infringement of our religious liberty in any way. Like every freedom enumerated in the First Amendment, religious gatherings are subject to reasonable restrictions of time, place, and manner, so long as such laws or regulations do not target religious groups generally or single out particular religious groups. We are in fact proud to be playing our part to slowing the pandemic, not just by refraining from certain activities but by actively teaching our communities what it means and how to be in solidarity with our society.

Synagogue services and Jewish life cycle rituals such as weddings and funerals have sadly been some of the early hot spots for COVID-19 in the U.S. This is why around the country synagogues closed, and this is why every major American Jewish movement -- Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox -- has cautioned that our synagogues will not be among the first public institutions to reopen. Religious services are gatherings in a single space for a long period of time with much singing, which dramatically increases the

distance necessary between people, and whether inside or outside there is a drawing close that comes naturally. We will need much more time to develop processes with adequate training of staff and volunteers and to obtain and learn to use the supplies we will need.

As religious people, we think not only in terms of risks that individuals are free to take on, but the effect of those risks on the public. To be religious means to be responsible for others, including beyond the people you meet face-to-face. We do not want our congregations to encourage people to come together who are at risk or to hold gatherings that might slow or reverse the trends we need in order to have a full reopening as quickly as possible.

We urge you when you issue your next set of guidelines related to religious gatherings to make your guidance specific about the wearing of masks, hygiene, and social distancing appropriate to worship out loud and in song. We hope you make it clear that in the next phase, no religious institution should reopen until it has a plan in more than just a name. We urge you to ask religious institutions to be accountable and to see ourselves in full solidarity with the communities where we gather and worship.

Our Jewish communities have been there for New Hampshire during this pandemic by caring for people in mourning and pain, making masks, calling people on the phone, holding daily and weekly virtual gatherings,

encouraging people to donate to community charities, even training members and other community leaders in the use of Zoom. We will continue to play our role in supporting people affected by COVID-19 in all its ways. We thank you for your public service at this difficult time when you have so many decisions to make for the good of all of us.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Dan Danson, Temple Bnai Israel, Laconia

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Hazzan (Cantor) Marlena Fuerstman, Kehillat Har Lavan, White Mountains

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem

Rabbi Ira Korinow, Temple Israel, Portsmouth

Rabbi Levi Krinsky, Chabad Lubavitch of New Hampshire

Rabbi Peter Levy, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry

Rabbi Amy Loewenthal, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

Rabbi Robin Nafshi, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord

Cantor Shira Nafshi, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord; Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Rabbi Joshua Segal, Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Betenu, Amherst

Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua

Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski, Temple Israel, Manchester

## Temple Beth Abraham Adds Interfaith Cemetery

By Alan Green, TBA Cemetery Chair

In January, Temple Beth Abraham congregants voted overwhelmingly to allow members with non-Jewish spouses and dependent children to be buried together in our cemetery. This decision is part an overall effort to allow interfaith families to feel welcome at TBA.

The first known minyan in Nashua took place at a home in 1892. The organization that became Temple Beth Abraham was founded in 1895, and cemetery land was purchased that same year. Most congregations have done their best over time to keep pace with societal and demographic changes while preserving traditional Jewish practices. TBA has done this as well. Over time, men and women began sitting together at

services, the *mikveh* in the basement of our previous building was reconfigured as office space, bat mitzvahs came to be celebrated, and women began leading services and reading Torah. TBA has been affiliated with the Conservative movement since 1947.

Today, one of the biggest challenges is that increasing numbers of our children are marrying non-Jews. According to the 2013 study by the Pew Research Center, 17% of Jews married non-Jews before 1970; from 2005-2025, it was 58%. Overall, 20% of our congregants have non-Jewish spouses; among the children of our congregants, it is about 50%.

Initially, it was stipulated that burials in our cemetery would be restricted to people who were *Halachically* Jewish. Over time, there were more and more congregants

who were distraught because they could not be buried alongside their non-Jewish spouses. In 2010, the Rabbinical Assembly (the Conservative movement) published a responsum in favor of allowing burial of non-Jewish spouses, with *Halachic* parameters for how this could be done. It passed by a vote of 10-1-3 and is an opinion, not an edict; individual congregations can make their own decisions. About 2 years ago, we at TBA began exploring this option. There were text studies led by Rabbi Jon at Ritual and Cemetery Committee meetings, a special committee was created, a proposal was made, discussion forums for congregants took place, alterations were made in the proposal, it was reviewed by our Board of Directors, and then finally we had our congregational meeting.

We are now in the process of making physical changes to our cemetery, including a 6-foot wide gravel path delineating the interfaith section as prescribed by the 2010 responsum. Some of our Jewish couples wish to be buried in that area to make the point that interfaith families should not feel that they are second-class citizens. We are offering interfaith burials only to TBA members with spouses who are not actively practicing another religion. Our newly revised policies are available through the TBA website.

We feel that we have made an important step in the process of helping interfaith couples find a comfortable place in our congregation, and, hopefully, to help the Jewish people continue to flourish.

## Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Members Meet Online for Summer Prayer, Study, and Cultural Events

By David Goldstone, President

Although the sanctuary doors must remain closed during this time of social distancing, BHC congregants and friends continue to pray and study together with online Kabbalat Shabbat services and Torah studies. In addition, this summer BHC will continue its most popular programs, in which everyone can participate from home on ZOOM without wearing a mask or gloves.



BHC President David Goldstone

Our popular programs include the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival, Sounds in the Sanctuary Classical and Jazz Concert Series, and Books of Jewish Interest Book Discussions. In a normal summer, people would have to travel up

to the White Mountains to Bethlehem's Colonial Theatre to participate in the film festival, gather in our synagogue sanctuary to hear a concert, or come to Bethlehem Public Library to discuss the selected popular novels. This season, BHC has arranged for all of these opportunities to be available online via Zoom. Here is what BHC's summer will look like:

**Weekends:** BHC plans to continue ongoing Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6 PM on Friday evenings, and Sunday morning Torah Studies at 11 AM Sunday mornings with Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum, who will be officiating by Zoom from her home in Omer, Israel.

**White Mountain Film Forum:** BHC will offer the White Mountain Film Forum, a live discussion of classic Jewish American and international films lead by guest speakers, at 7:30 PM on Thursdays via Zoom.

**July 16:** Neal Slavin, American photographer, author, and television/film

director to discuss Focus starring William H. Macy and Laura Dern.

**July 30:** Carole Renard, NEH Oral History Project Coordinator at National Yiddish Book Center will discuss *Remembrance* about a couple's escape from a concentration camp.

**August 13:** Rick Winston, film expert and lecturer, author, and co-owner of Montpelier's Savoy Theatre, will lead a discussion of the 1982 classic *The Chosen* starring Robbie Benson, Rod Steiger, and Maximilian Schell.

**August 27:** Marjorie Agosin, Chilean-American poet, novelist, and human rights activist will discuss *God's Slave*, based on the actual bombing of a synagogue in Buenos Aires.

Participants can watch these movies at home for less than half the price of a theater ticket and then join the discussion for free! To learn how to sign up for the discussions, contact BHC at [bhcsynagogue1920@gmail.com](mailto:bhcsynagogue1920@gmail.com).

**Sounds of the Sanctuary Classical Concert Series**

Friday, August 7, BHC offers a special piano concert and talk by Dr. Richard Kogan, distinguished psychiatrist and concert pianist. He will focus on one personality from his series, "The Mind and the Music of Great Composers."

**Books of Jewish Interest:** BHC's Books of Jewish Interest Group will meet at 4 PM Wednesdays via Zoom for lively discussions of these selected titles:

**July 8** – *Mossad Exodus* – Gad Shimron

**July 22** – *The Jew Store* – Stella Suberman

**Aug. 12** – *The Book of Jeremiah* – Julia Zuckerman

**Aug. 26** – *Violins of Hope* – James A. Grymes

If you would like to be connected to any or all of these popular events, please contact us by email at [bhcsynagogue1920@gmail.com](mailto:bhcsynagogue1920@gmail.com).

## Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman Joins Temple Israel of Portsmouth

Portsmouth — The Temple Israel Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman as the congregation's new rabbi, spiritual leader, and head of the Religious School, effective July 1. "Rabba" is the Hebrew word for a female rabbi. Rabba Kaya is dedicated to the development of meaningful Jewish community rooted in our Jewish wisdom traditions and inspired by the contemporary call for *tikkun olam* — repairing the world.

Temple Israel president Amy Hyett commented, "We are thrilled to have Rabba Kaya as Temple Israel's next spiritual leader. Her passion for inclusive and innovative Jewish practice, her dedication to preserving our traditions, and her commitment to social justice make her a wonderful fit for our synagogue, which is the center for Jewish life on the Seacoast."

Rabba Kaya expressed her enthusiasm about joining Temple Israel, stating, "I have searched many years for a community dedicated to traditional Jewish values while embracing a progressive and inclusive approach to

synagogue life. I am so delighted to have found Temple Israel Portsmouth, a community with a warm and diverse membership, interested in the Jewish journey of learning and creating a more whole, just and peaceful world. I could not be happier to serve as their spiritual leader."

Prior to moving to Portsmouth, Rabba Kaya served as interim rabbi at the Rutland (Vermont) Jewish Center (RJC) from October 2017 through June 2019. Before her position at the RJC, Rabba Kaya was the spiritual leader of Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster, Mass., where she also served as interim rabbi.

Rabba Kaya is the founder and former executive director/spiritual leader of Rimón: Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality, an outreach organization that attracted unaffiliated Jews of all backgrounds as well as non-Jewish participants. In 2015, she was recognized by *The Forward* as one of America's



Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman joins Temple Israel Portsmouth this month.

Most Inspiring Rabbis.

As an experienced and sought-after educator, Rabba Kaya has taught all ages at synagogues throughout the Northeast, Simon's Rock College of Bard, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, Limmud UK and Limmud Boston. Her central focus is the reclaiming of ancient Jewish spiritual wisdom and its transmission for contemporary sensibilities and practical application.

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman was ordained at the Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic seminary in Yonkers, NY, in 2011. She holds a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Social Work from New York University. She is a Fellow of Rabbis Without Borders and a graduate of the Clergy Leadership Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Her professional affiliations include the Association of Rabbis and Cantors and Ohalah: The Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal.

The Board extends grateful appreciation for the leadership of departing Rabbi Ira Korinow, who postponed his planned retirement after 36 years in the pulpit of Temple Emanuel in Haverhill, Massachusetts, to serve Temple Israel in an interim capacity from June 2018 to the present.

Temple Israel of Portsmouth was established in 1905 in the historic Puddle Dock neighborhood of Portsmouth and has resided at 200 State Street, the former First Methodist Church, since 1912. It has been recognized as the oldest permanent Jewish house of worship in New Hampshire by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation.

The Temple, made up of about 300 families from 40 communities around the NH Seacoast, is affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The Temple's Religious School serves about 70 children ages 5-13, and its Early Learning Center is a Montessori-inspired preschool that brings Jewish values and culture to children ages 2 years 9 months to 6 years. For more information, visit [templeisraelnh.org](http://templeisraelnh.org) or call 603-436-5301.

## TBA Sisterhood Moves Online for Cooking, Coffee, and Camaraderie

It was early spring in New Hampshire, and the Sisterhood at Temple Beth Abraham was thriving. The Holy Day flowers and Break Fast had been a success. The Mah Jongg Tournament and Fall Rummage Sale had been a success. At our annual “paid up” event we gave out four Light of Torah pins and donations to local organizations that feed the needy in our community. We hosted and cooked for a well-attended Sisterhood Shabbat, a synagogue-wide game night, and a Purim Ball in conjunction with the Men’s Club. We had events planned for the next four months!

Our well-laid plans came to a screeching halt with the onset of COVID-19! Sheltering in place, school through the computer, groceries online, Amazon ordering, and Zoom calls to family ensuring their safety and well-being. These kept us busy for a while... but something was missing.

During our May Sisterhood Board Meeting (which took place on Zoom), our board bemoaned the fact that we could no longer hold events, get together, or maintain our sense of community and connection. The younger members of the board, who are well versed in the online sphere, had a solution. Roselee Treitel had the brilliant idea to hold Sisterhood events through Zoom, in particular, a cooking show or demonstration.

I offered to be the test subject for this, and on a Wednesday night in May, we were pleasantly surprised to have 14 people in attendance for a tutorial on



For TBA’s Sisterhood, the meetings are virtual but the connection is real.

making *muhammara*! The ingredients were posted ahead of time, and several people cooked along with me. It was a hit!

We immediately began filling up with people offering to cook cauliflower risotto, blintz souffle, pad Thai, whiskey fudge, *tabbouleh*, *mujaddara*, *shakshouka* and more. We now have our Wednesday night at 6:30pm slate full until the middle of July! We’ve even added a Sunday night special on June 14, when Brinda Rajaram, Roz Sandler’s daughter’s mother-in-law (whew!), will teach us about plant-based living!

But it wasn’t enough! Liz Eckley, another younger member who works from home, suggested that we offer a get

together once a week for a “coffee break”! We all know what happens when you get 15-20 women together for coffee...we try to solve the problems of the world! The Coffee Break has proven to be a particularly fruitful time for all involved. We have done matchmaking for children and grandchildren, commiserated over the state of our unruly hair, and enjoyed socially distant visits with family who have dialed in from far and wide. We have seen people from Vermont and Georgia, and some people that we never really connected to before. So now Sisterhood offers a weekly Zoom Coffee Break on Tuesdays at 10-10:30am.

We are, again, connected to our

congregants, friends and sisters, and are having a blast! We have been able to reach people from all ages and walks of life. We have some people that come to all of the events, and some that come to just the coffee break, or just the cooking. Harriet Shanzer, a 10-year member, stated that the meetings are “a great comfort to me,” as she had felt out of touch with the rhythm of Jewish life and budding friendships. New connections were made as fledgling congregant Kelly Zakar joined us for Coffee Break. She and her family have only been congregants since the High Holy Days, but she stated that she finds this connection to be “just what we all need in these troubling times.”

As an oasis in a sea of uncertainty, we feel that we have done well providing a social connection for Sisterhood and Temple Beth Abraham as a whole. We had three male congregants join us for our pad Thai cooking segment, and are hopeful that everyone will feel free to join us, and enjoy the camaraderie as well as the cooking!

Lessons have been learned, and new skills have been honed! Now we know that when life throws us a curve ball, we take a swing! We’ve grown together as a group, and as individuals. The connections and friendships that we’ve kept and the new ones that we’ve forged are priceless! As time marches on, and parameters with this pandemic change, who knows...we may continue these meetings and keep the connections and “Sisterhood” Zooming along!

## Antisemitic Incidents Hit All-Time High in 2019

This is an excerpt of a press release available on [ADL.org](http://ADL.org) and is reprinted courtesy of the ADL

May 12 —The American Jewish community experienced the highest level of antisemitic incidents last year since tracking began in 1979, with more than 2,100 acts of assault, vandalism and harassment reported across the United States, according to new data from ADL (the Anti-Defamation League). The record number of incidents came as the Jewish community grappled with vicious and lethal antisemitic attacks against communities in Poway, Jersey City and Monsey, and a spree of violent assaults in Brooklyn.

The 2019 ADL Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, issued today, found that the total number of antisemitic incidents in 2019 increased 12 percent over the previous year, with a disturbing 56 percent increase in assaults. The audit found there were, on average, as many as six antisemitic incidents in the U.S. for each day in the calendar year – the highest level of antisemitic activity ever recorded by ADL.

The year included five fatalities directly linked to antisemitic violence and another 91 individuals targeted in physical assaults. Incidents were reported in every one of the 48 contiguous United States and Washington, D.C. More than half of

the assaults nationwide took place in the five boroughs of New York City, including 25 in Brooklyn alone.

“This was a year of unprecedented antisemitic activity, a time when many Jewish communities across the country had direct encounters with hate,” said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, ADL CEO. “This contributed to a rising climate of anxiety and fear in our communities. We are committed to fighting back against this rising tide of hate and will double down on our work with elected leaders, schools, and communities to end the cycle of hatred.”

ADL’s Center on Extremism identified 234 incidents targeting Jewish synagogues and community centers in 2019. This

included the white supremacist shooting at a Chabad center in Poway, California, which killed one worshipper, a 60-year-old woman who was mourning her mother’s recent death, and injuring three more, including the rabbi.

Major Findings:

In 2019, ADL counted a total of 2,107 antisemitic incidents across the U.S., a 12 percent increase from the 1,879 incidents recorded in 2018.

ADL’s Audit classifies all incidents into three categories: assault, harassment and vandalism. Of the total incidents reported in 2019:

- Harassment: There were 1,127 harassment incidents, cases where

*Antisemitic continued on page 26*

## Temple Adath Yeshurun: the Beat Goes On

It was quite a year in so many ways! Some good live-action events and some virtual events as well, the latter due to the invasion of COVID-19. That experience turned us into “Baby Zoomers” doing virtual get-togethers for meetings and postponing/canceling some of our favorite springtime events. Some ups and some downs....

Our Fall Breakfast Program on November 3 featured city planner Susan Silberberg, who gave an interesting and well received presentation on “The Manchester Mill-yard: Past, Present and Future.”

Joel Gordon, our P.T. Barnum, headed up a wonderful Chanukah Party, “Chanukah-The Game Show” and came back in the spring to produce the Purim Carnival, entitled “5780 Purim Maximus.” Both were events thoroughly enjoyed by both kids and adults.

Our annual Christmas Mitzvah Program was again well-staffed by over 100 volunteers who delivered Meals on Wheels in Manchester and Bedford on Christmas Day, staffed the Information Desks at Elliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, helped out at New Horizons Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, delivered luncheon



2020 TAY Brotherhood Man of the Year Award recipient Bob Bersak, at home with wife Toby, pet Magnus, and deliverers Jonathan Baron, David Penschansky, Sol Rockenmacher, Rabbi Beth Davidson, and cameraman David Rosenzweig.

platters to Bedford and Manchester Police and Fire Stations on Christmas Day, and helped with the Christmas Evening Bingo game at the Manchester VA Hospital.

Over 200 people were fortunate enough to get tickets to the 33rd David Penschansky-inspired Deli Night on Saturday, January 25. Many thought that it was the best one ever...and that is really saying something!

On February 9, we provided a go-away breakfast for the MANTY Winter Wonderland teens and their supervisors, with a crew headed up by Bob Katchen.

Then came the invasion of COVID-19. The TAY Spring Dinner Concert and the Spring Brotherhood Breakfast were cancelled or postponed. We will see about rescheduling these for next fall.

Then Zoom came into the picture (and

the pictures into Zoom). The Community Memorial Day Service at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery on Monday, May 25 and the Brotherhood Annual Meeting/BBQ (now minus the BBQ component) on Tuesday, June 2 were held virtually/remotely. For the Memorial Day Service, Rabbi Gary Atkins, who has served as an Air Force chaplain for many years, delivered the address and Rabbis Beth Davidson and Jeremy Szczepanski conducted the service.

At our Annual Meeting/BBQ in June, we announce our Man of the Year Award to the surprised recipient. This year a delivery crew surprised outgoing TAY President Bob Bersak with the award after ringing the doorbell at his Bedford home a week before the actual Zoomed meeting. The TAY Brotherhood-Sisterhood Service is scheduled for Friday, June 19. Organizers Alan Kaplan and Steve Short will have a group of singers at TAY reaching out to the home-based folks for a literally “novel” program.

Who knew that a bunch of us older folk would end up becoming “Baby Zoomers”? It is one way of not letting COVID-19 beat us. As always, our beat will go on.

From the TAY Brotherhood, “be safe and be well.”

## Temple Emanuel Turns 100

Andover, MA—Temple Emanuel celebrated 100 years as a congregation on June 17. Founded in 1920 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Temple Emanuel serves the Jewish community of the Merrimack Valley, drawing members from both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Executive Director Maureen Chapman lives in Windham and Cantor Idan Irelander lives in Salem.

The early community of thirty founding members was largely one of immigrants who spoke Yiddish and broken English. The temple was more than just a center for religious life. The popularity and ultimate success of Temple Emanuel seemed to stem from its break from Orthodox traditions. The Temple had a choir and an organ. The rabbi was clean-shaven and performed sermons in English, and the temple allowed women and men to sit together.

As the Jewish community in Lawrence grew, renovations became necessary. In 1938, seating was added to the barn where services were held, and a kitchen and social hall were added to the house.

Membership continued to grow, both as a result of social mobility during World War II and the nation-wide exodus to the suburbs.

By 1955, the congregation had 166 members, and a new temple was built in 1957. During this period, the temple experienced a theological shift. It had, until this point, represented a liberal Conservative congregation, but by the 1960's joined the Union of Reform Judaism. In November, 1979, the new temple was built in neighboring Andover, Massachusetts, which had seen a dramatic increase in its Jewish population. The final addition was the Lillian Kessel Memorial Wing, dedicated in 1999.

Rabbi Roth was installed in 1962, and his leadership would make Temple Emanuel one of the largest Jewish congregations in the Merrimack Valley. At the time of his retirement, the temple's congregation numbered over 400 families. Rabbi Robert Goldstein is now at the helm, having served 30 years as the rabbi.



Lawrence Jewish School, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade 10/18/65.

## In the Community

### We Remember: Memorial Day at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery

The traditional Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Memorial Day Service was held virtually on May 25.

Five days before the service, American flags were placed at the graves of the 137 veterans who are buried in the cemetery, which is a Temple Israel Manchester and Temple Adath Yeshurun community cemetery. David Rosenzweig organized the flag crew, which consisted of Jonathan Baron, Barry and Barbara Scotch, Judson and Janice Belmont, Steve Rothstein, Bob Katchen, and Alan Kaplan.

The Memorial Day Zoom Service started at 5 pm. Sol Rockenmacher welcomed the online attendees. He introduced Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski, who reminded the audience of the heart-warming interfaith story of the Four Chaplains of World War II (two Protestant, one Roman Catholic, one Jewish) who gave up their life jackets, and their lives, so that four shipmates could survive.

Rabbi Jeremy's Four Chaplains story proved an excellent segue to our speaker for the afternoon service, Rabbi Gary Atkins. Rabbi Gary has had a distinguished career as an armed forces chaplain, as well as a congregational rabbi, and a mohel. A native of Cleveland, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after college. During his military service, he became seriously interested in his Judaism. After completing his first military service, he studied and was ordained at the Rabbinical School of the

Jewish Theological Seminary. He then returned to the Air Force as a Chaplain for the Far East, stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and traveling to bases in Thailand and Taiwan. In the chaplaincy he developed an outlook of interfaith cooperation, respect, and sharing, which has been part of his life ever since.

After his retirement from the pulpit, Rabbi Gary and Iris moved to Lee to be closer to family and the Seacoast. He served as interim Rabbi for Temple Israel in 2017-18 and he and Iris are still members. Upon learning that the New Hampshire wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) needed a Jewish chaplain, he joined CAP and became Chaplain for the Seacoast Composite Squadron. In 2019, he also took on the responsibility of Wing Chaplain for the New Hampshire Wing of CAP.

Rabbi Gary's presentation was an excellent one. As Rabbi Jeremy so appropriately pointed out, "I thought it was particularly poignant when you mentioned how the public and the media tend to focus on raw numbers in terms of casualties, when each of those numbers was a human being with a life story."

The service continued with the reading of the names of the 137 veterans buried in the cemetery by Bob Bersak, Michael Sydney and Sue Niederman.

Rabbis Beth Davidson and Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski then led us in a prayer service, "A Service of Thanks and Memorial."



A socially distanced crew of volunteers placed flags at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery to honor veterans on Memorial Day.



Manchester Hebrew Cemetery

The program concluded with a poignant combination of the playing of "Taps" and a wonderful drone-made video of the cemetery put together by Alan Kaplan and David and Joel

Rosenzweig,

In summary, it was a special program highlighting the obligation to remember, and to be thankful, for country, for community, and for courage.

## Letters to the Editor

### Israeli Bingo was Bullseye for PJ Our Way Kids

I'd like to express my family's gratitude to JFNH staffers Allyson Guertin and *Shlichah* Avia Sagron for their responsiveness and creativity in these uncertain times. The quality and volume of programming for families has not let up despite the many obstacles posed by Covid-19. With children craving connection and thirsty for knowledge, the offerings have been fun for our family, especially Henry (age 8.5).



Recently, we were invited via Facebook to attend PJ Our Way Israeli Bingo. The virtual event was scheduled in a perfectly timed afternoon slot. I regis-

tered Henry on the day of the event and it was all he talked about for the rest of the day. We went online, generated a "virtual bingo card," and logged into zoom with several other families. Allyson's familiar voice welcomed everyone, provided an imaginative ice-breaker, and introduced Avia (whom many of the kiddos know from her involvement in Hebrew school).

For nearly an hour, I listened from the kitchen as Henry made connections with Jewish kids his age from all over the state. They were having so much fun, I

don't even think they realized that they were learning too. Avia peppered in interesting info about Israel and the kids soaked it all up. There was laughter, singing *Hatikvah*, talking about agricultural innovations, learning what is a kibbutz. It was all seamless and done from the safety and comfort of our homes. I kept hearing "CHERRY TOMATOES," "BINGO," "SHUK," and "TEL AVIV!" shouted with great exuberance. When it

was all over, Henry ran over to me with a big hug and told me how much fun it was, asking when the next "PJ Game Event" was. Now that's a "WIN," (or should I say "Bingo"!).

*Todah* to Allyson, Avia, and JFNH for finding so many ways to keep us connected and engaged during this difficult and challenging time. My family and I are grateful.

Melanie Zalman McDonald, Jaffrey

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.

## Lighthearted Movies About Life, Love, and Cinema

By Zach Camenker

Given the challenging news that comes with a global pandemic, I chose to watch two lighthearted movies this month. The first was Daniel Raim's documentary *Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story*, which screened at the 2017 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. It is now available through Netflix.

*Harold and Lillian* is a heartwarming love story that traces the personal and working relationship of Harold and Lillian Michelson, particularly their time together in the world of cinema. While this Jewish couple is certainly not a household name for those outside of Hollywood, their contributions to the world of filmmaking are endless. Harold was a storyboard artist and Oscar-nominated art director/production designer on numerous films, while Lillian did research for a variety of famous movies.

What if I were to tell you that there was a whole sketch behind the famous parting of the Red Sea in the 1956 film *The Ten Commandments*? How many of you knew that the doomsday sequence in *The Birds* was drawn out carefully, step by step, before filming even began? And who would have thought that the famous seduction scene between Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate* was carefully staged and drawn out on a storyboard by none other than Harold?

All of those pivotal and famous sequences were filmed with Harold Michelson's masterful artwork and planning. Legendary directors such as Cecil B. DeMille, Alfred Hitchcock, and Mike

Nichols all praised Harold for his artistry, and their films would be incomplete without his touch.

Did you know that intense research on cults was needed for the 1968 film *Rosemary's Baby*? Or that the *Fiddler on the Roof* costume team wanted to know about women's undergarments in the early 20th century to make sure that they properly dressed Tevye's daughters during the "Matchmaker" number?



For both of those films, Lillian Michelson completed extensive research to help the production teams meet the needs of their script and setting. Her research contributions to cinema are endless, many of them uncredited. Directors like Mel Brooks and Francis Ford Coppola note that they could not have reached their

goals without Lillian, who had as much artistry in her research as Harold did with his designs.

Raim's film does a superb job of tracing how Harold and Lillian each put their own unique stamp on hundreds of Hollywood films, including some that they did together. Through extensive interviews, film clips, and delightful photos, it's hard not to feel as if we get to know Harold and Lillian when watching the documentary. Despite Harold's death in 2007 after nearly six decades of marriage to Lillian, both their voices are clearly heard.

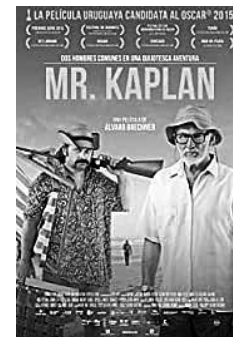
Aside from their tremendous accomplishments in the world of film, Harold and Lillian's love for each other was also something special. Even through obstacles and hardships, they remained devoted to each other, raising three children while having successful ca-

reers. Lillian, who just recently turned 92, chronicles their story extensively through beautiful photo albums and Harold's endless love letters and cards to her.

Like *Singin' in the Rain* or *Cinema Paradiso*, this film is a love letter to the glorious world of cinema. And what better way to celebrate that glory, currently on hold due to the pandemic, than by watching this documentary? I guarantee it will give you a newfound appreciation for the extensive work that goes into producing a film, an appreciation for Harold and Lillian's work in design and research, and a great admiration for their devotion to each other. And if you want to know what Harold and Lillian's connection to the Shrek film franchise is, tune in to Netflix to find out!

I also tuned in to Amazon Prime to watch a delightful, dark comedy called *Mr. Kaplan*, Uruguay's submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2015 Academy Awards. The story of a 76-year-old Jewish man who fled Europe during World War II, *Mr. Kaplan* follows Jacob Kaplan as he begins to contemplate life's meaning. Amidst his struggle to figure out the answer to that age-old question, he believes he has found a former Nazi on the shores of a nearby beach. Through a hilarious plot line, great use of comic timing, and strong character development, the film traces Kaplan's journey to expose this man and bring him to justice.

The delightfully humorous title character is played by Chilean actor Héctor Noguera. His performance is a perfect blend of funny (as the audience watches



him take on this mysterious man like a hard-boiled detective) and heartbreaking (as Mr. Kaplan's age begins to interfere with his daily life in ways he's never experienced).

Along the way, he picks up a sidekick named Wilson Contreras, a former police officer with a knack for arcade games and beer. Together, Mr. Kaplan and Wilson develop an unlikely bond and set off together to expose the man on the beach.

Wilson serves as the film's comic relief with an outstanding performance by Néstor Guzzini. The camaraderie of the two men is not only brilliantly funny, but it also quite touching. In a sense, the film is their story, which led me to wonder why writer-director Álvaro Brechner did not entitle the film

*Kaplan and Wilson*. While the focus rests on Jacob Kaplan for the first third or so of the film, it shifts to both characters for the remainder.

As much as the film is lighthearted and hilarious, it also has an element of darkness, particularly due to its title character's past. As a result, there are some deep messages and themes hidden amidst the laughter that the director balances very successfully, especially through the score, which is both upbeat and serious.

Despite the fact that the film is set in the mid 1990s, those messages and themes are still quite timely today. *Mr. Kaplan* raises sincere questions, such as what it means to hold onto the past and how life's meaning changes as one ages. If you enjoy films with a variety of themes and a dark comic approach, then *Mr. Kaplan* is definitely the right one for you!

### Antisemitic continued from page 23

one or more Jews reported feeling harassed by the antisemitic language or actions. Acts of harassment increased by 6 percent from 1,066 in 2018.

- **Vandalism:** There were 919 vandalism incidents, cases where property was damaged in a manner which that harmed or intimidated Jews. Swastikas, which are generally interpreted as symbols of antisemitic hatred, were present in 746 of these incidents. Acts of antisemitic

vandalism increased 19 percent from 774 in 2018.

- **Assault:** There were 61 assault incidents, cases where individuals were physically targeted with violence accompanied by evidence of antisemitic animus. Antisemitic assault increased 56 percent from 39 in 2018. Eleven of the 61 assaults were perpetrated with deadly weapons such as guns or knives. The 61 assault incidents harmed 95 victims, including five fatalities.

There were incidents reported in every state, except Alaska and Hawaii. The

states with the highest numbers of incidents were New York: 430, New Jersey: 345, California: 330, Massachusetts: 114 and Pennsylvania: 109. Combined, these states account for nearly 45 percent of the total number of incidents.

ADL's Center on Extremism has gathered the complete 2019 data, as well as data from the previous two years, on ADL's H.E.A.T. Map, an interactive online tool that allows users to geographically chart antisemitic incidents and events nationally and regionally.

"It's clear we must remain vigilant in

working to counter the threat of violent antisemitism and denounce it in all forms, wherever the source and regardless of the political affiliation of its proponents," said Mr. Greenblatt. "We need to ensure that synagogues and community centers have the right security measures in place to prevent the next potential attack. We plan to work with members of Congress and other elected officials this year to ensure that funding is in place and that all states mandate Holocaust education, which can serve as an effective deterrent for future acts of hate."

# Kids' Corner Coloring Page



## Calling all Letter Writers: Show Veterans You Care With Cards2Connect

By Laura Landerman-Garber

It is not Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or Christmas. It is not your birthday. It is not even your anniversary. Your children are not at camp, so why break out the notecards and arts-n-craft supplies? Because it is good to let someone know you are thinking of them, it is a treat to find a handwritten note in your mailbox, and there are thousands of veterans right here in the Granite State who are alone and isolated due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. They would love to hear from you.

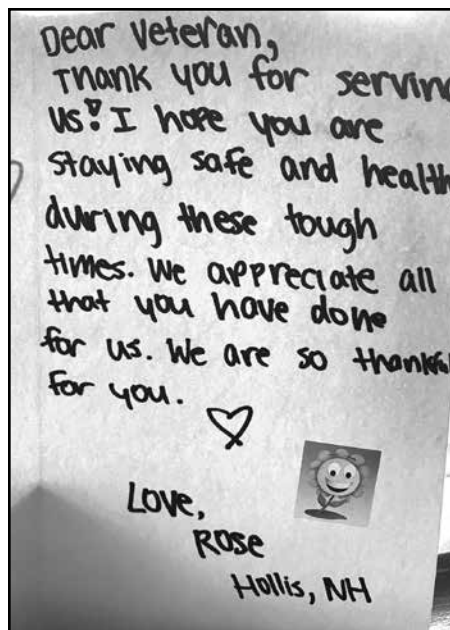
Imagine the beloved 102-year-old veteran residing in the Tilton Veterans Home who is handed a card that fills him in on the latest in your house and lets him know he is not forgotten and is appreciated for his service. I have spoken to veterans who say that despite not knowing the author of the card, hearing things like, “We just got a new puppy and we named her Milly after my cousin,” or “I just got my first job and I am so proud of myself!” cheers up their day. I was moved to tears by the veteran who told me that the card that she received made the difference



Laura Landerman-Garber with a Cards2Connect dropbox.

between feeling despair and feeling connected.

I know how good it feels to be remembered and to feel connected during the lonelier times in my life. What I cannot truly know, however, is what it feels like to be a veteran who served our country and to be alone. Can you imag-



A simple note of gratitude can have a lifelong impact.

ine what that might be like? That, in combination with my ever-present drive and passion for letting others know that I am thinking of them, was the catalyst behind my creation of the Holiday Cards 4 Our Military Challenge. Last year alone, 175,000 cards were sent out to deployed warriors.

Now, factor in the COVID-19 Pandemic. Now, factor in no-visitors-allowed policies in our veterans homes and the current limitations on veterans outreach groups. Too often, those visits and those services are the only connections our beloved veterans have access to, and can be lifelines during stressful times.

Enter the phone call from US Senator Maggie Hassan’s office, during which the Outreach Coordinator and Veterans Liaison asked if I might be interested in creating a Card Challenge and Collection to address the needs of our veterans during the pandemic. Senator Hassan is a lifelong supporter of our Troops, having grown up in a service family, and she has been a huge supporter of the Holiday Card Challenge from Day One! I remain honored by that call, and did not think twice about jumping onboard. Within a day, my family built a touch-free dropbox and the Hollis Elementary Schools agreed to have students and staff create cards. It did not seem like enough to me, so I reached out to the Hollis Pharmacy, my first dropbox center in 2017, and they immediately agreed to have a mailbox-sized dropbox at the pharmacy.

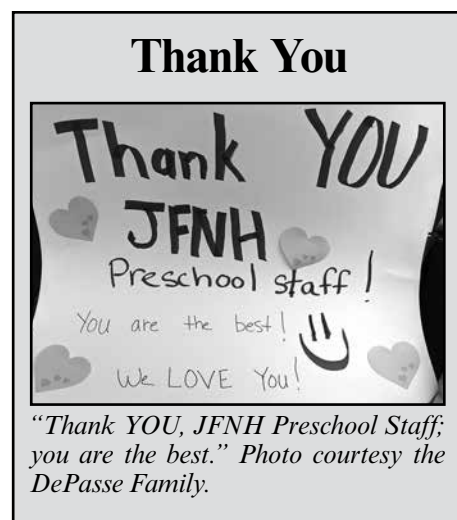
Social media gets mixed reviews, but one of the benefits of the many platforms is getting the word out about do-good projects. Facebook and Instagram have become my friends for sharing the Cards2Connect message with others around the state; for that matter, they have spread the word around the country. While I may be focused on Cards2Connect in New Hampshire, I encourage others to remember and to reach out to the men and women across the nation who have bravely defended our freedom.

Letting someone, in this case our beloved veterans, know that you care about them can make a world of a difference in their lives. Some of you know that I got a letter from a son of a World War II veteran who told the story of a card he’d saved for close to 75 years. The card was from a boy sent to that deployed sailor; it was nothing fancy, just a greeting sharing care and a bit of news about the boy’s life. The sailor saved it for decades amongst his most precious belongings, and his son found it after his father passed. Can you imagine that the note you write may be saved and found generations later, perhaps in a book or a trunk of treasures? It could happen.

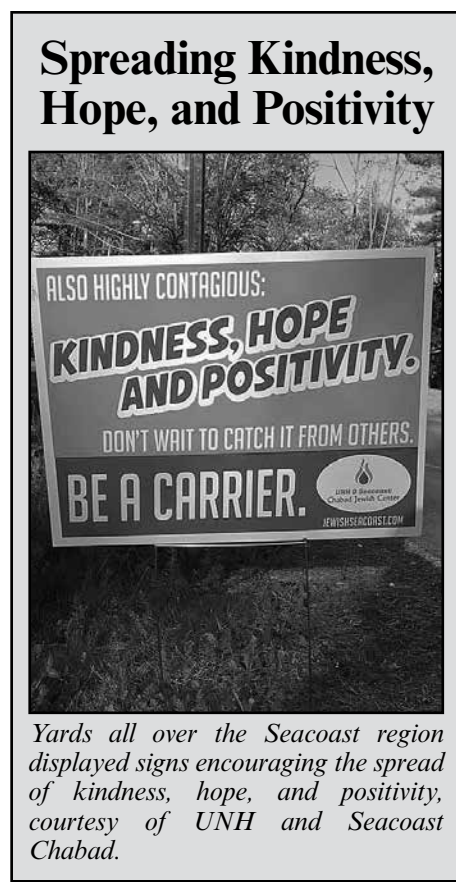
The guidelines are simple. Fold a piece of paper in half, or use a notecard, and address it to “Dear Veteran.” Write a note of appreciation and include some details like your favorite sport, hobby, or book. If someone in your family is/was in the Military, mention that. Sign your first name only, as well as the city and state in which you live. If you live in Southern New Hampshire, drop it in the box at the Hollis Pharmacy before August 1. If you miss that deadline, do not despair, as I will be collecting these cards on an ongoing basis — that is, until I hit you all up for holiday cards this fall!

You can also send your cards to me at: Laura Landerman-Garber Card Challenge, Suite #407, 400 Amherst Street, Nashua, New Hampshire, 03063. Feel free to email me at [holidaycardsnh@gmail.com](mailto:holidaycardsnh@gmail.com), check out the Holiday Card Challenge Facebook page, or visit our website at: [Militaryholidaycardchallenge.com](http://Militaryholidaycardchallenge.com). You can also contact Senator Maggie Hassan’s office for suggestions on other ways to support our veterans.

My new motto is: “Even though we are six feet apart, we in the Granite State and across America are always close in heart!” Not bad for not being a poet, eh? Stay well! Stay safe!



“Thank YOU, JFNH Preschool Staff; you are the best.” Photo courtesy the DePasse Family.



Yards all over the Seacoast region displayed signs encouraging the spread of kindness, hope, and positivity, courtesy of UNH and Seacoast Chabad.

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## Repairing the World one Mask at a Time

By Tracy Sobel Richmond

In the early stages of the Stay-at-Home order, I was faced with the same dilemma as many others: what was I going to do with ALL this time? My two sons are teenagers, so I did not need to help with remote learning, and since I retired from my job a few years ago, I did not have any remote work I needed to complete.

I was made aware of a volunteer group in Bedford that was sewing masks for frontline workers. Since I can't sew, I reached out to see if there was any other assistance they needed. Initially I helped by cutting fabric, but it turns out I am not very good at cutting straight lines! After about a week or two of this group being in existence, it became clear that the young lady and her mother who'd

started it had a HUGE project on their hands. When Emily and Theresa Wheeler decided to start the Bedford Sewing Battalion, they assumed a few folks here and there would sew masks, and they could help get them to the organizations that needed them. Before they even knew what was happening, there were several hundred people in the Facebook group wanting to help sew and cut, and several thousand requests for masks.

Logistical help was needed and needed quickly. I jumped at the chance to handle the distribution portion for the battalion as soon as the opportunity presented itself. Initially, I responded to email requests from non-profits and healthcare centers requesting our masks. In the early days of the crisis, the battalion was able to distribute several thousand masks a



Tracy Richmond and son Caleb handing out masks with the Bedford Sewing Battalion's founding "ladies," Emily and Theresa Walker.

week. When members of the community started reaching out asking for masks for their families, we were able to quickly fill those requests too, and even started weekly community distributions for anyone that wanted to get masks for their families. We haven't kept track, but we estimate that since late March we have distributed over 30,000 masks, mostly to hospitals, elder care facilities, and non-profits. We also met every community request that came our way.

This has been a very rewarding project, and I am often reminded of the Hebrew phrase, *tikkun olam*, meaning repair the world. I have been doing my part to make New Hampshire a little safer and protect our communities one mask at a time. I am thrilled to be associated with such a dynamic group.

## With Services off the Table, UNH/Seacoast Chabad Focuses on Giving

Durham — Although COVID-19 has cancelled services, the UNH/Seacoast Chabad community has been busy with *chesed* and *tzedakah*. Community members sponsored the delivery of hot Starbucks coffee and care packages to numerous local hospitals, police departments, fire departments, and urgent care centers. "While so many of us are at home steering clear, the first responders are putting their lives on the line every day, and we wanted to show them a little bit of appreciation."

Chabad launched a used tablet and

monetary donation drive and was able to share fifty computer tablets with senior citizens in the area, helping them stay connected to the community and loved ones during an otherwise isolating and potentially lonely time.

The congregation was featured in the *New Hampshire Union Leader* for hosting two drive-through mask giveaways in May. At the first event, masked and gloved volunteers handed out 15,000 disposable masks; at the second, they were able to add cloth masks (handmade by a community member), gloves, and hand sanitizer. "As long as we see a de-



Two drive-through mask giveaways at UNH/Seacoast Chabad were a success.

mand, and as long as it is hard to get, and as long as we are able to fund it,



"Our hero is you!": Rabbi Berel Slavaticki delivering a gift to the Newmarket Fire Department.

we're going to try our best to keep it going," Rabbi Slavaticki said.

## Local Salon Owner Pampers Healthcare Workers

"Growing up in a Jewish home, we were always inspired to give back to others," says Missy Gagnon, owner of the Skin and Body Spa, the Hair Company, and the Medical Skin Clinic in Nashua. "My mom was a great role model and was always helping others. My fondest memories of one of my mom's "mitzvahs" as a kid was hosting three sisters from New York City every summer through the Fresh Air Fund. They are now part of our family and join us for every life event."

So, when COVID-19 shuttered spas and salons throughout New Hampshire, Gagnon wanted to help.

"We wanted to give back to health-

care workers who were working so tirelessly to keep our community safe during the pandemic," she says. "Fortunately, one of our clients reached out to me and said she was putting 20 gift bags together with some friends for local healthcare workers that they knew personally and asked if we would like to donate gift cards to put in the bags. We were so pleased that she asked us because we didn't have the local connection to know who to donate to. We made up 20 cellophane bags and each one contained a \$50 gift card to The Medical Skin Clinic, a \$25 gift card to The Skin & Body Spa and a \$25 gift card to The Hair Company. Our

daughter, Hannah, also hand painted beautiful hearts using water color paints to go in each bag that said, 'thank you,' and we tied each one with a pretty ribbon. Our mini gift bags went into colorful lunch bags that the other women had bought, along with other items that they purchased for the healthcare workers such as lip balm and hand cream."

Healthcare workers at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and St. Josephs Hospital in Nashua and Catholic Medical Center in Manchester received the goodie bags — and lucky for them, the salon and spa reopened for business on June 1.



The Skin and Body Spa thanked healthcare workers with gifts and hand-painted cards.

# Jewish Journeys

## A Look Behind the Curtain: Jewish Life at Phillips Exeter Academy

By Caleb Richmond and Rachel Saltman

The clock strikes 6:00 PM on a Friday night, and a few dozen students and faculty members file

into the basement of Phillips Church, a Protestant house of worship on the campus of Phillips Exeter Academy turned pan-denominational religious space for students of all faiths. However, once a week, the basement, home to a kitchen and seating space, becomes home to a unique group of people that the two of us feel proud to be a part of: the Exeter Jewish community. The whole community meets each Friday, and those who are able also come on Thursdays to prepare the next day's meal. That way, everything from the food we eat to the conversations we have is uniquely EJC.

Exeter can be a busy place, with students often having multiple essays and tests each week, busy from the crack of dawn to well past sunset, especially during the brutal New Hampshire winters. However, EJC is, as it says in the name, a community, where all are welcome to come and discuss topics ranging from the food in the dining hall to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Exeter students sit around the table, naming our highlights of the week. This is a way for Exeter students to bring in the 'Shabbat vibe' and let go of the many stresses of the past week. We don't want to compare ourselves to others in this community, so we refrain from talking about academic achievements during our highlights. Many times these highlights include going out for a meal with a friend, a walk around town, having a 'sleep-in', or taking a nap during the day. These often simple things will put a smile on everyone's face.

After laughing and smiling through everyone's highlights, we head into the candle lighting, Kaddish, and Motzi. Typically, one of the co-heads will light



The Exeter Jewish Community celebrating the High Holy Days.

the candles, occasionally failing, as the rest of us wave in the Shabbat light. After that, a big deep breath, and all of our stress of the week is gone. Then comes the Kaddish and Motzi, also led by the co-heads of the group, with everyone joining in a few seconds later. L'chaim! We all form a challah train—touch someone who is touching someone who is touching the challah so everyone in the room is connected. After the initial breaking of bread, we rise and help ourselves to the food we cooked, and settle down into conversations that can last for hours.

We've both decided to share our personal experiences with the club, and why we find EJC so important.

CALEB: I arrived at Phillips Exeter as a ninth grader, one new student out of 200 in my grade, not at all sure what to expect. When I'm not on campus, I live in Bedford, which, despite being only 45 minutes away, felt like an entirely

different world than the school I was going to call home for the next four years. Back home, there were a handful of Jewish students in my class at the local middle school, and we all knew who the other 'members of the tribe' were, but the camaraderie rarely went past mutual recognition. We would sometimes run into each other at bar or bat mitzvahs or high holiday services, but any form of a community at the school was nonexistent. Exeter, however, opened my mind to a whole new world.

I didn't know about the Jewish community on campus when I first arrived, but at the end of the

first week of classes that September, I was invited by a friend to check out what the Shabbat dinners were like. I was raised Reform, so I was concerned that I was going to be surrounded by people much more religious than myself, an outsider within the group that I wanted to feel a part of. However, stepping into the basement of the church for the first time, I learned that my concerns absolutely were not rooted in the truth. I found people of all levels of faith, as well as secular Jews and goyim who came because they loved the community. I nervously introduced myself to Rabbi Marx-Asch, but quickly felt at home after everyone shared their highlights from the previous week. The next week, I decided to return, and since then, I've been attending every Friday at 6:00 PM. I've found it to be the best way to end a

stressful week. EJC has and will continue to be an integral part of my life on and off campus, and Rabbi Marx-Asch and the other members of the club serve as a 'home away from home' that I will cherish for years to come.

Rachel: I first attended the Exeter Jewish Community when I was 2-3 years old in 2003 or 2004. Back then, it was not called the EJC, and it was composed of a few faculty members and students. Now EJC is still in a church basement, but it has close to 100 members, faculty and students, Jews and non-Jews, that share the love of community, culture, and good home-cooked food.

Coming to this school, I knew that this would be the first club I was going to sign up for, both because I was pushed by my family, and also because I wanted to become part of a true community at my school. I have attended more High Holiday services at Exeter than I have at a real synagogue, and this is something that has made it truly feel like a home to me. I have met religious Jews, cultural Jews, and non-Jews through EJC, and that has brought very diverse views to our services and events. It has really shown me that being a Jew is not just about going to Shabbat services on Friday nights and having a bat mitzvah; there is a whole cultural aspect to it that I was never fully exposed to until I became a student at Exeter attending EJC.

I came from a middle school on the Seacoast of New Hampshire with about 500 students, five of

them Jewish. For most of my life, the Exeter Jewish Community has been the backbone of my Jewish identity. I went to Hebrew school and Temple once a week from ages 3-13, but this was no community to me. Jennifer Marx-Asch, our Rabbi, has fostered this amazing environment at Exeter that can bring this community together during both good and bad times for the Jewish community. In the years to come, even after we've gone off to our respective colleges and the club is being led by today's middle and elementary schoolers, we will still call ourselves a part of EJC, because just like Judaism itself, the community doesn't stop when we exit the doors of the synagogue (or in this case, church).

Caleb Richmond lives in Bedford. Rachel Saltman lives in Newfields. Both are students at Phillips Exeter Academy.

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## Creativity Can Change the World: My Gap Year in Israel

By Hannah Gaffney

I spent this past year abroad in Israel. I'm a very adventurous and creative person, so I took a gap year to have the opportunity to travel the world and develop my future goals. I'm really passionate about painting, bookbinding, and just generally creating. I'm interested in studying graphic design and business, but I'm taking my time to get through school; I think it's really important at my age to realize that I'm still developing as a person and it's okay to take extra time to learn about all the options I have for my future. While on my gap year, I spent the first half of my program living in Jerusalem, taking classes. I learned to speak basic Hebrew and developed my Jewish knowledge and identity. The second half of my program I lived in Tel Aviv, interning at Kuchinate, where I learned about the positive impact creativity can have on our world.

Kuchinate is an African women's refugee collective in southern Tel Aviv. The women of Kuchinate make dolls, wallets, and books, but they're most well known for their beautiful crocheted baskets. They also host groups for traditional Eritrean buna (coffee) ceremonies, teach them how to crochet, and educate them on what it's like to be an asylum seeker in Israel. It was founded by Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn, a clinical psychologist and trauma specialist from South Africa, and Sister Azezet Habtezghi Kidane, "an advocate, counselor, nurse, and spiritual leader, for the African refugee community in Israel." (Kuchinate.com). They have created a grounding and therapeutic environment for asylum-seeking women who have been through traumatic experiences such as human trafficking and sexual abuse.

I feel so lucky that I was able to intern at Kuchinate this past year. I really wanted to intern somewhere creative, so I was glad to find a place with artistic energy where I could make an impact doing something I enjoy. Kuchinate was the perfect fit. Before interning there, I really didn't know anything about what life is like for refugees in Israel, but was excited to see how people who share my love of creating make a positive impact on the world through art. Every morning walking into the Kuchinate studio was an experience. The walls and couches are draped in quilts of vibrant African fabric, and the shelves are lined in colorful baskets of all shapes and sizes. Most mornings one of the women would



Writer Hannah Gaffney in Israel.

be preparing coffee over hot coals, getting ready for a group to come in for a traditional Eritrean coffee ceremony. When the groups come in, the women tell some of their stories and explain the struggles of being an asylum seeker in Israel. They aren't legally allowed to work, but some of the money made from selling baskets goes to the women to support them and their families. Kuchinate also works to help the women find suitable housing and relocate.



"We were all once refugees." Homemade baskets at Kuchinate.

While working at Kuchinate, I helped with daily tasks and errands, but was also able to help with creative projects. I spoke a bit of Hebrew and the women spoke a bit of English, so through a lot of mixed communication, the women taught me how to crochet their baskets. I wrote a DIY guide on how to make their baskets so that in the future they can sell basket kits online. I also got to set up an exhibit for Kuchinate at the Herzlyia Museum of Art.



Mother and child at the Kuchinate Studio in Tel Aviv.

Talking to the women and hearing their stories was an amazing experience. I also gained many new skills from working at the museum and preparing large orders with customers. Kuchinate has a very different environment from any other business, because it's all based on a foundation of support and healing. I'm so grateful for the opportunity I had to intern at Kuchinate and I'll forever remember the impact these women had on my year in Israel and on my life.



In a beautiful Israeli initiative, Jerusalem residents have started a project to help feed the needy. 'The Fridge' involves public refrigerators stocked by local vendors who donate their unsold produce at the end of each day. Reprinted courtesy of StandWithUs.

## Opinion

### The Year of the Nurse and Florence Nightingale

By Liz Barron

I didn't sign up for this. Being an ER Nurse is a job I've loved for 24 years. I have loved the good and the bad, and there has been bad. I've been yelled at, spit on, and cursed at. I think many would be surprised at how poorly ER staff can be treated. But I did sign up for that, the good and the bad. I did not sign up to work in a war zone. Ever since I was a little girl I wanted to be a nurse. I learned about nursing and wanted to be Florence Nightingale. I wanted the white dress, the starched white cap, and the freshly polished nursing shoes. I also watched the Mary Tyler Moore show. I loved Mary and wanted a wardrobe just like hers, including her fancy white boots. I used to think I could be Florence, white dress and all, but with Mary's white boots. It's what I dreamed about.

When I grew up, my dream came true,

mostly. I wore a white scrub dress for many years. My cap was more of a coffee filter with a ribbon so I settled for my hair in a French braid. I never got the white boots, but my Nurse Mates with the blue heart on the heel were the perfect accessory.

I have loved every moment of nursing. I've been so lucky to have had some great jobs and worked with some amazing people. I have made friends that have lasted through the years and, thanks to Facebook, have been able to keep in touch with so many over the years. There have been many memorable patients and families who I have learned from and who have touched me; hopefully, I have made a difference in some of their lives.

When everyone first started talking about COVID-19, I was glued to tv and social media. I wanted to soak up as much as possible.

Then we got our first COVID patient.

*Opinion continued on page 33*

# OBITUARIES

## Cecille M. Berkowitz

By Deborah Curtis

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our mother, Cecille M. Berkowitz, passed away on April 17, 2020, at Coral Springs Hospital in Coral Springs, Florida. After marriage to our father Bernard Berkowitz, together they raised our family in Hull, Massachusetts. After my graduation from Hull High School, my parents moved to Manchester, New Hampshire. My parents quickly made many friends through the temple and through her job as a secretary at the Jewish Community Center on Beech Street. After a few years, she went to work in the Financial Aid office of what was then known as New Hampshire College alongside her friend the late Sally Parker.

After the sudden death of the love of her life, our father Bernard Berkowitz, on March 6, 1981, she moved to Florida where she worked and made new friends. After a period of time, she moved to Venice, Florida with her longtime friend, the late Harriet Goldberg, formerly of Hudson, New Hampshire.

Our mother loved all animals (especially cats), reading, music, attending plays and concerts, and traveling near and far with her very dear friends Harriet and Libby Koocher.

Cecille was predeceased by her son, Howard Berkowitz, on April 15, 2000, and her sister Charlotte Snidman in August, 2018. She is survived by her son Larry Berkowitz and his wife Jeanne of Ormond Beach, Florida, her daughter Deborah Curtis and her partner Tom Lopez of Manchester, New Hampshire, her grandchildren Justin Berkowitz of Ormond Beach, Florida, Nathan Berkowitz and his fiancée Denise Lopex of Lake Worth, Florida, Brenna Cavanaugh of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Caitlin (Cavanaugh) Manning and her husband Todd Manning of Brooklyn, New York, and her great-grandchildren whom she adored: Lilly Taccetta of Newington, New Hampshire, Samantha, Madison, Mia and Emma Berkowitz, Elizabeth Grace Manning, and Avery Cecille Manning, soon to be joined by step-greats Giancarlo and Bianca Rodriguez.

Cecille will truly be missed by all who loved and knew her. Graveside services were private, with internment at Temple Emmanuel Cemetery in Wakefield, Massachusetts. A celebration of Cecille's life will be held at a later date to be determined by her family.



Cecille Berkowitz with daughter Deborah Curtis

## Marie Bernice Myers Dinner

Marie Bernice Myers Dinner was born in Bolton (Manchester) England on March 3, 1947 to Philip and Sarah Myers. Bernice was one of four daughters. At an early age, her family moved to Sydney, Australia where her aunts and uncles had previously emigrated. In 1958, the Myers family moved to Albuquerque, NM.

In 1965, Bernice enrolled at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was there that she met her future husband Bruce Dinner from Denver, CO while they were students. Bernice and Bruce were married in 1967 in Albuquerque. They have been married 53 years and have two children, Alec (Inbal Etgar) Dinner and Tara (Larry) Kaplan. She leaves four grandchildren: Miles Dinner and Teva, Raya, and Jonah Kaplan.

Bernice is survived by her sisters Heather (Steven) Bossin and Stephanie (the late Morris) Schur. She was preceded in death by her sister Rosalia (Stanley) Feinstein. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

In 1970 Bernice and Bruce returned to the Denver area, where Bruce was an orthodontist for thirty years, and together they raised a family. Bernice earned a BA and MA from the University of Denver. In 1981 she received a Ph.D in Communication Disorders from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Professionally, Bernice worked as an audiologist at National Jewish Health and Rose Medical Center. Then, in 1990, she founded the National non-profit organization Hear Now which provided thousands of hearing aids and cochlear implants to those who could not afford them. The organization continues to this day as the So The World May Hear Foundation in Minneapolis, MN. Bernice was also President of Health and Medical Research Charities of America whose membership included multiple health related organizations.

While living in Denver, Bernice was the President of the Beth Joseph Congregation and active in many Jewish communal organizations including the Jewish Family Ser-



vice, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women and others. She was also President of Jewish Charities of America, an umbrella organization of national Jewish Charities.

From 2003-2010 Bernice and Bruce lived in Franconia, where they could be close to their daughter Tara and enjoy their grandchildren's formative years. During this same period Bernice worked at the Littleton Regional Hospital and was President of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation. Bernice and Bruce enjoyed traveling and visited Australia to be with her family there. They traveled to many other countries as well and were most recently in South Africa. While much of Bernice's professional life was dedicated to helping those with developmental and other disabilities, her greatest joy was found in the achievements of her children and grandchildren and traveling with them throughout the world.

Contributions may be made to ARC, Denver Rescue Mission, Shalom Park or the charity of your choice. There will be a private funeral service due to the pandemic and a memorial service in the future.

## David Merson Prolman

David Merson Prolman of Naples, Florida and New York City died at Avow Hospice on April 28 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. He was born in 1936 in Laconia to Louis and Polly Merson Prolman.

David attended the University of Maine, followed by service in the US Army. A proud veteran, he made lifelong friends with several of his army buddies.

After the army, David went to work in Maine at his parent's small summer resort, the Martha Washington Inn. Many of the siblings' best anecdotes recalled their days working long hours at the inn and their frugal father joking, "I raised my own help."

David continued his education at Babson College and Boston University Law School. He practiced law with the Leonard and Leonard firm in Nashua, sat as Nashua District Court Judge, and was president of the Nashua Bar Association. He was a founder of the Colonial Trust Company and Chair of the Board of Directors of Rivier College.

David then switched gears, joining client and friend John Stabile to create a successful real estate development partnership in Southern New Hampshire.

In addition to his professional career, David took on the mission of getting persecuted Jews out of Russia. Through a chance meeting, David enlisted the assistance of a New York Congressman and facilitated the challenging process of bringing dozens of families to New Hampshire. He and his brother Earl, along with volunteers from Nashua's Temple Beth Abraham, found them jobs, housing, transportation, education, and health services.

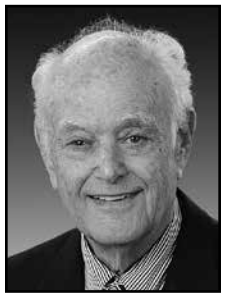
Later on, lured by the promise of balmy breezes and beautiful beaches, David and his wife Marjorie moved to Naples, where he soon began his mediation practice, Mediation Resolution. David's late-in-life career may have been his most satisfying. He loved mediation: working with outstanding colleagues on memorable cases. Considered fair-minded, and highly regarded by members of the legal community, David mediated over 5,000 cases throughout Florida.

David enjoyed travels with friends, but none more so than with his grandchildren, Alex and Cameron. Together with Marjorie, the foursome shared adventures throughout the world.

David always lived life fully. He cherished his family and wide circle of friends. He loved meeting people. We remember his warmth and charm, generous spirit, intelligence, and especially, his tan.

He will be mourned and missed by Marjorie; son Andrew Prolman and daughter-in-law Peg of Manchester, NH; daughter Susan Prolman of Washington, DC; son Charles of Brookline, MA; grandsons Alex Prolman of Durham, NC and Cameron Prolman and partner Sera Stackpole of Somerville, MA; brother Norman Prolman and wife Karin of Framingham, MA; brother Earl Prolman and partner Barbara Drukman of Naples and Nashua; brother-in-law Fred McManus and wife Linda of Naples; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by sister Arlene Oppenheim of Barnstable, MA and sister-in-law Marilyn Prolman of Nashua.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, a memorial will be held at McSorley's Old Ale House a later time. Donation in David's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Support Network, 660 Tamiami Trail North #21, Naples, Florida 34102 (<http://www.alz-support.net/Donate.html>).



## Simchas



### New Baby

Jonathan and Erica Rollock are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Mason Levi on May 7. *Bubbe* (Marsha Ostroff) and Grammie (Karen Rines), Jonathan's parents, of Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia, are over the moon in love with this boy! They finally got to meet him in person for his 1 month "birthday" and he was definitely worth the wait. Rabbi Andy Vogel of Temple Sinai in Brookline, MA celebrated a naming and covenant ceremony (which replaced the *brit milah* due to safety concerns because of the pandemic) via Zoom. Rabbi Vogel was a student rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel when Jonathan was only 9 years old, and shared a photo from that time at the ceremony. Mason's maternal Grandma, Elyse Tanen of Jupiter, FL



and Grandpa, Harry Tanen of Wellington, FL, along with other relatives and family friends from across the United States, attended his Zoom ceremony.

### Simchas

**New!** B'nai mitzvah, engagement, wedding or new baby in the family? Share your happiness with the community with a notice in the *Reporter's* new *Simchas* section. Your \$36 payment will support JFNH's nonprofit mission. Submit a short notice and photo to [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org) or JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

### How to submit an obituary

The Reporter publishes obituaries for any member of the community, past or present, for a \$36 fee. Please send obituaries and one photo, if desired, as a separate jpg attachment to [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org) or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

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That is when I started hearing about Washington State and New York. The stories were scary, almost unthinkable. That's when I stopped watching the news and following social media.

I couldn't think about what could happen. The Emergency Room was changing. The busy ER, constant commotion, patients in the hallways, family members yelling for their loved ones to be seen, a full waiting room, that was all gone. The still at night, the silence lingered. The calm before the storm. I hoped it would miss us. But it didn't.

So this is not what I signed up for. Having to work without enough PPE or supplies, emptying out code carts as we go from one patient to another. How could this happen in this country?

This has been so much for so many. I'm exhausted mentally, physically, emotionally. My co-workers are sad and stressed and sometimes they even

look defeated. But they aren't. They carry on and they pick each other up and they do it all so well. They are a strong, fearless group, and they always have your back.

So, this is not what I signed up for. But I love my job and I love my coworkers and my patients and their families. So, even though this is not at all what I signed up for, I will continue to do my job. I will pray every day, every shift, that the ER will soon return to the ER that I knew and loved.

I hope when all this is over and things start to get back to normal, everyone remembers all the nurses that sacrificed their own safety and sanity to care for your loved ones and people remember to be kind to one another.

Happy Nurses' Week.

*Liz Barron is an ER nurse. Both she and her children are graduates of the Federation Preschool. She and her family are members of Temple Beth Abraham.*

## JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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