



## JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

# Lights, Camera, Action — the 12th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is Here!

**Share your Passover greetings with the Jewish community statewide!**

Please return the form on page 24 along with your payment to JFNH before March 10!

*By Zach Camenker*

A lot of enthusiasm is already building for the 12th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, which returns to the Granite State on Thursday, March 19, and runs through Sunday, March 29. The array of films being presented this year includes critically acclaimed pieces, premieres, documentaries, dramas, and several short films from the United States, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. This year, our films will show in five communities across the state: Concord, Manchester, Merrimack, Peterborough, and Portsmouth. Our reputation for



showing top-notch films representing a variety of Jewish themes will continue to delight audiences across these communities and beyond.

As usual, certain events will include special guests to lead discussions after the films, as well as a free screening on the last day of the festival to support the PJ Library. We also have a new venue for our Gala film this year, which will be screened at the brand new Roger and Francine Jean Student Center Auditorium on the campus of Saint Anselm College in Manchester.

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. Without their support, we could not put on the highly engaging cultural program that we do.

**Thursday, March 19: Festival Opening**

The Festival will open with *Crescendo*, a film from Germany that makes its New Hampshire premiere at the Mara Auditorium in Webster Hall on the Southern New Hampshire University campus in Manchester. The recipient of the Rheingold Audience Award at the Festival of German Films in 2019, *Crescendo* tells the story of a world-famous conductor who tries to create an Israeli-Palestinian orchestra, only to realize he is quickly drawn into several unsolvable problems. Having grown up in a state of war, suppression, or

*Film Festival continued on page 19*

### What's Inside

Federation Voices	3
Calendar	4
Your Federation at Work	7
From the Bimah	9
Education	10
In the Community	12-23
Jewish Film Festival	18-20
Arts & Entertainment	25
Book Review	27
Opinion	27
Israel	28
Recent Events	31-32
Obituaries	32
Tributes	33
Business & Professional Services	34

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

## I Traveled the World to Reach the Federation

*By Board Member Evelyn Miller*

My husband and I are, and always have been, a quiet and unassuming couple. Educational pursuits consumed the first 13 years of our marriage. During that period we had two children. They were raised Jewish. We observed Shabbat, celebrated Jewish holidays, and they received a Jewish education that culminated in their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. In time our children went off to college, married, and had grandchildren. One family raised the children Jewish and the other did not. Interestingly, the non-Jewish grandchildren love to celebrate the Jewish holidays and have embraced Jewish symbols in their living areas. My Jewish grandchildren are devout activists embracing climate change and world politics. I fiercely love them all!

Stepping back a few years now and with our own children in college, Mike and I settled in to some very comfortable friend-

ships with several other Jewish couples (mostly scientists and doctors). We socialized weekly, shared Shabbat dinners frequently, and celebrated the holidays with all the families, children, and grandchildren. Life was comfortable. Life was good.

Because our children were now busy, independent, married professionals, we began to travel a lot. For me, travel had to have some kind of theme (food, music, pursuit of history, architecture, study of different cultures). As a couple, our desire was to explore our roots (the new buzz word). The USSR had ceased to exist. Poland, the Ukraine, and the rest of Eastern Europe had opened up. Our son (a chemical engineer) had taken an international job that required him to move his family (and my two very young grandchildren) to Russia for five years. My son's Russian work visa was only good for six weeks at a time, so we ran over to meet them in Europe for a week before they would


*Traveled continued on page 3*



*Evelyn Miller, center, in "Jew Town" in Southern India.*

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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.

# The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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

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.

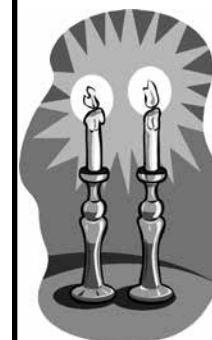
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



<b>March 6</b>	<b>5:24 PM</b>
<b>March 13</b>	<b>6:32 PM</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>6:41 PM</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>6:49 PM</b>

## An Introduction and an Invitation

**Dr. Sarit Itenberg,  
Board Chair**

**Board Column**



Many of you know me and many do not. I really enjoy meeting new people all the time, and hope we can meet in person or even on the phone if we have not met yet. My perspective as a member and volunteer at JFNH is a little unique, I think. I come from a Jewish background, was raised by immigrant parents, educated at a day school, and attended Jewish sleep-away camp. I am wife to a man who grew up in a happy Jewish home and was surrounded by all things Jewish until he went to medical school. I am the mother of two small, proud Jewish kids who are quite vocal about their Judaism and love for Israel. I also happen to be a physician who has the privilege of meeting people from all walks of life and hearing what they love, respect, value, and even yearn for. With all of these "me, me, me" examples, I want to emphasize how important JFNH is to me. My free time is quite limited, as you may have figured out, but any free time I do have goes to JFNH. This is my volunteer time, of course, but it has become a real part of me. I want JFNH to become a part of you too!

What is a JFNH member? What are the perks of membership? What is the commitment in being a member? Isn't there always a catch to any new member-

ship? Who else is a member? Why would one want to be a member?

All great questions! A member of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is ... you! It is you, your family and your friends! Jewish NH = JFNH member. The perks? Well, I think that is simple. You are part of the group of Jew-ish people in New Hampshire. As we revisit our mission and our vision and work toward a strong and bold strategic plan, we are aiming high in terms of reaching all of you across the state. Avia is making her rounds, regularly meeting young students across the state and planning programs at her home base in Bedford. PJ Library is growing and educating young families everywhere with inspiring and moving stories for all ages. The Jewish Reporter is more interesting than ever and arriving at your doorstep monthly. The publication committee has recently decided to create a more regular and robust section in print

announcing *simchas* and even losses. We should support one another in good times and in bad. We should be there to cheer each other on and smile as well as to *sit shiva*. Please share such things with us! Let us into your life; you are so very welcome into ours!

I will let you behind-the-scenes to give you a sneak peek at what the Board of Directors and staff has planned this coming year. We are reminiscing and regrouping to create a new way to reach all preschool age children who live in Jewish homes in New Hampshire and have parents and guardians interested in a Jewish foundation of knowledge and education. Although the Board of Directors recently made the very difficult decision to end the Federation Preschool as we know it, rest assured there is unanimous agreement that a very special something will come to be in its place. We have even gone as far as thinking about babies still inside their mommies' bellies! Shalom Baby is a program that has come up in discussion! But that certainly does not include all preschool age children across the state, so we have some serious work cut out for us. The reassuring piece, I feel, is that the committee to date is made up of some of the best volunteers and directors.

This important think tank does not have to be, and should not be, just some select group of incredible insiders. We want you! If you have ideas, young children, or a background in early childhood education, we want you! How can we approach a new mother or father? How can we welcome a newborn into Jewish life in New Hampshire, paving the way for its future here in the Granite State? Our think tank is open to members, and even just to suggestions, so please feel free to reach out.

Calling all Mahjong .... There has been such nice new life brought to JFNH's new home in Bedford with mahjong. Could we consider some statewide competition? Why not! What about security? It is on all of our minds personally, professionally and Jewishly. As members of JFNH have been privy to insider information from our national security support groups, could we not disseminate such information statewide with programming?

What about the Jewish person who has not been to temple or eaten a delicious Challah or heard a Hebrew song or made a Jewish friend in a long time? Come out wherever you are! We want YOU! We want to grow JFNH to include all of us. We want to identify you, support you, educate you, entertain you, and love you.

### *Traveled* continued from page 1

return to Russia. During these years we visited Poland, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Romania, Estonia, Croatia, Greece, and Russia (Moscow and Siberia). We took in beautiful sights with our son's family, but when left on our own we found we sought out Jewish sites and Jewish history.

It was very emotional visiting concentration camps, desecrated synagogues, and destroyed or unmaintained Jewish cemeteries. We visited communities and villages with evidence of past Jewish life (nail holes in a door frame where once a mezuzah had hung, a huge brick building covered in vines with arched windows and, high up, a circular window with a star of David, an old market square with central butcher stalls with special areas for water and cleaning, a concert hall that was obviously an old synagogue with classrooms downstairs and the upstairs opening to the sanctuary. Attending a recent Klezmer music festival in Krakow, Poland, we met a Jew from Amsterdam on a history walking tour and a French Jew who shared his fiddle with me while taking a workshop on Jewish music. Over conversation, each talked of growing anti-Semitism

and their plans to immigrate to Israel.

Israel seemed the next logical place to explore. Although in an extremely difficult part of the world, Israel seemed like a huge breath of fresh air after our eastern European experiences. We were overwhelmed with exploring the WHOLE country, its diversity in cultures, religions, foods, marketplaces, music, agriculture and innovation. The country feels sooooo alive and sooooo Jewish. Each time we return to Israel we attend services somewhere, and each time it is a wonderfully different Jewish Shabbat experience.

There was Shabbat in Tel Aviv with the rabbi from Australia, who had a big, booming voice welcoming people from all over the world in five different languages. People came dressed in traditional black or in beach shorts and flip flops. Men sat separately from women, but when babies got upset, mothers walked around the flimsy, curtained screens to deliver little ones to their fathers.

Another Shabbat was celebrated in the peace of the desert on a moshav. We sat around a campfire under the stars, with all of the farmers bringing food to share — BUT FIRST we lit the candles and said the blessings over wine and bread.

Then there is Shabbat in Jerusalem. Each time we go, it feels comforting and

joyous. There is the hubbub of activity in the city and the scurry to get to the Western Wall. There is comfort in the surroundings and the traditional prayers. There is joy in sharing dance, song, and company with young and old around you. There is a sense of fulfillment when walking back peacefully to your hotel.

By now my husband had seen enough of the world. I, however, wanted to continue experiencing different cultures, so off I went several times to Southeast Asia. It was in the port city of Yangon, Myanmar that I read about a thriving Jewish community that could boast of two mayors, had established the city hospital and newspaper, and contributed extensively to the education and welfare system. The article said there was an existing synagogue to visit and it gave a phone number. However, just like in Eastern Europe and Thessaloniki, Greece, the structures were still there but the Jewish residents were not. The young man who unlocked the synagogue to admit four people was one of three remaining Jews in Myanmar. The synagogue was huge and beautiful. As I walked around to study the interior, I was joined by an Australian Jew. We stood together, strangers, but intimately knowing each other. We talked of fami-

ly, of Shabbat meals, of Bar Mitzvahs and Passover gatherings. After leaving the synagogue, I walked the small streets of the neighborhood and again saw evidence of a now missing Jewish community. Maybe because all of this was unexpected, I felt a HUGE sense of loss.

I returned to comfortable little New Hampshire with a strong urge to be connected: connected to Judaism, connected to Jewish culture, connected to New Hampshire Jewry, and connected to Israel.

I see the New Hampshire Jewish Federation as an organization that supports the many synagogues and smaller Jewish communities in New Hampshire. I see it as offering a sense of connection to all of New Hampshire Jewry. The Federation enhances Jewish communication through the *Reporter* and social media posts. The Federation offers wonderful programs like PJ Library, scholarships for Jewish summer camp, the Jewish Film festival, the *shlichah* program, and the new MoMentum program. The Federation is there to help with security concerns. Joining the New Hampshire Jewish Federation Board meant joining an organization that connects and enhances our New Hampshire Jewish community.

# Statewide Calendar of Events

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.

## Sunday, March 1

### Southern New Hampshire's Jewish Men's Club Annual Children's Breakfast

9:30AM – 11:30, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Cost: \$8.00 for Men's Club Members and \$12.00 for non-members. All children eat FREE!  
Our Annual Children's Breakfast features Mad Science's "Up, Up and AWAY" presentation. Kids will be left flying high as they learn about pressure as the Mad Scientist explains how the weight of the earth's atmosphere pushes down on them with the force of an elephant! They'll explore how Bernoulli's principle creates enough lift to make a jumbo jet fly or how air pressure can be used to launch a hot air balloon. Our kids will watch in amazement as the Mad Scientist's vortex generator creates giant smoke rings and much more. One lucky child will take a ride on the amazing Mad Science Hovercraft! Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of waffles, eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email [breakfastsvp@snhjm.org](mailto:breakfastsvp@snhjm.org).

### PJ Library/Temple Israel Hamantaschen Bake

12:15PM, Temple Israel, Manchester  
We had so much fun last year that we are teaming up again!  
Join PJ Library - New Hampshire and Temple Israel for lunch and a Hamantaschen Bake. Enjoy a dairy lunch 12:15PM-12:45PM and then dive into a Purim craft and make and take your own delicious hamantaschen!

This program is FREE but registration is required by February 26th. To register call Allyson at 603-627-7679 or email [allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org](mailto:allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org)

## Tuesday, March 3

### Temple Israel Portsmouth Book Club Discussion

1PM – 3PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
The Temple Israel Portsmouth Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Shmoozatorium. Please see our website for the Book of the Month!

## Wednesday, March 4

### The Ethics of Compromise

6:30PM – 7:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
This course is also running on March 11th and March 18th

When is it or isn't it ethical to compromise? We will look at the philosophical grounds behind certainty, commitment and humility. We will explore both principled and prudential justifications for compromising and for not compromising. There will be light dinner at the sessions at Beth Abraham, which are free of charge.

## Thursday, March 5

### Torah Study

10:30AM – 12PM, Phillip Porter Religious School at Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Runs every week until June 25th  
A weekly session studying the Torah. Led by Rabbi

Jon Spira-Savett and Education Director, Noreen Leibson. Come once or come many times!  
Please note, Torah Study does not take place when there is school vacation. Please double check the Temple Beth Abraham calendar if you are unsure.

### Teaching the Holocaust: Keeping the Moral Code

6PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford  
Presented by Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach for the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies: Why do we need to teach the Holocaust? What moral messages do we convey? What do students actually learn? The task of educators is to make historical topics relevant to their students. How does one make the Holocaust relevant to students today? How should teachers approach this extremely difficult topic in an appropriate way? The Holocaust must be taught in a multidisciplinary way as a human story taking place in modern society - one human being to another - by neighbors, in the same civilization. This workshop explores ways to humanize the experience of the victims and perpetrators in order to motivate successive generations to recognize an ethical responsibility to respond to prejudice and hatred. This presentation illustrates how to connect students to the victims as human beings; putting people above statistics; how to explore everyday life in the ghettos; how Jews fought dehumanization by confronting moral dilemmas; the choice many survivors made to choose life and continuation over despair and violence; proper contexts; suggested appropriate lessons and use of film; and the burden and responsibility of representing trauma. Specific attention will be given to the use of imagery. What kinds of images are appropriate and in what context? A fundamental approach will be to discuss the limits and goals of teaching about the Holocaust while teaching students how to maintain a moral core.

Pre-registration is required for security purposes and space is limited. Please call the JFNH at 603-627-7679 or email [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org)

### The Experience of being a Muslim American

7PM – 8:30PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
Ahmed Tahoun a realtor in Manchester, NH. He will discuss what he has encountered as a practicing Muslim since immigrating from Egypt to the United States. He will talk about his family's reaction to 9-11.

## Friday, March 6

### The Ethics of Compromise

9:30AM – 11:30AM, OLLI at Granite State College  
This course is also running on March 13th and March 20th

When is it or isn't it ethical to compromise? We will look at the philosophical grounds behind certainty, commitment and humility. We will explore both principled and prudential justifications for compromising and for not compromising.

To participate at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), go online to [olli.granite.edu](http://olli.granite.edu) to register and pay.

### Shabbat Alive!

6:30PM – 7:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Experience an upbeat Shabbat evening service guided by songleaders and accompanied by several of our musicians playing guitar, percussion, keyboard, and clarinet. We'll learn some new melodies, and some brief explanations will help unlock the joy and meaning of the service to begin Shabbat. For more information and for some new tunes, please go here: <https://www.tbanashua.org/shabbat-alive>

### Purim Shpiel

7PM – 9PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

## Saturday, March 7

### Havdalah & Movie Night: The Mad Adventures of "Rabbi" Jacob

6:45PM – 9PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
We'll conclude Shabbat by making Havdalah at 6:45 p.m., then show the film at 7:00 p.m. Get in the mood for Purim by watching this hilarious cult classic. Louis de Funes, France's all-time favorite actor, known for his high-energy performances and wide range of facial expressions, stars in a story of disguises and concealed identities, attempted murder and mayhem. We'll supply the popcorn; you supply the laughs.

### Purim Masquerade Ball

7PM – 11 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Tickets are available in advance at [www.tba.org](http://www.tba.org) \$25 for Sisterhood and Men's Club Members and a guest. \$30 for non-members  
Members and Non-Members may purchase tickets last minute at the door for \$30. Please RSVP in either case to [office@tbanashua.org](mailto:office@tbanashua.org) so that we can plan appropriately.  
DJ Dance Music Dancing, Appetizers, Drinks and Desserts (costumes optional). Adults only please.

## Sunday, March 8

### Brotherhood Purim Carnival

11AM – 12:15PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester



### Meet Or Cohen-First Ever Female Commander of an Israeli Naval Combat Vessel

6PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford  
Or Cohen, the first ever female commander of an Israeli Naval Combat Vessel will be speaking at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire on International Woman's Day.

Join us as Or shares her story of bravery, choices, success and promoting equality. Listen as she tells of her personal challenges and achievements, a story that can motivate woman everywhere to be pioneers and push the limits.  
Advanced registration is required for security purposes and space is limited. Please call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 or email [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org)

## Monday, March 9

### Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading

6:15PM – 8:15PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
Please join Temple Israel, Portsmouth, for a community Megillah Reading. Food and fun, costumes encouraged!

### Family Purim Celebration

6:30PM – 7:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Come and join us for a family friendly Purim Celebration.

For more information please check the Temple Beth Abraham website at <https://www.tbanashua.org/>

### Adult Purim Session Study

7PM – 8:30PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

## Tuesday, March 10

### Purim in the 60's

5:30PM – 8:30PM, Chabad Center for Jewish Life, Manchester  
Cost: \$15/Individual, \$25/Couples and \$45/Family  
Join Chabad for sixties themed Purim party!  
Megillah reading, diner themed dinner and a fun drum circle- fun for the whole family. Open to the community.  
<http://ChabadoNH.com/sixtiespurim>

## Friday, March 13

### Family Shabbat and Potluck

6PM - 8PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
Please bring a dish to share.

## Saturday, March 14

### Yedidim Pop Up Potluck Havdalah

5:30 – 7:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham  
Interested in an easy, low-key way to celebrate the spirit of Shabbat? PopUp Potluck Havdalah is for you! All you need to do is bring the kid-friendly dairy or pareve dish, and together we'll experience the gentle fellowship of saying goodbye to Shabbat. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jessie Mocle at [yedidim@tbanashua.org](mailto:yedidim@tbanashua.org).

## Sunday, March 15

### Purim Carnival

10AM – 12:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Free Admission  
Members of Boston-based hoop troupe Sacred Circle Siblings perform as we celebrate the Purim holiday! Playing games and winning prizes!  
Lots of booths for every age! Snacks!  
There will also be hamantaschen for sale and you will be able to purchase Purim baskets!  
25¢ tickets available for purchase in the synagogue lobby. Tickets are good for playing games, and buying food and drink! Buy lots of tickets, eat lots of food, and have lots of fun!  
Come in costume!

## Tuesday, March 17th

### The Human Problem of Genocide

6PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford  
What is required to recognize, deter and prevent genocide? What is genocide? When do processes become part of a genocide momentum? How do we prevent the escalation? How do we identify moments in the process where intervention (any type) can change the momentum? What can we do to make a difference? We will discuss the U.N. Genocide definition; genocide risk factors and warning signs. We will explore proactive and reactive responses. We will also wrestle with the tension between the moral imperative to act and the principle of nonintervention and state sovereignty. This presentation seeks to empower students to make such attitudes and behaviors culturally unacceptable.  
Pre-registration is required for security purposes and space is limited. Please call the JFNH at 603-627-7679 or email [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org)

## Thursday, March 19th

### Hadassah Chapter Meeting

1PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford  
Speaker - Shlicha Avia Sagron presenting Multi-Cultural Diversity in Israel  
RSVP REQUIRED - Contact Michele Bank at [Michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:Michele.bank@gmail.com)

### Crescendo

7:00PM, Mana Auditorium, Webster Hall, SNHU, Manchester  
Cost: \$12.00  
For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4502585](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4502585) or call 603-627-7679.  
When a world-famous conductor tries to create an Israeli-Palestinian orchestra, he is quickly drawn into a tempest of unsolvable problems. Having grown up in a state of war, suppression, or constant risk of terrorist attacks, the young musicians from both

# Statewide Calendar of Events

sides are far from able to form a team. Lined up behind the two best violinists—the emancipated Palestinian Layla and the handsome Israeli Ron—they form two parties who deeply mistrust each other, both on and off stage. It takes all of the conductor's skill and resources to overcome the discord and get them to play in harmony, as the film rises to a tense and emotional finale. Loosely inspired by Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, this is a remarkable theatrical movie and a contribution to the worldwide efforts toward understanding, humanity, and peace.

## Friday, March 20

**Yedidim Build-a-Shabbat**

5:30PM – 6:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua Begins with a Yedidim Service, then a join Yedidim and Children's Dinner followed by a Children's Service.

Your kids will love this creative approach to celebrating Shabbat! Join us for a Shabbat-related project, kid-approved dinner and short, joyful, Friday night service. Your kids will receive their own Build-a-Shabbat Workshop apron. If your child attends all of the workshops, they will earn a certificate of achievement and a special gift! Build memories with your child, and enjoy using the special crafts they create at your own Shabbat table!

For more information or to RSVP please contact Jessie Mocle at yedidim@tbanashua.org

## Saturday, March 21

**Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles**

**GALA 12TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

8:00PM, Roger and Francine Jean Student Center, St. Anselm College, Manchester  
Cost: \$48.00 through March 14, \$57.00 after March 14

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4509007](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4509007) or call 603-627-7679 Among the pantheon of Broadway musicals that changed the world, *Fiddler on the Roof* has a special place very near the top. In the half-century since its premiere, the production has had an unprecedented

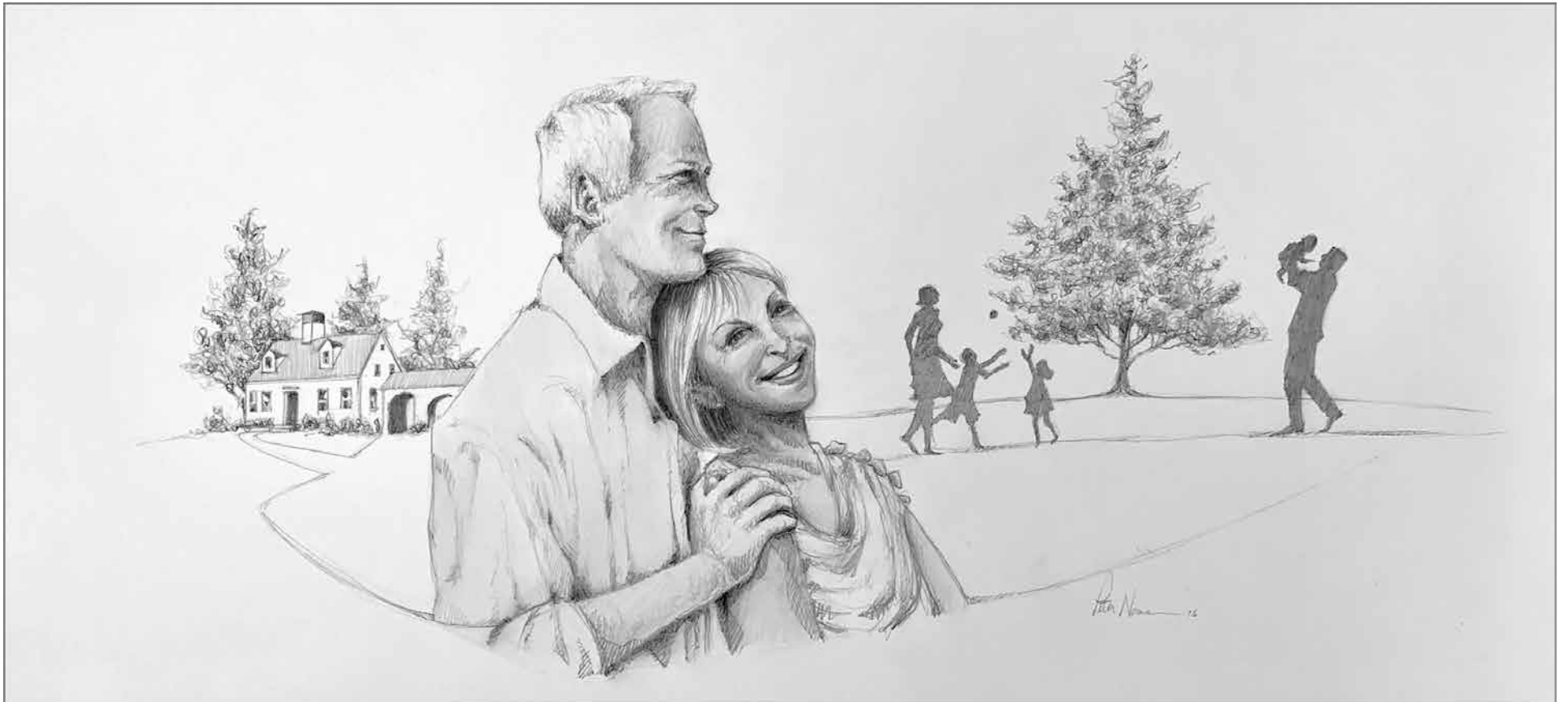
global impact, beloved by audiences the world over, performed everywhere from suburban middle schools in Nebraska to grand state theaters in Japan. *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* chronicles the birth, life, and continued resonance of this singular icon of the stage and screen. Featuring interviews with Joel Grey, original lyricist Sheldon Harnick, and stars of the current Broadway revival, Jessica Hecht and Danny Burnstein.

## Sunday, March 22

**Shmooze Time!**

9:30AM – 11:30AM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua

*Calendar continued on page 6*



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# Statewide Calendar of Events

## Calendar continued from page 5

Cost: \$8.00 for Men's Club Members and \$12.00 for non-members.

Join us for our famous Sunday Breakfast and SCHMOOZE TIME! Come catch up with old friends, make new friends and enjoy our company and conversation together. New members are always welcome to join at the door! For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email [breakfastsvp@snhjm.org](mailto:breakfastsvp@snhjm.org).

### TBJ Mah Jongg Tournament

12:30PM – 5:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Cost: \$10 for Sisterhood Member and \$18 for non-members

Games! Snacks! Prizes! Fun for all levels!

Instructions for newbies!

Questions/RSVP Robin Rubin at [litlube@gmail.com](mailto:litlube@gmail.com)

### Sh'Ma Listen Speaker Series: Introduction to Jewish Genealogy

1PM – 2:30PM, Temple Israel, Manchester  
Second installment of Temple Israel Manchester's Sh'Ma Listen Speaker Series: You don't have to be a celebrity to have an interesting family! Learn how to find your ancestors and tell their stories. Learn about the latest methods and resources to grow and document your family tree. Jessie Klein is the co-president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston and has taught in their Foundations of Jewish Genealogical Research course. Jessie has been doing family research for over 15 years. To register: [TIMHT.event.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:TIMHT.event.rsvp@gmail.com)

### Good Morning Son

1:00 PM, Cinemagic, Merrimack

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513471](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513471)

or call 603-627-7679

After Ori, a young IDF soldier, is critically injured during a botched military operation in Gaza, he lies comatose, clinging to life. During months of rehabilitation, family, friends, doctors, and therapists come together in support of Ori's recovery. Filled with heartbreak, humor, and hope, this penetrating dramatic narrative is presented in tight, contained spaces, concentrating on the language of faces, gestures, and movement within the frame.

"A clever and elegant film about the resilience of life.

### My Name is Sara

1:00 PM, The Music Hall Loft, Portsmouth, NH

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513493](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513493)

or call 603-627-7679

The true story of Sara Goralnik, a 13-year-old Polish Jew whose entire family was killed by Nazis in September 1942. After 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 employer's marriage, compounding her own greatest secret that she must strive to protect, her true identity.

### Shooting Life

1:00 PM, Peterborough Community Theatre, Peterborough, NH

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4509142](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4509142) or call 603-627-7679

Igal Gazit, an unemployed film director from Tel Aviv, 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 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.

### Futures Pass

3:30PM, Cinemagic, Merrimack NH

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/83384](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/83384)

or call 603-627-7679

Futures Past is a film set against the last days of trading in the legendary Chicago pits, Futures Past captures the power struggle between filmmaker Jordan Melamed and his father, Leo Melamed, Holocaust survivor and kingpin of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

### The Keeper

3:30PM, Peterborough Community Theatre, Peterborough, NH

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4514155](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4514155)

or call 603-627-7679

The Keeper tells the extraordinary love story between a young English woman and a German PoW, who together overcome prejudice, public hostility, and personal tragedy

### Shooting Life

3:30PM, The Music Hall Loft, Portsmouth, NH

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4512894](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4512894) or call 603-627-7679

Igal Gazit, an unemployed film director from Tel Aviv, 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 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.

### Tuesday, March 24

#### Food Flirts: Pastrami and Ramen Short Film Program

7:00PM, Mara Auditorium, Webster Hall, SNHU, Manchester

Cost: \$12.00

(Shown with Cheeseburger, Egg Cream, How to Swim, and Sushi, Meatballs and Everything)

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513886](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513886) or call 603-627-7679

Meet the Brass Sisters, a.k.a. the Food Flirts, two

passionate food explorers of a certain age on a mission to tackle their culinary bucket list. After dreaming about childhood days spent eating pastrami, the Brass sisters decide to finally learn how artisan pastrami is crafted at Mamalehs, a modern Jewish delicatessen. Meanwhile, producer Bruce sets the ladies up with their very own ramen noodle and broth-making lesson. After savoring this delicious treat for the first time, the sisters decide to mash the two together and to teach us about another Jewish comfort food (noodle kugel), and the pastrami ramen noodle kugel is born!

### Thursday, March 26

#### Leona

7:00PM, Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Cost: \$12.00

Spanish with English subtitles

Content Warning: Adult Content, Sexual Situations

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513896](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513896) or call 603-627-7679

This intimate, insightful, and moving film tells the story of a young Jewish woman from Mexico City who finds herself torn between her family and her forbidden love. Ripe with all the drama and interpersonal conflicts of a Jane Austen novel, we see her negotiate the labyrinth of familial pressure, religious precedent, and her own burgeoning sentiment. This is both painful and beautiful there are no easy choices to be made, and the viewer travels back and forth with her as she struggles with her heart to take the best path.

### Friday, March 27

#### Hadassah Shabbat Service & Oneg

7PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

For more info, contact - Gail Ellis at [Gailellis49@comcast.net](mailto:Gailellis49@comcast.net)

### Saturday, March 28

#### Breakfast with the Rabbi

9:30AM – 11:15AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun

#### Paris Song - SOCIABLE SATURDAY NIGHT EVENT

8:00PM, Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Cost: \$15.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513905](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513905) or call 603-627-7679

The true story of small-town singer Amre Kashaubayevs 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. This inspiring story illuminates what it means to be an outsider and to struggle against adversity.

### Sunday, March 29

#### Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project

10AM – 12PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Bagnowka Cemetery in Bialystok, Poland was the final resting place for members of the largest Jewish community in Europe. In June 1943, Nazi soldiers destroyed, knocked over, and dismantled thousands of headstones and monuments. Monument bases, blocks, obelisks, and pediments were scattered about.

In 2015, volunteers began restoring the cemetery with the goal of "righting a wrong to make things whole again." By the end of 2019, 170 headstones have been restored to their original condition and 1,408 have been lifted and reset.

Paula and Howie Flagler, Temple Beth Abraham members, are our speakers. They have been spending part of their summers participating in the restoration project. Please join us at Temple Beth Abraham on March 29 to learn about the project; the work that Paula, Howie, and other volunteers have done; and plans for future summers. A light brunch, with the possibility of some bread like delicacies reminiscent of Bialystok, will be served.

For additional information about the restoration project, visit the website at <http://bialystokcemeteryrestoration.org/>

#### The Keeper

1:00PM, Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Cost: \$12.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4514180](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4514180) or call 603-627-7679

The incredible true story of Bert Trautmann, a German soldier and prisoner of war who, amid British post-war protest and prejudice, is hired as goalkeeper at Manchester City and so becomes a footballing icon. His signing outrages thousands of fans, many of them Jewish. But Bert receives support from an unexpected source: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, who fled the Nazis. Bert's love for Margaret, an Englishwoman, carries him through, and he wins over even his harshest opponents by winning the 1956 FA Cup Final. But fate intervenes, and Bert and Margaret's love and loyalty to each other are put to the ultimate test.

#### Shrek

#### Rated PG

3:00PM, Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Cost: PJ Library Event **FREE** but reservations required as space is limited

As always, our PJ Library movie will begin with crafts and activities before the film and a snack is included.

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513913](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513913) or call 603-627-7679

#### Picture of His Life

#### FESTIVAL WRAP PARTY

5:30PM Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Cost: \$16.00

For Information and tickets, visit [www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org), [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4514143](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4514143)

or call 603-627-7679

To photograph some of the most fearsome creatures on Earth, Amos Nachoum has gone face to face with anacondas, giant leopard seals, great white sharks, orcas, and crocodiles. But at age 65, Nachoum, one of the greatest underwater photographers of all time, is about to face his ultimate challenge: photographing a polar bear, up close, without any protection. A native of Israel, he served his country in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. This experience shaped and devastated him, leading him to emigrate to the United States, where he became a world-famous adventure guide and eventually an even more famous photographer. As he prepares for his biggest mission, in the Canadian Arctic, Nachoum faces his past traumas in an intimate story of dedication, sacrifice, and personal redemption.

### Tuesday, March 31

#### Sisterhood Book Group

7PM – 9PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
Sisterhood Book Group.

We are reading "The Weight of Ink" by Rachel Kadish.

Nicole Leapley will lead the conversation.

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

## Enjoying Israeli Film With Popcorn and Bourekas

When I was asked to be part of the Film Festival Committee and watch movies, it sounded like fun. Plus, Pat told me there would be snacks, and I never say no to a good movie and popcorn, so I immediately said yes. We got together and watched mostly Israeli films. The funny thing is, I've never watched so many Israeli films before!

Israel's film culture really developed in the past few years, and more and more high quality movies are starting to show up. Until recently, when I heard "Israeli movie" I was thinking only about the "bourekas films" that were a genre of Israeli movies and very popular in the 1960s and 1970s. I was born in 1995, and I grew up on those movies. They really became part of Israeli culture and even today you can hear people quote familiar lines. Bourekas movies are humorous movies based on ethnic stereotypes. They could be very controversial, but still, everyone watched them! Why "bourekas" you ask? The term is a play-



Avia Sagron

JFNH Shlichah

on-words on "spaghetti westerns" made in Italy. You see where I'm going? Bourekas are a very popular food in Israeli cuisine. (I'll add a recipe — just for fun.)

Back to the film festival: I had a good surprise when I watched all the amazing Israeli films! We saw different genres and I found it very interesting to watch them with people who are not Israelis. It was fascinating to hear how they understood the movies and their opinions about them. Sometimes I was asked if what we saw of Israel was reality, and sometimes I laughed at a joke that only I understood. I tried to share my Israeli point of view with everyone, but for me the amazing part was hearing everyone

else's different points of view. It really opened my mind.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my culture and my personal experience with Israel's daily life, the army and the small things that make you enjoy and understand Israel films a bit more.

Movies have the great ability to share and reveal parts of culture through stories, and I'm so happy that you can experience Israel that way. So, I really recommend that you watch one of the selected Israeli films, and if you have any questions I'll be happy to discuss them with you!

Famous bourekas films include Hagiga B'Snker, Charlie Ve'hetzi, Kazablan, Sal-lach Shabbati, and *Alec's Hola Ahava*.

### Homemade Bourekas

#### Ingredients

- 1 egg (lightly beaten)
- 8 ounces (1 3/4 cups or 225 grams) cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

- 1 17.5 ounce (450 grams) package frozen puff pastry
- 1 large egg (lightly beaten)
- Sesame seeds to garnish

#### How to Make Them:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F / 180 C. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a bowl, mix the egg, cheese, parsley, garlic salt, and pepper.
3. Using a sharp knife, cut the puff pastry into 5-inch squares.
4. Place a heaping tablespoon of cheese filling in each square.
5. Dampen the edges of the squares with water, and fold in half diagonally to form triangular pastries.
6. Pinch the edges together to seal the filling inside.
7. Brush the tops of the bourekas with beaten egg and sprinkle with sesame seeds.
8. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until the pastries are puffed and golden, and the filling is cooked through. Serve immediately.

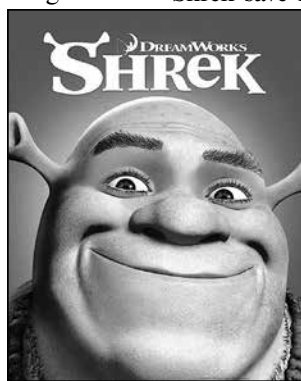
## Shrek: PJ Library's Free Family Movie has Jewish Roots

By Allyson Guertin, PJ Library Coordinator

Since *Shrek's* film debut in 2001, children (and adults) have laughed and cheered at the grumpy ogre's quest to rescue the princess and save the swamp he calls home.

The word *shrek* is the romanization of the Yiddish word *schreck*, meaning fear or fright, and this is no Jewish coincidence. The film *Shrek* is based on the children's book by the same name, written by Jewish American artist and writer William Steig, whose parents were both Polish-Jewish immigrants from Austria.

There are many reasons to love this film, but the two Jewish values it touches on are what makes the film so heart-warming. The first, finding beauty — *Yofi* — means there is beauty created by G-d, beauty created by people, beauty found inside of us, and beauty we perceive in others. Shrek spends much of the movie crabby and mean, but as he says in movie, "Ogres are like onions, they have layers." Once you peel away some of his layers, you learn that Shrek may be smelly and





ugly on the outside, but is really beautiful on the inside, kind and caring.

The second value, friendship/cleaving to friends — *Rei'ut/Dibuk Chaverim* — means true and enduring friendships are built on a foundation of giving of ourselves. Right away Donkey wants to be Shrek's friend. He is willing to help fight the dragon to rescue Princess Fiona and in the end helps Shrek save her from marrying the wrong

person. It takes Shrek most of the movie to learn about true friendship. He has a difficult time allowing himself to care about and become friends with Donkey and Princess Fiona. It seems he will never learn to be a true friend but in the end, he learns to open his heart, give of himself, and share his beloved swamp with those he cares about.

As always, our PJ Library movie will begin with crafts and activities before the film and a snack is included. We are excited to once again offer a free family movie during the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4513913> to reserve your tickets.

# OR COHEN

THE FIRST- EVER FEMALE COMMANDER OF AN ISRAELI NAVAL COMBAT VESSEL

## Sunday, March 8th

### 6PM

In celebration of International Women's Day, Or will provide a story of bravery, choices, success and promoting equality.

How does it feel to be 'the first'?

How can we promote equality?

What is the key to success?

Or shares her own personal challenges and achievements that can motivate women everywhere to be pioneers and push the limits.

---

Advanced registration is required for security purposes and space is limited.

To register or for more information:  
603 627-7679 or [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org)

## Can't Afford Your Prescriptions? Check This Out!

By Mel Spierer

Dorothy Carol Charlantini is a heroic pioneer. Working as a volunteer out of a small back area at the Pittsfield Medical Center in the early 2000's, she helped people with limited incomes obtain medication through the free medications programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. I spent weeks with her as she selflessly shared her knowledge. As our relationship grew, I became a colleague, and we worked together to expand the possibilities. Along the way, we found a kindred spirit in Nancy Szeto in the western part of the state, who was also doing the same labor and time demanding process.

Beverly Hollingworth was the President of the New Hampshire Senate. She took an interest in our efforts and we met with her a number of times. I vividly remember

Dorothy Carol smiling through the pain from her multiple medical issues as she climbed the stairs to Senator Hollingworth's second floor office with us. All of this led to the support of the bigger state players and, ultimately, to a \$50,000 start-up grant for our program from PhRMA.

This grassroots effort led to the development of the Medication Bridge Program (the name of Dorothy Carol's effort) where 38 coordinated hospital and medical sites throughout NH assist people in accessing necessary medications at little or no cost. The demanding application processes have been shortened and streamlined, as software uses the information collected at these sites to populate the different applications demanded by the many pharmaceutical companies to apply for one or more of the thousands of available prescription medications.

And the necessary prescriptions are more easily obtained than when I as a social worker and often had to wait for long periods in physicians' offices for the necessary prescriptions. As a result of these enhancements, thousands of New Hampshire folks with limited incomes have received, and continue to receive, necessary and sometimes lifesaving medications.

Another memory-searing image is that of a limited-income person standing at the front of the line at the pharmacy and suddenly looking down and walking away after realizing that the necessary medication was unaffordable. Medication Bridge is one of a number of statewide efforts that can help people in this situation.

If you know someone who cannot afford their medicines, check into Medication Bridge and the other sites noted below:

1. Medication Bridge – [healthynh.com](http://healthynh.com),

the site for the Foundation for Healthy Communities

2. Service Link – [servicelinknh.org](http://servicelinknh.org), state-supported sites designed to help access medications and many other services and supports throughout New Hampshire
3. NH Medicaid — [dhhs.nh.org/ompb/Medicaid/](http://dhhs.nh.org/ompb/Medicaid/)
4. 211 nh.org – trained information specialists to assist with a variety of resources

If you are interested in seeing what drugs are available, check out [needymeds.org](http://needymeds.org), which lists the drugs and their applications. If you have questions or need information about this or other social services, please contact me through the Federation at (603) 669-6769.

Mel Spierer is JFNH's social services case worker.

## The Taste of Memories

By Shlichah Avia Sagron

*Yom Hazikaron* (*Yom* = Day, *Zikaron* = Memories.) is the Israeli Day of Remembrance for fallen IDF soldiers and victims of terror. It's a very meaningful day in an Israeli's life. We stop everything for one day and take a moment to remember and appreciate the people that gave their lives to the country of Israel.

In 2016, a beautiful project called "Taste of Memories" was founded by Eden Kohali, Minnesota's Israeli *shlichah* at the time. The program has grown all over the world. Participants get to engage with bereaved families not only with photos, videos and stories of IDF casualties and other victims, but also with their most beloved foods.

"Every person, anywhere in the world, knows the sense of loss and longing, and each person has a recipe that reminds them of someone dear," said Ko-

hali. "I chose to use the simplest connection to create an emotional connection and identification — food."

Here's how the program works: together we will cook the favorite recipe of an Israeli fallen soldier. The cooking session will be hosted in private homes around the state. Each gathering consists of four parts: an introduction, cooking the dish, a discussion, and enjoying the meal. I, New Hampshire's *shlichah*, will guide the cooking session. We will meet, cook, share pictures, stories, videos, and talk about the person behind the dish and his family.

This year, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will carry on this project in three locations: Durham, Laconia, and Bedford. Space is limited. To reserve your spot, please e-mail Avia at: [shlichah@jewishnh.org](mailto:shlichah@jewishnh.org) or call 603-627-7679.

"Food serves as a universal language. Let's taste and not forget together!"



### "Taste of Memories"

This Yom Hazikaron

(Israeli Memorial Day for fallen soldiers)

This year, the Federation will carry on this project by leading cooking sessions of a favorite food and share the story behind it of a fallen IDF soldier who loved the recipe and never returned home to enjoy it. Food serves as a universal language. Let's taste and not forget together!



RSVP is required for all events- [Shlichah@jewishnh.org](mailto:Shlichah@jewishnh.org) or call 603-627-7679

\*(Address and ingredients will send after RSVP)

Keeping you connected



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## On Sacred Time


It's a long trip back from Jerusalem to Hanover. I slept for part of it, but also just zoned out for part of the trip, needing some time to unwind after a very intense seven days in Israel studying the Holocaust at Yad Vashem with 28 of my Chabad on-campus *Shluhim* colleagues. For a week we as a group endeavored to seek out the sparks of light in the darkness that blanketed Jewish life in Europe for more than 13 years.

We looked for that light as the Jews struggled to grasp what was developing around them, everyday moments of spiritual, emotional and physical resistance in the Ghettos, camps, and marches to struggling to rebuild their lives after they were "liberated."

Almost nothing about this moment in Jewish history makes any sense. To dwell on the death and destruction seems voyeuristic and doesn't serve to teach us any positive lessons beyond "never again."

So what positive lessons are to be taken from my deep dive into the Shoah? I think it will take time to unpack and internalize the direction that this study

**Rabbi in the House**



*Rabbi Moshe Gray*  
Chabad at Dartmouth

will go. I do know that this couldn't have happened in a timelier fashion. With the rise of anti-Judaism in the world and the time approaching when there will be no more survivors, it is imperative that we educate the next generation.

However, there is one thought I would like to share with readers.

The Nazis stopped time for the Jew as part of their dehumanization process, or at least attempted to. Of course, time is so very sacred to the Jew and our relationship to the Almighty, and as such

even the simple act of blowing the shofar, donning *tefillin*, or recognizing it was Pesach or Purim was an act of defiance and resistance by the Jews against the Nazis.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe in '42, '43 wrote a small book called *Hayom Yom*, Today is Day, where he shares a small teaching for each day. As a counter-attack to the Nazis' attempt at halting time, this book helps us sanctify time and each and every day, even during our very darkest hours.

Here is the teaching from the 11th day of Shevat: The routine of the day begins with saying *Modeh Ani* ("I acknowledge before You, living and eternal King, etc..."). This is said before the morning laving of the hands, even while the hands are "impure." The reason is that all the impurities in the world do not defile a Jew's "I acknowledge." He might lack

one thing or another, but his *Modeh Ani* remains intact.

The message of *Modeh Ani* can be applied even in the darkest times and corners of the world and can have an overwhelming effect on the person, giving him or her purpose, hope, and dignity. This is resistance.

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A New Musical  
MUSIC & LYRICS BY DEBBIE FRIEDMAN



BOOK BY ALAN D. KAPLAN AND TOM ANASTASI

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See [www.mctp.info](http://www.mctp.info)



Deborah Lynn "Debbie" Friedman (February 23, 1951 – January 9, 2011) was an American singer-songwriter of Jewish religious songs and melodies. Between 1971 and 2010, she recorded 22 albums, employing both English and Hebrew lyrics, for all ages. Debbie performed in synagogues, concert halls, and venues around the world. Her music highlights Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, who is a biblical heroine and the first woman prophetess.

## Teaching The Holocaust, From Anatevka to Now

By Evan Czyzowski

In the Fall of 2018, I spent several months living in the shtetl of Anatevka. You'll recognize that town as the setting of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which I directed at Bedford High School last school year. Of course, by *living* there, I am speaking metaphorically. However, as we rehearsed and built the set and students brought their characters to life, it all felt very much alive—walking along its homes and storefronts, seeing the villagers interact, and hearing their stories unfold.



Bedford High School teacher Evan Czyzowski

The production gave students—a cast of nearly 50—the ability to explore and learn about the history of the Jewish community. In order for students to better understand the religion and culture they portrayed through their characters, Rabbi Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord came to speak with the cast and answer their questions. Rabbi Nafshi enthusiastically answered the thoughtful questions from students, who then worked hard to ensure their theatrical portrayal was respectful, accurate, and authentic.

Tragically, the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue occurred two weeks before our show opened. Current events suddenly raised the stakes of the world we were creating on stage. The weight of history became palpable for both the time the play is set and the time of the performance that we live in now.



The 2018 cast of Bedford High School's *Fiddler on the Roof*.

We responded by holding a moment of silence before each performance and by collecting donations for the Tree of Life Synagogue. Even though almost no one in the cast was Jewish, by the time the show opened, we felt the pain more like participants in the village and the world at large than observers.

At the end of *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Jewish population is expelled from their beloved home. As a theater company we also discussed the timeline of events that followed from the conclusion of this play, set in 1905, to the Holocaust. As educators, we provide students with educational opportunities to understand and explore the depths of history. And, when we have the opportunity to have students interact with the very history they are studying, we do just that. This past December Holocaust survivor Kati Preston, who was kept hidden in a barn

while her family was murdered at Auschwitz, shared her compelling story with the junior class of Bedford High School. The students were noticeably moved by Kati's story, and we received many kind notes from the community in support of having Kati speak with us.

Schools are places where students from all walks of life and all faiths come to feel welcome. The goal is not to preach, but to have open and safe dialogue and to learn from one another. For example, Bedford High School has a Global Unity Club to celebrate all faiths and a World Religions class to study the diversity of traditions. Students who elect to enroll in this class and/or participate in this club take an annual trip to a synagogue and a mosque to learn about Judaism and Islam respectively. Students meet with people of various faiths to celebrate and embrace diversity. This is the world we inhabit and these are the ways we can help students engage in various cultures that may not be directly familiar to them.

Our students have a lot of questions about the world, questions we as educators can learn from too, and, when possible, we provide them with educational opportunities that supplement and enhance the curriculum. What is education if not encouraging students to dig deeper into the relationship between the classroom and the world beyond, to see the world for themselves and learn from historical events?

This coming April, students will have the opportunity to see these sites for themselves when I lead a group of 15 Bedford High School students on 10-

day trip through Poland and Germany to study the Holocaust, WWII, and the Cold War. The sites we will visit specific to the Holocaust include the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, Schindler's Factory Museum, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. This is an emotional trip to be sure, but a necessary one. Students choose to embark on this trip to learn and their interest gives me hope.

Perhaps spending time in the village of Anatevka is as important now as it ever has been. The metaphorical world of a play set over 100 years ago is still present today. Even though hatred should have no place in any society, unfortunately prejudice and racism still exist. We need look no further than the news to confirm that. Educators and students need to study the worst and most terrible parts of history, but we can celebrate the best parts as well. After all, the iconic song "To Life" in *Fiddler on The Roof* gives us a note of cheer and celebration as well: "To us and our good fortune. / Be happy! Be healthy! Long life! / And if our good fortune never comes, / Here's to whatever comes." And, in terms of learning from history to make our world today better, then "whatever comes" is up to all of us.

*Evan Czyzowski is an English teacher and theater director at Bedford High School. He serves on the Board of Directors for NH Humanities and each year he leads student trips to Poland and Germany to learn about WWII, The Holocaust, and The Cold War.*

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## Echoes and Reflections: Teaching the Holocaust, Empowering Students

By Ashley Harbel

As educators, we know that students are grappling with who they are, how they fit into the world, and how they can make a difference. In my Holocaust Studies course at Sanborn Regional High School, we explore all of these questions through the study of the Holocaust, a time when people were making these very same decisions about themselves and their world. It is my hope that through my course, my students will not only gain an understanding of how something like this could happen in our world, but also become a voice against injustice and say “never again.”

I have spent the last eight years of my career diving into the depths of Holocaust education. I have been very fortunate to work with Echoes and Reflections, a partnership with the ADL, Yad Vashem and the USC Shoah Foundation, all organizations that support educators as they navigate the nuances of

teaching the Holocaust in their classrooms. I have been lucky enough to spend multiple summers as part of the Charlotte and Jacques Wolf Conference as well as travel to Poland with Echoes and Reflections/Yad Vashem, which allowed me to convene with other experienced Holocaust educators from around the country for multi-day, in-depth exploration of Echoes & Reflections materials. I have always left these experiences with a renewed mission and a stronger commitment to educate my students on the important lessons of the Holocaust, which often includes telling the stories that are difficult to hear. These experiences have had a profound impact on my teaching and on me personally.

Because of these experiences and the current climate of our country and world, I have felt a renewed call to not only teach my students, but also spread my knowledge and experiences to other educators. This is what led to me bringing the Echoes and Reflections Professional De-

velopment Program to Sanborn Regional High School and surrounding towns’ educators. On March 30th, 25 middle school and high school teachers will gather together and spend a day enhancing the skills that are needed to teach about the Holocaust in our classrooms, focusing on pedagogy and resources to help our students navigate through this difficult topic. It is our hope that we can continue to not only teach about the past, but help our students find their own voices. It is our responsibility to ensure that our students have open eyes and open hearts, using the stories of the past to shape our future.

*Ashley Harbel is an English teacher at Sanborn Regional High School in Kingston and the organizer of the Echoes and Reflections “Teaching the Holocaust: Empowering Students” symposium on March 30.*



Ashley Harbel in Old Town, Warsaw.



### TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST EMPOWERING STUDENTS

#### WHY ATTEND THIS PROGRAM?

This professional development session will give you the tools to teach and initiate important discussions about the complex lessons of the Holocaust. In exploring classroom-tested strategies that can be implemented in your classroom, you will leave with increased confidence and effective materials to tackle the tough questions your students have about this subject. The why. The how.



#### WHAT IS ECHOES & REFLECTIONS?

Echoes & Reflections is the premier source for Holocaust educational materials and dynamic content, empowering teachers and students with the insight needed to question the past and foresight to impact the future. We partner with educators to support them, foster confidence, and amplify their skills and resources to teach about the Holocaust in a comprehensive and meaningful way.

#### PROGRAM GOALS

Through this program, educators will:

- 1 Explore a sound pedagogy for the planning and implementation of Holocaust education in the classroom;
- 2 Examine instructional enhancements to support student learning and understanding;
- 3 Discover and utilize classroom-ready digital assets including lesson plans, visual history testimonies, and additional primary source materials;
- 4 Enhance personal knowledge about the Holocaust, including the history of antisemitism, and
- 5 Build confidence and capacity to teach this complex subject.

*“The ultimate job of a teacher is to make connections to your students with the curriculum. You want them to walk away with a personal sense of responsibility. Echoes & Reflections helps me do that.”*

— Social Studies Teacher,  
Pinebush High School, New York

#### UPCOMING PROGRAM

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Register at: <https://forms.gle/XJJQFwunQrLnHkBF7>  
For more info contact: Ashley Harbel, [aharbel@sau17.net](mailto:aharbel@sau17.net)

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To learn more, visit our website at [echoesandreflections.org](http://echoesandreflections.org).

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## How did an ADL Project Steer Thousands of Potential Extremists Towards a Better Path?

*Published with the permission of the Anti-Defamation League*

On Google, people search for ominous terms like “Jews will not replace us,” “Swastika tattoo” and “Support Taliban” every day. Do the search results for these hate-infused terms lead to radicalization of the searchers?

We have taken steps to keep that from happening!

ADL has been a partner in an innovative new project called the Redirect Method since May 2019. It aims to re-route thousands of online paths towards videos that counter extremism, rather than feed it. As a recent feature in the *New York Times* describes the Redirect project, which ADL collaborated on with Moonshot CVE and the Gen Next Foundation, “the idea is not to berate the adherents of extremist ideology, but to help them change their minds themselves.”

Redirect Method ads were rolled out in every county in the United States and were seen over 200,000 times by people looking for terms related to violent white nationalism or violent jihadism. The search terms indicated levels of interest in these alarming topics that ranged from sympathy to extremist

ideologies up to a desire to engage in a violent extremist movement.

Searches for these terms often spiked after high profile hate crimes, such as the attack on an El Paso Walmart, where the target of the extremist attacker was the Hispanic community.

We purchased advertising on Google that would appear when people entered search terms about extremist topics. When someone searched for those terms, the Redirect Method ads showed up at the top of the page of search results, enticing clicks that led to YouTube videos that conveyed why the extremist ideas indicated by the search terms are misguided.

For example, a Google search for *The Turner Diaries*, a novel well-known in the extremist community for its depiction of a race war, triggered an ad to be displayed saying “Proud of your heritage? What you are not being told.” The ad links to a series of short videos with comments from former extremists and other content that counters the message of *The Turner Diaries*.

As the project advanced, we were able to refine our ads on Google, increasing the likelihood these web searchers would watch our videos instead of extremist content.

The project leveraged our unique expertise in understanding extremists, and the findings of the Redirect Method have provided insights into the kinds of content that have the most impact on reaching and reasoning with hate-searchers before they become real-life extremists.

With Redirect Method ads seen over 175,000 times on Google, and clicked on over 4,000 times, the Redirect Method project is one way that ADL is trying to blunt the growth of extremism by reaching people curious about violent white nationalism or violent jihadism with a compelling voice of moderation.



Emcee James McKim of the Manchester NAACP addresses the audience at TAY's Martin Luther King Day celebration.

## Temple Adath Yeshurun Celebrates Martin Luther King Day

The 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration, sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition, drew over 250 participants to Temple Adath Yeshurun on January 20. The introductory activities included a community meal of desserts, coffee, tea, and soft drinks, while the gathering was treated to music by the wonderful Manchester West High School Jazz Band directed by Diane Francoeur.

Then the program began, emceed by James McKim, who is Branch Representative for the Manchester NAACP. Mr. McKim welcomed the attendees and Rabbi Beth Davidson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence in memory of Dr. King. A proclamation from Governor Sununu was read and then Mayor Joyce Craig read a proclamation from the City of Manchester. In person to deliver greetings were our US Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and Congressman Chris Pappas. Also in attendance were NH State Senator Lou D'Allesandro and the husband, John Bessler, and daughter, Abigail Bessler, of Minnesota US Senator Amy Klobuchar.

After the Lionel Washington-Johnson Youth Awards were presented, we heard the Greater Manchester Area Choir sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and “We Walk in Love.”



Priscilla Malcolm, Linda Rockenmacher, Abigail and John Bessler (daughter and husband of US Senator Amy Klobuchar), State Senator Lou D'Allesandro, and Sol Rockenmacher enjoying the Martin Luther King Day celebration at TAY.

Then there was a panel discussion, “We the People: Renew the Poor People's Campaign,” moderated by State Senator Melanie Levesque, with panelists Debbie Opramolla, State Representative Wendy Thomas, and Will Hopkins.

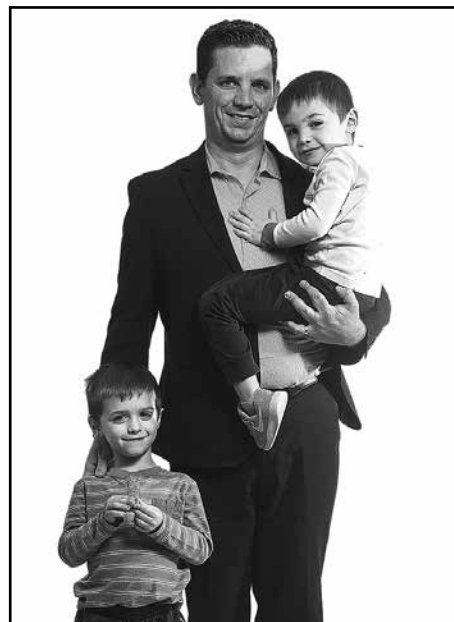
The choir sang “Imagine” and “Everyday People,” and then two more awards were presented. The Vanessa Johnson Award was given to Manny Content. Brenda Bailey Lett received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

The program concluded with the audience joining the choir in singing “We Shall Overcome,” and that was the finale of a very moving and inspiring program for a large and very involved audience.

## Local Man Named one of the Union Leader's “40 under Forty”

“Growing up at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester, I learned that tzedakah means more than charity,” says Jake Berry, who was recently named one of the *New Hampshire Union Leader's* “40 Under Forty.” “To me and so many in our congregation, it means commitment, investment and community. I've tried to carry that with me in my adult life, my work, my service and my family.”

The Vice President of Policy at New Futures, a non-partisan, non-profit organization in Concord, Berry advocates for policy changes that improve the health of New Hampshire residents. He is also an active volunteer with the Friends of the New Hampshire Drug Courts, the Moore Center in Manchester, and Temple Adath Yeshurun. He and his wife Anna are the parents of four year old twins and live in Manchester.



Jake Berry with sons Jonah and Evan.

Rachel Fairhurst, EdD of Weare was also named on the list.

## Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's Centennial Year Underway

By Eileen Regen

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's Centennial Committee cherishes memories. Former and current members and friends are invited to share their fond memories of long ago summers in Bethlehem and their relationship with the congregation.

Vivid memories by current BHC member Rhoda Sakowitz appeared in the BHC 90th Anniversary Celebration book. We present some highlights of this detailed, informal recollection of Bethlehem in the 1950s: "Only one more day of school. Then ... YAY! We will be up in Bethlehem, New Hampshire! Dad bought a small cottage with a tiny porch. The cottage, circa 1905, had three bedrooms — more than enough space for my sister Barbara, Bubbe Molly, Mom, Dad, and me.

Bethlehem was a magical place for me. The sign said 30 hotels, and although I never counted them, that seemed about right. The best part was that all my summer friends whose families also owned *kochalains* (small cottages) would be there too. Most were from New York, but some were from Florida. We packed the car, leaving Brooklyn, New York for our two-day trip on small, rural roads 'til we stopped in North Hampton to stay in a place that advertised "recommended by Duncan Hines."

My dad, Barney Rubin, drove very slowly and would stop altogether if we did not sing — everything from "Oh,



What a Beautiful Morning" to "One Hundred Bottles of Beer on the Wall" — or recite a bit of poetry. We would recite "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer, and Dad would tell the tale of "The Highwayman."

Finally we arrived in the evening and saw the streets packed with well-dressed people from the elegant hotels. Some wore furs to take the chill off the mountain air — we were at the highest elevation in the Northeast.

The streets bustled and consisted of a gift shop for linens, Rexall Drugs — my favorite because it had a whole room of pinball machines where for a nickel I could play forever, and it seemed I usually won. Also, my sister's friend worked behind the soda fountain and would create concoctions like pickle juice sodas for her. Next was Sam's Grocery Store that had the most wonderful barrel pickles. Behind was Heifer's Fish Store. Alongside them was Ralph Shanks's Kosher Butcher Shop.

Down the block after the church was the telephone office, where we could watch the girls plugging in calls from everywhere. We had a party-line phone and we were three bells. After that was Parker's Drug Store, a kind of high-class apothecary where I had my first job. When someone asked me for



BHC Member  
Rhoda Sakowitz

was 100% Republican.

Dominating Main Street was the Sinclair Hotel. I even entered the casino across Agassiz Street. In the casino some great entertainers were discovered: Sammy Davis, Jr. (I wonder if that is when he became Jewish?), Henny Youngman, and George Jessel. The Sinclair was a lovely old-world hotel with all services, pools, and a "secret" downstairs room for gambling and playing the Wurlitzer, a jukebox which, years later and after I was married, I found in Mr. Churchill's antique shop and bought for our home.

Howard House was across the street from us to the right. It had a children's camp where I would join in and sing, "I've Got a Guy at Howard House," and stay with the kids doing projects and such — organized mainly to keep them out of their parents' way. The Gables was the annex of this hotel, and I actually met my first boyfriend when he stayed there with his grandmother. Down Park Street was the Park View

prophylactics, I quit — I was a very naïve sixteen! Next was the horse stable where I took some lessons. Soon after came a hardware store, and next to it the post office which posted everyone's political party; it

Hotel, where there was entertainment every night. On one talent night (I was five), I sang "The Fish" 100 times in different intonations.

My father was president of BHC for ten years. His job consisted of (as far as I could tell) giving speeches, making sure men wore yarmulkes, and reading bingo cards at the weekly bingo game at the country club or the rec room at the synagogue. He was also in charge of the massive card parties on the synagogue's back lawn where tables of four would play mahjong, canasta, bridge, and gin rummy. It was my job to hold up the auction items and pass around cookies homemade by the sisterhood of which my mother, Dorothy, was president.

Dad enjoyed playing gin rummy with well-known lawyer Louis Nizer, Judge Jonah Goldstein, and Sinclair Hotel's Dr. Bellin, known for his old-fashioned prescriptions that could only be purchased at Parker's.

My sister and I attended Sunday School every week, and my dad took me golfing with him at the course one block away. When it was warm enough, we went to Echo Lake (the water was always frigid) and Forest Lake.

Bethlehem was a child's and teenager's ideal summer place. I'm still enjoying it every year with my children and grandchildren.

Watch for more information about BHC's history and centennial celebration plans in upcoming editions of *The Reporter*.

## Finding Your Family Jewish Genealogy Workshop

On Sunday, January 5, Dr. Fred Feldman led an informative workshop at Temple Israel in Portsmouth, encouraging attendees to get started with genealogy, offering tips on constructing a family tree and the choices available to record and store it. He reviewed internet resources including Ancestry.com, Geni.com, and the Mormon (LDS) Family History Library. Dr. Feldman and his family immigrated to the United States as Holocaust survivors, arriving in New York in 1949. He has been documenting his own family history and genealogy for over 50 years, and shared a wealth of information, as well as scanning family photographs for attendees' digital collections.



Dr. Fred Feldman scans historic photos and documents for genealogy workshop attendees.

## Temple Beth Abraham Hosts Presentation on Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project

By Ellie Schwartz

Bagnowka Cemetery in Bialystok, Poland is the final resting place for members of the largest Jewish community in Europe. In June 1943, Nazi soldiers destroyed, knocked over, and dismantled thousands of headstones and monuments. Monument bases, blocks, obelisks, and pediments were scattered about.

In 2015, volunteers began restoring the cemetery with the goal of "righting a wrong to make things whole again." By the end of 2019, 170 headstones have been restored to their original condition and 1,408 have been lifted

and reset.

Paula and Howie Flagler, Temple Beth Abraham members, are our speakers. They have been spending part of their summers participating in the restoration project. Please join us at Temple Beth Abraham on March 29 at 10:00 a.m. to learn about the project, the work that Paula, Howie, and other volunteers have done, and plans for future summers.

A light brunch, with the possibility of some bread-like delicacies reminiscent of Bialystok, will be served.

For additional information about the restoration project, visit the website at <http://bialystokcemeteryrestoration.org/>.

## Rabbi Rieser, and my Journey Back to Judaism

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

About 12 years ago, when my son, Sam, was in 3rd grade, my husband announced that all children need religious education and that Sam would have to attend CCD or Hebrew school. I gulped. Although I had attended an all-day Orthodox yeshiva growing up, I was at the time of this pronouncement a completely lapsed Jew. I knew my husband was serious, however, and I also knew that, from my perspective, my son was 100% Jewish and that he could only attend Hebrew school. My sweet husband, a lapsed Catholic, was agreeable with this outcome. After a short search, I identified Etz Hayim Synagogue, a Reform synagogue in Derry. I liked that the synagogue was housed in an Episcopal church. What could be more hip?

Despite the synagogue's groovy relationship with the Episcopal church, and the endearing online photo of Rabbi Rieser conducting a service with the help of a puppet, I was nonetheless apprehensive. Life in yeshiva had not been grand for me. The rabbis always stood apart from the students during recess; they refused to answer difficult questions, and even suggested that the intentional posing of a difficult question was a shameful act of chutzpah. And then there were the regular Monday-morning guilt-inducing inquisitions as to who had attended shul on Friday night and Saturday. Perhaps we were

meant to be scared or shamed into submission.

Etz's Rabbi Rieser came as a surprise to me: tall and distinguished, soft-spoken, even-tempered and kind, simultaneously traditional and quirky, with just a little twinkle in his eye. Although somewhat reserved by nature, he would often wait happily in the lobby for classes to begin, chatting comfortably with students, teachers, and parents. He would enthusiastically announce the start of school, my son remembers, with a folksy and inclusive call to order, "Okay, folks, time for class."

He seemed eminently good and decent—genuine—and his partnership with his eloquent and gracious wife, Connie Rieser, cemented the picture of a truly down-to-earth sort of fellow. A girlfriend of mine reminisced that he would frequently play with her daughter on their living room floor—and even allowed his hair to be brushed—during the latter's prolonged and very serious illness. What a mensch! Of course, times have changed in the decades that have passed since I attended yeshiva, and one could expect that present-day rabbis would be quite different than they were when I attended yeshiva. But Rabbi Rieser was not just a modern-day mensch. He was something much more. He was, quite simply, special. Spiritual.

In describing him, one of Etz Hayim's teachers uses the phrase "yogic." Yes! He approached difficult questions with an



In August 2013, retired Rabbi Rieser visited Etz Hayim Synagogue and was embraced by former B'Nai Mitzvah

inquisitiveness and a kind of grace. He led the synagogue in creative renditions of standard religious songs, invited the rambunctious Torah Tots to the bima at each and every service, initiated yoga and Tai Chi Shabbat services, and in general embraced every mode and manner of participation with joy, appreciation, and understanding. Most importantly, he taught and guided gently and quietly—without guilt, drama, brimstone, or commotion. A friend aptly refers to his "gentle teachings."

I appreciated this gentleness, and his wisdom and humor, at committee meetings and in navigating my son's bar mitzvah. When, for example, I anxiously questioned the sufficiency of their preparation time together given the upcoming summer break, the Rabbi looked at me with a wry smile and stated calmly, "We haven't lost one yet. You need to worry less." Then, without a missing a

beat, he turned to Sam and stated just as calmly, with a perfect blend of light-hearted humor and earnestness, "Nu? Perhaps you could worry a little bit more."

Over the summer before Sam's big day, at hip Rabbi Rieser's suggestion, Sam and Rabbi Rieser would sometimes meet and prepare via Skype. In the end, Rabbi Rieser was right. Sam's bar mitzvah went off without a hitch. My son led every prayer in Hebrew, and his Torah and Haftarah readings were flawless. By now, my journey back to Judaism was complete. I could not have been more proud of Sam – or more Jewish. And what of Sam now, the boy who didn't go to CCD? He has spent two and a half, out of four, college years in Israel, learning to speak Hebrew and Arabic.

When I called Sam to let him know about the Rabbi, there was a prolonged sad silence on his end of the phone. Later, after deciding to try to write this remembrance, I asked Sam what he would want to say about the Rabbi. He sent me a voice message: "He was the epitome of what you would hope or expect to find in a good rabbi: wise and sage-like, kind, bearded, with a sense of humor. But you could tell there was something about him 'more than normal,' something better, something connected. If it is possible to be connected to G-d, he was."

*Zekher tzadik livrakhah.* May the memory of this righteous one be a blessing.



TBI members discuss the film *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African-American Communities*.

### TBI Hosts Movie and Discussion

Rabbi Dan Danson presented the eye-opening independent film *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities* by Aviva Kempner as an

adult education program in January. The film led to lively and fascinating discussion. The presentation was made possible by the National Center for Jewish Film.



An earth-friendly Tu B'Shevat at Temple Beth Jacob.

### A Different Kind of Tu B'Shevat at Temple Beth Jacob

This year, we celebrated Tu B'Shevat a bit differently at the Temple Beth Jacob Religious School. There were no carob chips, dried apricots, or almonds, but there was an hour of show and tell. In Israel, instead of an occasion for seders, Tu B'Shevat has become more of an Earth Day as Israelis take a closer look

at climate change and how we all can affect change to make our Earth a healthier place for all inhabitants. So, at TBJ we followed suit! Thank you to Amanda from Bona Fide Green Goods in Concord, Randy Kosow, David Ossoff, and Arlene Taranow for presenting!

## Etz Hayim Remembers Rabbi Louis A. Rieser

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

On January 30, members of Etz Hayim Synagogue and of the neighboring Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, six past Etz presidents, young and old folk, folks from around New England, and one teddy bear attended a memorial service for Rabbi Emeritus Louis A. Rieser. Rabbi Rieser served as the rabbi for Etz Hayim Synagogue from 1997 to 2011, when he retired to Florida to spend time with his wife (Connie Rieser) and his ever-growing grand-family.

He died on January 15 after a long battle with brain cancer. As his devoted wife, Connie, lovingly said shortly after he died, the Rabbi was never defined by his cancer, but by his “deep strength, unwavering resolve, faith and hope, and the inspiration he engendered in all who knew him.” The stories told at the January 30 service evidence the profound and positive influence that he had on the many lives he touched.

The service began with a quiet and peaceful meditation performed by Etz religious school teacher and yoga instructor Arielle Eckhaus Welch. Arielle explained that Rabbi Rieser introduced meditation before Friday evening services and shared with us a meditative phrase that she learned from him, “breathe in that which you need, breathe out what no longer serves you.”

The meditation was followed by a service led by Etz’s present rabbi, Rabbi Peter Levy, and Amy Dattner Levy, and included a lovely rendition of “*Yeish Kochavin*.”

“There are stars up above so far away  
We only see their light long, long after  
the star itself is gone.  
And so it is with people we loved,  
Their memories keep shining ever  
brightly  
Though their time with us is done.  
But the stars that light up the darkest  
night,  
These are the lights that guide us.  
As we live our days, these are the ways  
we remember, we remember.”

The attendees then shared their memories – sweet, touching, and humorous.

Joel Saren fondly recalled going to Torah study at the Rabbi’s house during Etz’s early days.

Etz past president Steve Soreff shared two memories. It was under Rabbi Rieser, Steve recalled, that “Shabbat on Lake Pawtuckaway,” complete with kayaks and canoes, began. Rabbi Rieser also helped the Etz community, which had been



Shabbat on Lake Pawtuckaway with Rabbi Rieser (in hat, back row, on left).

holding services in the Episcopal Church since 1993, fulfill its dream of building its own brick and mortar home. The building was dedicated in 2009, and Steve recalled the “profound memory” of carrying the synagogue’s Torahs from the church to the new building, as well as the “magic moment” of lighting the *Nir Tamid* (eternal light).

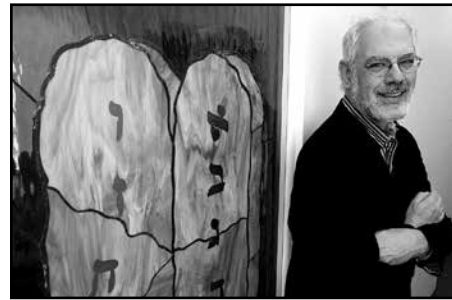
According to Jay Madnick, also an Etz past president, the *Nir Tamid*’s eternal light is due to Rabbi Rieser’s forward-thinking request that the lamp be solar powered. Jay also fondly recalled that it never mattered to the Rabbi how many people attended a service, or how people interpreted Torah portions: “he was just delighted and thrilled” to be gathered with whomever attended and to do whatever folks wanted to do (a short or long service or a Torah study).

Wayne Kurtzman, another past president, referred to the Rabbi’s presence as “undeniably Louis,” and reminisced about the little goat puppet that the Rabbi would use at the end of community Pesach seders and for which participants waited with anticipation.

Multiple moms spoke of the baby namings that the Rabbi conducted in their homes, and the way he made everyone feel welcomed and part of a larger family. Arielle shared that at her daughter’s baby naming, the Rabbi crouched down to be at the same level as her young son, and spoke to him about the very special relationship he would always have with his baby sister.

Bracha Leah Zeitler, a friend from the National Havurah Committee (Rabbi Rieser regularly spoke at the NHC’s summer institute) spoke of the Rabbi’s kind and gentle presence. She had visited him in Florida and said that “even visiting him when he was sick was an uplifting experience. He was always a mensch.”

Arielle shared that Shabbat Yoga began with the Rabbi. The Rabbi was



Rabbi Rieser at Etz Hayim in 2011, leaning against his office door and the stained glass window purchased by a B’nai Mitzvah class in his honor. Photograph by photojournalist Allegra Boverman.

excited to share with the Etz community different ways of praying that he learned about at a seminar, and asked Arielle to run a Shabbat yoga class. When she responded that she was uncertain how to do Shabbat Yoga, the Rabbi assured her that they would figure it out together. During their many meetings, the Rabbi helped her find a “yogic” approach to the Torah, even to violent portions of it, and, in doing so, he helped her feel more connected to Judaism.

Jill McAlpine spoke lovingly of how the Rabbi always made her feel special, and always made everything “okay.” She spoke about his constant presence during her younger daughter’s childhood illness, and shared that when she nervously told the Rabbi that she could only secure a Friday night spot at a local venue for a Histiocytosis Association fundraiser, the Rabbi reassured her that the mitzvah of giving was a perfect way to spend Shabbat. On their last visit, although knowing that they probably would not see each other again, the Rabbi still “made it okay.”

Jill’s daughter, Lindsay, echoed her mom’s sentiments. “He was the light of my life. He always found ways to make everything okay. He was an incredible person.”

Etz past president and current co-president Pete Wasserman remembered that Rabbi Rieser held a renaming for Lindsay when she was cancer-free.

Renee Solomon, a long-time Etz member, recalled joining Etz because of the greater flexibility it offered religious school students and then being quickly asked by the Rabbi to help with classes, although she could not read Hebrew at the time. The Rabbi ensured that she was always at least a week ahead of the students. Seven years later, with the Rabbi’s encouragement, Renee had a bat mitzvah ceremony, along with her younger daughter. She remains actively involved in the Etz Hayim community, currently serves on the Ritual Committee,

and often acts as a *gabbai* during the High Holidays. She credits Rabbi Rieser for her continued involvement in Judaism and in the life of Etz Hayim.

Locke, a high school senior, appreciated the Rabbi’s acceptance of the complexity of life and diversity of opinions among people and “will never forget” that the Rabbi said that it was okay to ask questions, even of adults. Molly McAlpine, Jill’s older daughter, will never forget his response to her question about why G-d made Lindsay sick: he told her that she had asked a great question and that he was glad she asked it, but that he did not know the answer, concluding in a light-hearted voice, “that’s why we pray.”

Rabbi Ira Korinow (currently at Temple Israel in Portsmouth) praised Rabbi Rieser’s teaching skills and emphasized the Rabbi’s singularity. Rabbi Rieser taught not only at synagogues, but in summer programs and via a blog (<http://www.jewishvaluesonline.org/rabbi>), and continued to teach adult education and Jewish meditation in Florida even after his retirement. While serving as a rabbi in Haverhill, Rabbi Korinow invited Rabbi Rieser to speak about the latter’s book, *The Hillel Narratives* (available on Amazon). Rabbi Rieser, he said, was a great teacher because he treated everyone—congregants and colleagues—equally. Quoting from *Pirkei Avot*, Rabbi Korinow referred to Rabbi Rieser as the epitome of a wise man because he learned from everyone he met. “As much as you learned from him, he truly learned from all of you. That is very uncommon. He was very special. He touched so many of our hearts.”

Who couldn’t love such a man?

For anyone wishing to make a memorial donation in Rabbi Rieser’s memory, Connie Rieser suggests Etz Hayim Synagogue as a possible charity (please contact Rabbi Levy). At the service, Rabbi Levy noted that donations to the National Havurah Committee, or to any charity of your choice, would be appropriate as well.

I apologize to anyone whose story I did not record 100% accurately. I think Rabbi Rieser would tell me not to worry. I close with this poem by Morris Adler that is in Etz Hayim’s prayer book:

*Beyond Time*

“Our yesterdays are beyond the reach  
of death,  
When our love transforms them into  
living influences.  
Thus we continue to be guided by a light  
Which transcends time and defies  
death.”

# In the Community

## Food and Fun at TAY's 33rd Annual Deli Night

Over two hundred hungry folks entered Temple Adath Yeshurun for the 33rd annual TAY Brotherhood Deli Night on Saturday, January 25. They did not leave hungry! They were treated to plenty of appetizers, pastrami, corned beef, tongue, sliced turkey, salami, rye bread, macaroni salad, cole slaw (via Elaine Penchansky), potato salad (via Jet Goldberg and Steve Matheson), fresh salad, sour pickles and tomatoes, mustard, sauerkraut, rye bread, cookies and cakes and beverages of all kinds, including Dr. Brown's Cel-Ray soda.

Those attending also enjoyed an evening of fine entertainment. The theme this year was "Hello, Deli!" and who should appear on stage as the MC of the evening? None other than Doreen Deli, alias our own Dr. Deli Night, David (Doc) Penchansky. (Last year's Elvis Presley, and the Phantom of the Deli and the Deli Woman of the years past had gone on well-deserved holidays.) As he has done for so many years, David was in charge of putting this event together, ably assisted by Elaine, Jeffrey Jolton and Alan Kaplan. The opening act was David and Cantor Daniel Leeman serenading Doreen Deli with "Hello, Deli!" followed by a wonderful singing and dancing troupe from the Manchester Community Theater. They did four numbers, in costume, from their recent production of *The Music Man*, and one number



*Cantor Daniel Leeman serenades Doreen Deli at TAY Deli Night.*

from the upcoming and very-anticipated show *Miriam*, a musical written by Alan Kaplan and Tom Anastasi with music by the late incomparable Debbie Friedman. Playing the lead role is Ariel Kaplan. Joel Gordon conducted the auction, which had been organized, along with the raffle, by George Bruno, who was assisted in selling tickets by Bill Sirotky. The headline act for the evening was Boston's own comedian Jimmy Dunn, who was very well received, and who enjoyed the spontaneous



*Jay Hodes and Steve Goldberg manning the beverage station at TAY Deli Night.*

participation of our own Ted Yegerman.

It was a lively evening with a packed function room. Thank you to Jeffrey Jolton for being the Executive Producer, Alan Kaplan for setting up the lighting and sound and performances and David Rosenzweig for the slide show, photography, and for decorating the hall with Mark Granoff. Mark Bilech also used his photography skills. Hats and yarmulkes also off to the TAY Brotherhood Kitchen Krew and friends who helped set up the rooms, worked in the kitchen preparing, slicing, cooking, portioning out and serving, at the beverage area, and cleaning up. They included Brothers Steve Rothstein, Howard Tocman, Bob Katchen, David

Rosenzweig, Steve Short, Marty Warsaw, Steve Goldberg, Steve Short, Ed Schoen, Jonathan Baron, Len Ruvinsky, Tom Sullivan, Joel Gordon, Bryan Cadugan, Ed Schoen, Michael Bank, Dick Paquin, Denis Paiste, Jay Hodes, Al Rudnick, Al Halpern, Lee Hill and Andy Cohen. Thank you to Bob LeFevre and Leslie McLeod, and Sisters Linda Rockenmacher, Karen Rothstein, Beth Goldberg, Fran Short, Cate Tanzer, Gail Ellis, Priscilla Malcolm, Maryellen Bilech and Ruthie Gordon. We are also so grateful to all of you who donated the wonderful auction and raffle items and beverages: Bennett Freeman, David and Elaine Penchansky, David and Pat Rosenzweig, Joel and Joy Raskin, George Bruno and Rona Zlokower, the Singer Family, Steve Paris, Leon Hankin and Manchester Community Theater Players. We very much appreciate the extremely generous cash donation from the Yegerman family. Money was also raised for buying cans of soup to be donated to New Horizons Soup Kitchen for the Souper Sunday drive. They say it takes a village...well, we had a city!

Deli Night is always a night of camaraderie and fun...a night that brings the community together, to dine together and to schmooze and to laugh. That is really what it is all about...and it has been going strong for 33 years now! This year's event might have been one of the best ever.

## The Social Event of the Season: TBA's Purim Masquerade Ball!

The second annual Purim Masquerade Ball will take place at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on Saturday, March 7 at 7 pm. Last year the ball had a wonderful attendance, with a DJ for dancing, signature drinks (including Vash-tinis and more!), many appetizers, and a photo booth! There will be guaranteed encores for the wildly popular "karaoke with the DJ!"

People came to eat, drink, and be merry! You could also be part of the fun this year! The Purim Ball is jointly sponsored by the TBA Sisterhood and the Southern NH Jewish Men's Club. Advance Tickets are available now on the TBA website ([www.tbanashua.org](http://www.tbanashua.org)) for members for \$25.00 or \$30.00 for non-members or at the door. Tickets include two free drinks, appetizers, music, friendship and fun!

The Purim Masquerade Ball is the social event of the season at Temple Beth Abraham. Find the event on the

calendar page. Don't be a Haman (booo!), join in and have a blast!



*Masked revelers at last year's Purim Ball*



*Bill and Jane Goodman*



*Masked revelers at last year's Purim Ball.*

## In the Community

### MANTY Winter Wonderland Once Again Brings the NFTY Region Together

The weekend of February 7th saw over fifty-five NFTY teens and their advisors gather together under the auspices of MANTY to celebrate a few days of fun, togetherness and worship. Joining our MANTY teens were guests from all over New England — Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

The Friday night service at Temple Adath Yeshurun was under the leadership of the teen attendees. Heading up the service was MANTY's Justin Silver, who delivered the evening's sermon. Guitar music accompaniment for the night was provided by NFTY song-leader Rayna Carter and MANTY's Emmet Baker. Then, following the oneg provided by TAY Sisterhood, the visitors went to spend the night at the homes of their hosts.

On Saturday morning, February 10, there was a short group-led morning service at TAY, and then the troop headed out to the Gunstock Ski Area in Gilford for a day of fun on the slopes — skiing, snowboarding and tubing.



*Dressed for Jungle Night.*

The snow conditions turned out to be great and a good time was had by all. Fortunately, the only thing broken was a ski. Attendees returned to their hosts' homes for dinner before heading back to TAY for Havdalah and then a "Jungle Theme" night of singing and dancing... with some in costumes.

Sunday morning saw the farewell gathering at TAY with a breakfast sponsored by TAY Brotherhood. There was a song session and a friendship circle. Then it was time to say "good-bye" after another wonderful MANTY Winter



*A gathering of the mispucha at MANTY Winter Wonderland.*



*Time to sing and say goodbye.*

Wonderland Weekend. *Mazel tov* to MANTY and all the advisors, supporters, hosts, sponsors and workers who helped put together another wonderful experience for Jewish teens of New England.

Please contact MANTY President Justin Silver at [justsil50@gmail.com](mailto:justsil50@gmail.com) if you have any interest in being part of MANTY or events like Winter Wonderland.

### The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Happenings

*By Paul Moverman*

Join us for fraternizing and stimulating cultural and civic activities in a religious and recreational setting!

During the past six months we've enjoyed spending time together over our famous Sunday breakfasts featuring a sumptuous feast of eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, juice, coffee and tea, while maintaining a very modest cost of only \$8 for Men's Club members. Such a deal! We have had guest speakers including Rabbi Joshua Segal, attorney Bill Barry, our new New Hampshire Jewish Federation Shlichah Avia Sagron, IT security expert Jim Isaac, former government agent, Peter Gallaher, and of course our annual Children's Breakfast that featured the Mad Scientist's "Up, Up and Away" educational presentation for kids of all ages.

According to Punxsutawney Phil, who did not see his shadow, spring is just around the corner. Here's a preview of upcoming activities you'll want to mark on your calendar!

On March 7 we are proudly co-sponsoring the Purim Masquerade Ball with the TBA Sisterhood. This is THE Social Event of 2020 featuring DJ dance music, dancing, appetizers, drinks and desserts! The adult only (costume

optional) festivities begin at 7 pm at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. Tickets are available in advance at [www.tba.org](http://www.tba.org) for \$25 for Sisterhood and Men's Club Members and a guest. Non-members' advance tickets are \$30. For additional information please see the separate story in this month's Reporter or email [nashuasisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:nashuasisterhood@gmail.com).

Our meeting on March 22 will feature our famous Sunday breakfast and provide members and guests with schmooze time! Come catch up with old friends, make new friends, and enjoy our company and conversation together. As always, all Jewish Men are welcome for breakfast, and new members may join at the door!

If you have children or grandchildren, mark your calendar now for April 15! This is the deadline for us to receive their application for financial stipends, to help support our community's youth who participate in an enriching experience such as a semester abroad in Israel, or a Jewish summer camp. The Bruce Retchin/Neil Goren Fund was established by the Southern New Hampshire Men's Club to aid in the financing of these ventures. All that is required is a letter from the student or camper outlining their plans, and the educational benefit of the program or

camp they will be attending. Requests should be mailed to SNHJMC, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH 03064 or submitted by email to [president@snhjmc.org](mailto:president@snhjmc.org).

As always, the cost for our Sunday Breakfasts is \$8.00 for Men's Club members and \$12 for non-members. New members are always welcome to join at the door! For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email [breakfastsvp@snhjmc.org](mailto:breakfastsvp@snhjmc.org).

Since our founding as a non-profit social organization in 1982, The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club has provided a way for men in Southern NH to network and schmooze over a Sunday Morning Breakfast. Building on a mission to provide a

brotherhood of like-minded men, we share our commitment and values with others in the Southern New Hampshire Jewish community by providing quality programming such as our annual town-hall style political event and our annual children's breakfast. Although the Club is affiliated with Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, new membership is open to all Jewish men and spouses of Jewish women, regardless of synagogue membership. Our Sunday breakfasts are held monthly from September through May at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. If you or someone you know would like to join our Men's Club please contact our President, Don Gorelick, via email: [president@snhjmc.org](mailto:president@snhjmc.org) or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>.

### Class Series: The Ethics of Compromise

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham

Fridays, March 6, 13, 20 9:30-11:00 a.m. at OLLI, Granite State College

When is it or isn't it ethical to compromise? We will look at the philosophical grounds behind certainty, commitment and humility. We will

explore both principled and prudential justifications for compromising and for not compromising.

There will be light dinner at the sessions at Beth Abraham, which are free of charge. To participate at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), go online to [olli.granite.edu](http://olli.granite.edu) to register and pay.

1 2 T H A N N U A L



Cheeseburger  
Crescendo  
Egg Cream  
Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles  
Food Flirts: Pastrami Meets Ramen  
Futures Past  
Good Morning Son  
How to Swim  
Leona  
Love in Suspenders  
My Name Is Sara  
Paris Song  
Picture of His Life  
Shooting Life  
Shrek  
Sushi, Meatballs and Everything  
The Keeper



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



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

Purchase your advance tickets for all screenings

Online

[www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org)  
[www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/833384](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/profile/833384)

By phone

800-838-3006 ext. 1, Brown Paper Tickets (603-627-7679) or in person at Jewish Federation Office, Monday–Thursday, 9 am–3 pm

Information:

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



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

# NH Jewish Film Festival

*Film Festival* continued from page 1



*Crescendo*

constant risk of terrorist attacks, the young musicians from both sides are far from able to form a team. Lined up behind the two best violinists — the emancipated Palestinian Layla and the handsome Israeli Ron — they form two parties who deeply mistrust each other, both on and off stage. It takes all of the conductor's skill and resources to overcome the discord and get them to play in harmony, as the film rises to a tense and emotional finale. *Crescendo* is loosely inspired by Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, and has been hailed a remarkable movie and contribution to the worldwide efforts toward understanding, humanity, and peace.

## **Saturday, March 21: Gala Celebration at Saint Anselm College**

*Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, directed by Max Lewkowicz, will be screened at our Gala Celebration at the Roger and Francine Jean Student Center Auditorium at Saint Anselm College on Saturday evening, March 21. This award-winning documentary tells the story of one of the Broadway musicals that changed the world: *Fiddler on the Roof*. This musical, which has a special place near the top of the pantheon of Broadway, has, in the half-century since its premiere, had an unprecedented global impact, beloved by audiences all over the world. Performed everywhere from suburban middle schools in Nebraska to grand state theaters in Japan, *Fiddler on the Roof* has gained a great deal of acclaim. *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* chronicles the birth, life, and continued resonance of this singular icon of the stage and screen. Featuring interviews with Joel Grey, who directed the recent off-Broadway Yiddish adaptation, original lyricist Sheldon Harnick, and stars of the current Broadway revival, Jessica Hecht and Danny Burnstein, *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* is sponsored in part by JFNH Board Chair Sarit Itenberg and Jonathan Greenblatt. We hope you will join us for food and wine at the reception after!

## **Sunday, March 22: Six screenings in three cities**

There will be six screenings in three cities on March 22, the first Sunday of the Festival. *Shooting Life* will be screened at both the Peterborough Community Theatre and the Portsmouth Music Loft, the former at 1 PM and the latter at 3:30 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 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.



At 1 PM at Cinemagic in Merrimack, the Israeli film *Good Morning Son* will be screened. Directed by Sharon Bar-Ziv, the film is the story of IDF soldier Ori, who is critically injured after a botched military operation in Gaza. As he lies comatose and clinging to life in the hospital, family, friends, doctors, and therapists come together in support of Ori's rehabilitation. Filled with heartbreak, some humor, and a sense of hope, this dramatic narrative is presented in tight, contained spaces, concentrating on the language of faces, gestures, and movement within the frame. Dr. Shmulik Duvdevani of Ynet has called it "A collection of intimate moments, directed and acted with accuracy, shifting from the emotional to the humorous and the absurd."

Following that, *Futures Past* will be shown at 3:30 PM in Merrimack. A 2016 documentary directed by Jordan Melamed, *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 2016 release, while the Hollywood Report said that the "conversations and confrontations with Leo" are where "Jordan strikes documentary-film gold." Jordan Melamed will join the audience as a special guest at the screening.

At 1 PM in Portsmouth at the Music Loft, the Steven Orritt film *My Name Is Sara* will be screened. Selected 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.



*Crescendo*

The final film on Sunday, March 22 will be *The Keeper*, screening at 3:30 PM at the Peterborough Community Theatre. The recipient of the Audience Award at the Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival in 2019, *The Keeper* is the incredible true story of Bert Trautmann, a German soldier and prisoner of war who, amid British post-war protest and prejudice, is hired as goalkeeper at Manchester City and becomes a



footballing icon. His signing outrages thousands of fans, many of them Jewish. But Bert receives support from an unexpected source: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, who fled the Nazis. Bert's love for Margaret, an Englishwoman, carries him through, and he wins over even his harshest opponents by winning the 1956 FA Cup Final. But fate intervenes, and Bert and Margaret's love and loyalty to each other are put to the ultimate test.

We hope to see you at one of our Sunday screenings!

## **Tuesday, March 24: Short films screening**

After a day off, the festival will continue at the Mara Auditorium in Webster Hall on the Southern New Hampshire University campus in Manchester. A series of five short films will be shown that evening, including *Food Flirts: Pastrami Meets Ramen* featuring the Brass Sisters, two passionate food explorers who are the subject of the film. In *Pastrami Meets Ramen*, the Brass sisters decide to finally learn how artisan pastrami, a staple to their childhood, is crafted at Mamaleh's, a modern Jewish delicatessen in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Meanwhile, producer Bruce Seidel sets the ladies up with their very own ramen noodle and broth-making lesson. After savoring this delicious treat for the first time, the sisters decide to mash the two together and to teach us about another Jewish comfort food (noodle kugel), and the pastrami ramen noodle kugel is born! This film will be accompanied by four other shorts: *Cheeseburger*, *Egg Cream*, *How To Swim*, and *Sushi, Meatballs, and Everything*. Bruce Seidel will be on hand to join us as a special guest at the screening.

In *Cheeseburger*, three Jewish roommates debate their different views on religion as one contemplates a very big, very not-kosher decision: eating a cheeseburger. *Egg Cream* also focuses on the theme of food, specifically the enduring meaning of a beloved chocolate soda drink born on the Jewish Lower East Side. The egg cream contained neither eggs nor cream — it was a product of necessity and hardship, but a source of joy and sweetness. Through a tour of egg cream establishments led by filmmaker Peter Miller and his young daughter Nora, exhaustively researched archival imagery, and even a song by Lou Reed, the film examines the Jewish experience in America and the mythology of a simpler time.

*How To Swim*, an Israeli short film by Noa Gusakov, tells the story of heavily

*Film Festival* continued on page 20

# NH Jewish Film Festival

**Film Festival** continued from page 19

pregnant Abigail. Terrified about the imminent birth of her child, she kidnaps a comforting partner in crime for one afternoon. Described as a “black comedy,” this film served as the opening piece at the Tel Aviv Student Film Festival in 2018.

Another Israeli short, *Sushi, Meatballs, and Everything* is about a young woman who decides to stand up to her loving parents-in-law, once and for all. Selected by four additional Jewish Film Festivals, this film rounds out our short film program. Join us after for egg creams and black and white cookies!

The rest of our films will be shown at Red River Theatres, one of our festival sponsors, in Concord, New Hampshire.

**Thursday, March 26: Leona**

*Leona*, a drama from Mexico, is the first film to show at Red River. Directed by Isaac Cherem, *Leona* is an intimate, insightful, and moving film that follows a young Jewish woman from Mexico City who finds herself torn between family and forbidden love. Ripe with all the drama and interpersonal conflicts of a Jane Austen novel, we see her negotiate the labyrinth of familial pressure, religious precedent, and her own burgeoning sentiment. This is painful and beautiful, with no easy choices to be made. The viewer travels back and forth with her as she struggles with her heart to take the best path. An official selection at the 2018 Morella International Film Festival in Mexico, *Leona* is sponsored by Film Festival Committee Member Russell Wolff of Russell Wolff Productions.



*Paris Song*

**Saturday, March 28: Sociable Saturday Night at Red River**

The Sociable Saturday Night Film event returns once again on March 28 at Red River for an 8 PM screening of *Paris Song* from director Jeff Vespa, which chronicles the true story of small-town singer Amre Kashaubayev’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 piece focuses on the theme of feeling on the outside and is a wonderful piece for the penultimate day of the Festival. After the showing, join us for an assortment of food and drink as you discuss this film in good company.

**Sunday, March 29: Four films including PJ Library feature and Festival Wrap Party**

The final day of our festival will be a memorable conclusion to our 12th year as four films are shown for audiences of all ages. The tradition of showing films free of charge for our PJ Library community continues with a 3 PM screening of the classic animated picture *Shrek*, which will be shown in the Simchik Auditorium at Red River.

The Festival continues at 1 PM at Red River with another screening of *The Keeper*, which will show the prior Sunday in Peterborough. If you don’t get a chance to catch it in Peterborough, please join us in Concord for this award-winning film, which details the incredible true story of German soldier and POW Bert Trautmann.

At 3:30 PM, we will screen Israeli comedy *Love in Suspenders*, making its New Hampshire Premiere. Selected at six Jewish Film Festivals around the world and the recipient of the Audience Choice Award for Best Drama at the Fairfield County Jewish Film Festival last year, 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



*Love in Suspenders*

own preconceptions and the scrutiny of their children? Join us at Red River to find out!

The closing film is the 2019 documentary from Dani Menkin and Yonatan Nir: *Picture of His Life*, which will screen at 5:30 PM at Red River. Hailed by Stephen Silver of Broad Street Review as “a riveting tale of an adventure on the edge of the world, which does what some of the best documentaries do: introduce us to a unique world that we knew little about,” *Picture of His Life* follows Amos Nachoum, who has gone face to face with anacondas, giant leopard seals, great white sharks, orcas, and crocodiles in his photography career. At age 65, Nachoum, one of the greatest underwater photographers of all time, is about to face his ultimate challenge: photographing a polar bear, up close, without any protection. A native of Israel who served in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, an experience that shaped and devastated him and led him to emigrate to the United States, Nachoum prepares for his biggest mission in the Canadian Arctic while facing past traumas in an intimate story of dedication, sacrifice, and personal redemption. Selected at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival of 2019, among others, this concludes our festival. After the film, you are invited to join us for a Festival Wrap Party, featuring celebration, good food, friends, and excellent conversation in the Simchik Auditorium at Red River.

In a day and age where four of the ten

films nominated for Best Picture at this year’s Golden Globes were largely watched at home through Netflix, and as other streaming features are doubling as film studios, film festivals remind us of what makes filmgoing so special, bringing communities such as ours together to celebrate and enjoy our culture, history, and tradition.

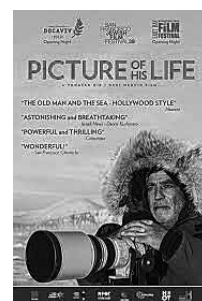
More than ever, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is proud to present award-winning films and powerful programs. We invite you to come celebrate film with us, whether that involves attending just one movie or all 17!

To help plan your attendance, see our “Schedule at a Glance” on the back page in this edition of *The Reporter*. Our box office is open! Purchase Festival tickets early for all March 19-29 screenings. For ticket information and movie trailers, visit [www.nhjewishfilm-festival.org](http://www.nhjewishfilm-festival.org). We encourage you to bring a friend as well!

If you’ve been wondering how you can donate to our Film Festival, we are glad to welcome you to become a Friend of the Festival! We welcome any donation, large or small. You can donate online at [www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org) or by returning the Friends of the Festival form in this edition of the Reporter with your donation.

We welcome and invite anyone and everyone at our many venues statewide for the Jewish Federation’s largest cultural program of the year.

We look forward to seeing you at the movies and engaging in what makes our Festival unique and important! In the spirit of our Gala film, *l’chaim!*



## In the Community

### Tzedakah Inspires Tech Start-Up

By Max Friedman

Growing up, Judaism to me was always symbolic of community. Yes, it was a community of shared tradition, of the families we would see in Temple, of the friends I grew up alongside in Hebrew school. But it was also a community of support. It was the family we created who came together to help anyone in need; it was the friends who cheered us on at football games as loudly as our own parents; and it was the constant, reliable strength of *tzedakah*—charitable giving. We were fortunate to have more than enough, and we were always encouraged to think of those who didn't and offer any help that we could.

I wasn't thinking of *tzedakah* when I co-founded Givebutter. My team and I were focused on making online giving fun and accessible to a younger, tech-savvy generation. But as our platform grew and the Givebutter community grew alongside it, I realized we were establishing our own *tzedakah* ecosystem, one that reached across cultural and economic backgrounds to any individual or group hoping to make some good in the world. That ecosystem had created a community similar to the one in which I grew up (albeit entirely digital) in which individuals were ready in the wings to step up and offer help to those in need. We had unconsciously carried the lessons of *tzedakah* and community support into our work by making it easier for individuals to pay it forward—and that has always been the most fulfilling aspect of Givebutter's platform.

I experience a rush of gratitude every



Max Friedman, CEO and Co-Founder of Givebutter.

time I see a new campaign on Givebutter that is connected in some way to the Jewish community. Donations are frequent and generous, often in increments of 18, signed with messages full of love and support from family, friends, and the larger community. And always encouraging the individual receiving the donations to do good in the world, to take what has been given to them and pay it forward. That is the essence of *tzedakah* that I hope is embodied within my company. Not just to support others through charitable giving, but to support others to carry out important work that helps the global community.

Max Friedman is the CEO and Co-Founder of Givebutter, an online fundraising platform that powers donations, campaigns, and events for more than 10,000 good causes. You can follow Max on Twitter @max\_friedman8.

### Upper Valley Jewish Community Seeks "Taste of Memories" Host

The Taste of Memories initiative is a unique way to commemorate a fallen soldier through your stomach with their favorite recipe, and through your heart with their memories. This Yom Hazikaron, Israel's official Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terror, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire with Shlichah Avia Sagron will host a "Taste of Memories" series throughout the state. Participants get to engage with memories of the fallen not

only through photos, videos and stories of IDF casualties and other victims, but also with their most beloved foods.

Kol Ha'Emek is one of the sites for this event and we are searching for a home to host it. The home needs to have a kitchen that can hold 6-8 guests and room to sit and enjoy the meal together afterward. Please be in touch with Melissa Herman at school+@uvjc.org ASAP if you are interested in this unique opportunity.

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

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## Temple B'nai Israel President Speaks at Inauguration of Laconia Mayor Andrew Hosmer

*Shared by Jerry and Sharon Fleischman*

In early January, Ira Keltz, President of Temple B'nai Israel, was a guest speaker at the inauguration of the new Laconia Mayor, Andrew Hosmer. We were so proud of his remarks and his representing us, the Jewish community. Those of you who come to services know that Ira's announcements at services are usually light-hearted and sometimes comical. Well, this speech he gave was nothing of the sort. It was remarkable and shows us what a special person we have as the leader of our synagogue. We asked him to share it and it is presented below.

"Good Evening Everyone. My name is Ira Keltz, President of Temple B'nai Israel here in Laconia. I am honored to be asked to say a few words tonight to mark the inauguration of our new Mayor, Andrew Hosmer!

I was first introduced to Andrew in the City Council chambers at a public hearing where the council was discussing the future of St Joseph's Church. The chamber was filled to standing room only capacity with dozens of community members present to express their strong support for creating a Historical District downtown. Lifelong members of St Joseph's passionately spoke in favor of protecting their house of worship, the place they spent each Sunday, the place where they may have been baptized, confirmed, mourned the loss of loved ones or even married.

The fact that so many people were present and vocal on that night was a testament to the belief that the historic and architecturally beautiful church should be preserved and saved from the wrecking ball. It wasn't just the Roman Catholics of Laconia, but a diverse group of many faiths coming together to support each other in a common cause.

The Jewish Community of the Lakes Region has seen this before. After the horrific shootings in Pittsburgh at the Tree of Life Synagogue 14 months ago, we opened our temple's doors to all for a Community Shabbat or Sabbath Service. We invited people of all faiths together to pray for those lost in the act of senseless violence, but also to show support for one another. The synagogue overflowed with love, fellowship, and prayers. Hugs and words of encouragement from people who were personally moved enough by the



*TBI President Ira Keltz.*

shootings in a sacred space to show up and say, "I'm so sorry that this happened," or "These anti-Semitic events taking place around the country and the world are wrong," or simply "I'm praying for you," meant so much to us. The violence against the Jewish community we have seen over the recent Christmas and Chanukah holidays on almost a daily basis in New York City is scary, but do you know what is scarier – the lack of a strong response to the violence. We are not hearing our national and state leaders and representatives strongly speaking out against it. And by remaining silent, having policies where they arrest, and then release these offenders on the same day back onto the streets, they are supporting and encouraging more violence — they are saying it's okay to target a religious group and that ladies and gentlemen, is the road to unspeakable horror. Anti-Semitism isn't just a New York City issue. It's affecting many different faith communities in towns both large and small. In the greater Boston area, there were THREE arson fires at Chabad houses last summer in Needham and Arlington, and numerous incidents of vandalism, hate speech, and threats, including at elementary, middle, and high schools, on college campuses, in public spaces, and

at a Jewish cemetery. We have seen on the news recently shootings at both the West Freeway Church of Christ and the First Baptist Church in Texas, attacks on mosques across the globe by white supremacists, xenophobes, and racists. Even here in Laconia, we are not immune to this. It's just a matter of time before we are targeted. The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified over ten different, active hate groups here in New Hampshire. We cannot allow this situation to become the "new normal," as if attacks on Americans because of their religious or ethnic identities are now an expected part of our everyday lives. These attacks violate everything that Americans should hold dear. An attack on any American group is a threat to the pluralistic fabric of our nation.

We cannot fight this alone. The victim cannot cure the crime. We need to make friends who will stand with us and help lead the fight. This is best done by explaining how anti-Semitism endangers everyone, because the hate that initially targets Jews never ends with Jews.

Now, are you ready for some good news? Our city — Laconia — has recognized this for over two decades. The Laconia Human Relations Committee, a Mayor's Committee, was created 20 years ago by then Mayor Matthew Lahey and Police Chief Bill Baker. The committee is currently being chaired by David Stamps and includes Chief Matt Canfield, and for the last several years, Mayor Ed Engler, as well as a mix of dedicated community members, lay leaders and clergy. The Laconia Human Relations Committee envisions a world where everyone is treated with dignity, fairness, respect and kindness.

The Committee's objectives include that they will:

- a) Educate about and establish a comfort level with the changing face of our community by working with individuals, City Council, business groups, service, health and educational institutions.
- b) Actively pursue the prevention of prejudice, intolerance, harassment and discrimination in our community through public discourse, media exposure, community action and education on these issues.
- c) Create programs and initiatives in furtherance of our vision such as the Welcoming Laconia Initiative, the

Laconia Multicultural Festival and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration.

That MLK Jr. celebration in happening in 10 days on Sunday January 19th from 3-5pm at the Beane Center on Blueberry Lane. This year's program will include a video of Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech, followed by a documentary film called Here I Am, Send Me: The Journey of Jonathan Daniels. Daniels was an Episcopal seminarian and civil rights activist from Keene, New Hampshire, who was shot and killed in 1965 in Hayneville, Alabama, while in the act of shielding 17-year-old black child named Ruby Sales. This film chronicles his life and his death. There will be an introduction by and Q&A with the co-producer, Dr. Lawrence Benaquist from Keene State University. I encourage you to attend.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank Mayor Ed Engler for his six years of service to our community. Thank you to the City Councilors who selflessly give their time to work on issues affecting Laconia.

I would also like to thank Chief Matt Canfield and Laconia Police Department as well as Fire Chief Kirk Beattie and the Laconia Fire Department for their efforts in keeping all our city's residents safe. Matt has worked closely with our Temple Board in identifying security upgrades and coordinating police details for our events.

Thank you also to the Laconia Sun's Adam Hirshan and Roger Carroll for their recent Sunshine Project series on anti-Semitism in the Lakes Region. And also thank you to Lakes Region Public Access Television for recording tonight's Inauguration.

I cannot stress enough the importance of standing together with people from every background and faith against all forms of hatred and violence so that no one needs to be afraid to proudly live out their faith or cultural heritage.

I truly believe that Mayor Hosmer understands this and will take positive steps in his administration as he steps forward to lead our 'City on the Lakes' into the 2020's.

Mayor Hosmer, I wish you success and look forward to working with you to bring all the residents of our fine city together to fulfill our great potential.

Thank you."

## Former JFNH Board President Jeff Crocker Named Jaffrey Citizen of the Year

By Ashley Saari. A full version of this article originally appeared in the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript*. This excerpt is reprinted with their permission.

Attorney and avid volunteer Jeff Crocker is the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year.

Along with Crocker, the Chamber is also honoring Sorby & Son Heating as its Business of the Year, and Reality Check as the Nonprofit of the Year.

For the winners, the effort they put into the community is its own reward.

Crocker, a Jaffrey native who now lives in Peterborough, was for many years a partner in Jaffrey's Tower, Crocker & Smith, and last year joined Upton & Hatfield in Peterborough.

Throughout his life, he has remained an active member of multiple volunteer boards, including being a founding member of TEAM Jaffrey, as well as Monadnock at Home, Shelter from the Storm and Monadnock Day Care and the Park Theatre.

He's also served on government boards in Peterborough, including the town's Economic Development Authority and Planning Board, and state boards, such as the New Hampshire Department of Employment Security appellate board and the board for the Jewish Federation

of New Hampshire.

"These small communities depend on a few good people to take on these organizational responsibilities, or things don't get done," Crocker said. "Whether it's people wrapping presents for children at Christmas, or volunteering to put on the Festival of Fireworks, towns wouldn't be communities without these volunteers."

Crocker said those men and women stepping up allow organizations like Shelter from the Storm to help those that need it.

"Many of us have been very blessed to not have those problems, so it's important to contribute to the communities we live and work in and be there as a safety net," he said.

While he was shocked and humbled to be nominated for Citizen of the Year, much less ultimately chosen,

Crocker said he's simply doing his part to build that community.

"I would feel guilty if I was sitting in a boat, and didn't pick up an oar and row like everyone else. I'm just one of the people in the boat, doing my part," he said.

The Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce presented the Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year and Nonprofit of the Year Awards during its annual meeting on Feb. 15 at the Shattuck Golf Club.



Former JFNH Board Chair Jeff Crocker is the Jaffrey Citizen of the Year. Photo courtesy Monadnock Ledger-Transcript.

## Temple Beth Jacob Presents Shpiel-A-Lot!

Concord's Temple Beth Jacob is proud to present its 23rd annual Purimshpiel, annually praised as the most creative community theater activity in the region. This year's gala musical comedy event, Shpiel-A-Lot, takes the Megillat Esther to places it has not been before, combining the music and themes of Monty Python's *Spamalot* with the Tony Award-winning efforts of Lerner and Hart in their classic *Camelot*, with the timeless story of Esther, Mordecai, King "A", and the always detestable (but funny) Haman. An original script by Donna Palley and Steve Scudder will be

outrageously presented by the 40 members of the TBJ Purimshpiel Players and Orchestra over two sold-out nights of fun and merriment at Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord. Members of the entire New Hampshire Jewish family are warmly invited, and are sure to be entertained, whether or not they are fans of Monty Python!

Tickets for the performances of Shpiel-A-Lot, Saturday March 14 at 8:00PM and Sunday March 15 at 7:30PM are available from the TBJ office (603-228-8581). This year's show is appropriate for adults and older children. Please join us!

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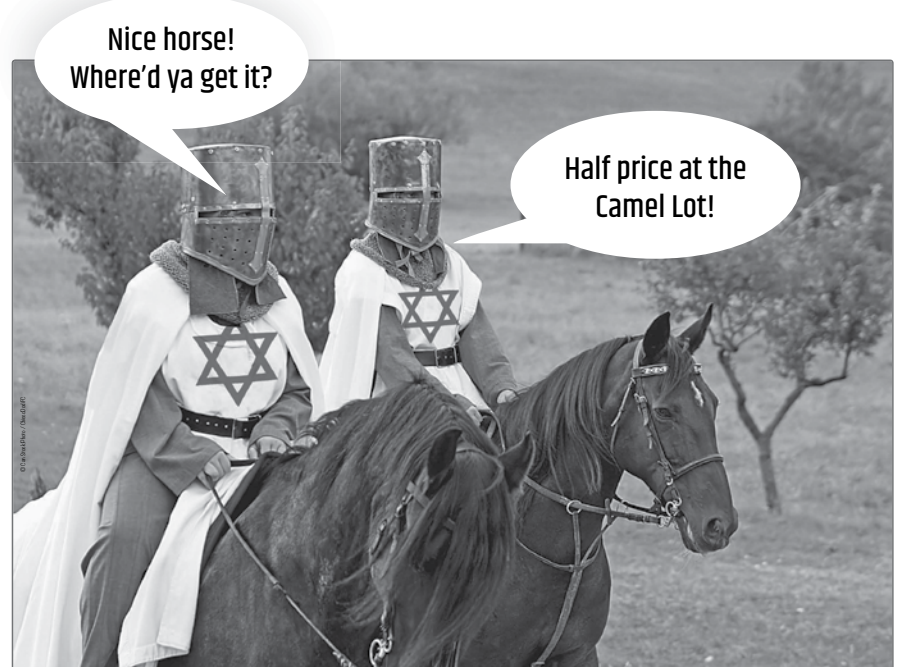
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## An Interview with Jordan Melamed, Director of *Futures Past*

By Zach Camenker

On Sunday, March 22, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival will screen a film about the financial world, something our audiences have never had the opportunity to explore. The 3:30 PM film at the Cinemagic Theatre in Merrimack will be *Futures Past*, a look at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) in its final days of open outcry trading before technology took over.

As much as the film explores the world of open outcry, it also captures the struggling father-son relationship between CME Chairman Emeritus Leo Melamed, a Holocaust survivor originally from Bialystok, Poland, and his son Jordan, who directed the film.

In speaking with Jordan, who began his career in the world of open outcry but eventually left to pursue filmmaking, I learned a great deal about the process that went into creating this piece, his challenging relationship with his father, and the ups and downs of chasing his dream in Hollywood as he left another one behind.

“The heart of the film came to be about my father and our relationship,” Jordan said, explaining that when he initially set out to make a film about the world of open outcry, he did so with the CME at the forefront. When he started filming in 2008, the focus was on the traders and the pits, not on his dad. Early prints of film, however, left Jordan with a sour taste in his mouth.

“I hated the original cut,” Jordan said. After making some changes and doing more to highlight his struggles with his father, Jordan was accepted to a film festival in Amsterdam in 2012. The film screened well there and he received some constructive criticism from other documentary filmmakers that resonated deeply with him.

After two more years of raising money and shifting the camera lens to his father, Jordan was pleased with his end result. What had begun as a documentary film with a full crew and team had shifted to Jordan, his dad, and a handheld camera. Jordan, whose 2001 film *Manic* starred Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Don Cheadle and screened at the Sundance Film Festival, put a great deal of time into the project. Like many films, it was years in the making.

The film as our New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival will know it made its world premiere at the Chicago Film Festival in 2016. Our festival is one of



Jordan Melamed,  
Director of *Futures Past*.

several in which Jordan’s film will be screened over the course of 2020, including at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago.

Technicalities aside, Jordan’s film traces two key elements of his life, both of which come across as strong themes in the piece: a father-son relationship and pursuing one’s dream.

As the film indicates, Jordan and his father Leo have had some challenges. However, Jordan says that “the film did a lot for our relationship,” indicating that it is stronger now than when he began filming twelve years ago.

In learning a bit more about Leo Melamed, it is clear why he comes across the way he does in the film and why he and Jordan have had strains over the years. Born in Bialystok, Poland in 1932, Leo had a very challenging childhood, escaping from the Holocaust alongside his parents. Growing up when the Nazis were in power was extremely difficult and made for what Jordan described as a “three year odyssey that began when Leo was eight.” It took him and his parents from Bialystok to Lithuania and eventually through Russia and Japan, all the way to Seattle at age 11, and then finally to Chicago.

Despite eventually making his way into the CME, an enormous money market, Leo was raised by a father who had been a schoolteacher. During and throughout their journey to the United States, Leo’s father (whom Jordan referred to lovingly as “Zeide”) tried to give Leo some homeschooling. Intriguingly, the senior Melamed was a socialist and explained to his son Leo throughout their journey through multiple countries that each place tries to value their currency by government while in the real world, the baker charges the real value of the currency, not the government price, for his bread.

Jordan believes that his *Zeide’s* lessons on the run from the Nazis gave Leo a core understanding of value that made his work in open outcry trading at the CME where he felt most at home. His career in outcry, which happened by chance and shaped him into an ardent capitalist, proved to make for a very different style of thought than his own father’s. These lessons, as told by Leo and *Zeide*, proved a helpful point for Jordan to remember as he filmed.

As Jordan came into touch with other elements of the past while filming, he fell into a lot of the conflicts he had with his father throughout his life. We learn through this film that Jordan had a very successful career in the world of open outcry, something he described as his “whole universe” in the narration.

“I loved outcry because it was so intoxicating and overwhelming,” Jordan said. “Leaving it was hard, but I had to find something that felt a deeper calling.” Thinking that he would remain alongside his father forever in what he described as a liberating world on the floor, it wasn’t until he took a film class that Jordan felt there might be more beyond the walls of the pits.

The film class led Jordan to pursue a very different career, one that he knew might be filled with uncertainty, and one that deeply disappointed his dad. Jordan eventually made a short film inspired by his work in the pits and pursued a career in filmmaking.

Despite the success of his 2001 film *Manic* and some other strong prospects, Jordan eventually fell upon hard times and the projects slowed down. As he watched the collapse of the CME and a shift towards the computer takeover that continues to this day, he knew he needed to return home to document the end of an era.

“What I really needed to document was the end of shouting between me and my father,” Jordan said, noting the significance that came of focusing on the shouting in their relationship in

addition to the shouting at the CME. To Jordan, both stories were very similar. And once he decided he wasn’t afraid to tackle this project or go back home, he realized he also had to let go of life on the trading floor.

Today, Jordan’s father has warmed up to the film and come to appreciate its value. Unlike when Jordan documented him, Leo has slowed down a bit and focuses on writing. Jordan reports, however, that he still trades everyday.

“I imagine that his last breath will be a trade,” Jordan said.

When asked if he felt his father was an example of the American Dream, Jordan indicated that his dad has indeed lived that experience, coming to America, rising up from nothing, and putting his faith in capitalism.

Jordan credits his *Zeide*, also one of his heroes, as an inspiration to his father’s experience as a Jew in America. Though Jordan says his dad is not a religious man, he deeply believes in the traditions of Judaism, including family beliefs and the lore that goes along with it. *Zeide* was also a firm believer in Jewish culture and personally found that religion limited people in certain ways.

Today, Jordan continues his filmmaking career in Los Angeles. Like so many others, Jordan found his dream beyond the thrill of his early years in a different world, something he owes to his father and that the film reminds us of as it tracks the ups and downs that come with any relationship.

If you’re looking for a movie that focuses on a variety of themes, all the while chronicling the life of a Holocaust survivor whose faith still guides him, join the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival on March 22 in Merrimack for a screening of *Futures Past*. Jordan will be our special guest. Tickets can be found via the link at <https://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com/> or by calling the Federation Office at (603)-627-7679.

For more information about the film, visit <http://www.futurespastmovie.com/>.

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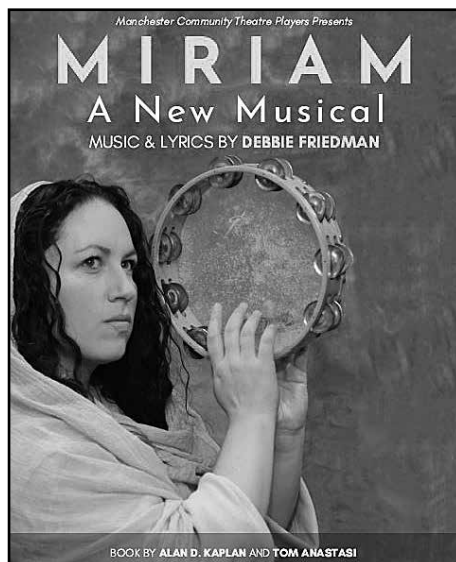


[jewishnh.org](http://jewishnh.org)

## Miriam: The Musical Debuts in Manchester

Miriam is a new Broadway style musical written by two New Hampshire playwrights, Dr. Alan D. Kaplan (also a nationally recognized artistic director) and Dr. Tom Anastasi (numerous scripts and Off-Broadway credits). All the music was written by Debbie Friedman, an icon in ritual music, based largely on Biblical liturgy and stories. There are 21 songs in the play, some of which Debbie never recorded. Work on the show began in 2002 during a NFTY summer trip on the Exodus sailing from Crete to Israel. Debbie was the song leader and Alan was the medical director. Debbie remarked that no musicals had ever been written about Old Testament Biblical women. Alan suggested combining songs she had written about these women with a script that would tell the story of one of the most famous ... Miriam, the older sister of Moses and Aaron.

Miriam was one of the seven named prophets of Israel. Scripture describes



her as delivering the Jewish people from exile in Egypt along with Moses and Aaron. Miriam was the first woman to bear the label "Prophet." She is an archetype in the female prophetic tradition, even as Moses heads the male.

Miriam's gift from God to find water made possible the 40-year survival of the Jewish people during their wanderings in the desert on their way to the Holy Land.

The play covers the time from when Miriam helps Moses find his place in the Egyptian Pharaoh's court through the Exodus from Egypt, receiving the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai (there were actually 613) and her death before reaching the Holy Land. We see her humanity, her frustrated love, her struggles dealing with her brothers and with God.

Debbie wrote a great deal of music, so producers could choose from soulful ballads, upbeat dance songs, and songs with fun lyrics. The show is very upbeat, with multiple styles of dance (original choreography by Bruce Williams of the NYC Ballet) and ends with a mix of some of Debbie's best known songs. The music has been arranged for multiple voices and full orchestra by Or Oren (the Debbie Friedman Suite) and musically directed by Judy Hayward, winner of multiple

New Hampshire theatre awards. The cast consists of both professional and community performers. Playing Miriam is New Hampshire native Arielle Kaplan, who was on the NFTY trip with Debbie in 2002 and is a frequent performer of her music. Playing Miriam's mother Yocheved is accomplished actor Donna Goldfarb of Dover. Steve Short, MCTP Company Manager, also provides sound design. Whether you are affiliated with a synagogue or not, you will have heard most of the songs in this wonderful musical.

Show dates are Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm at the MCTP Theater at the North End Montessori School, 698 Beech Street, Manchester (formerly the JFNH building). Tickets are available through the Manchester Community Theatre Players website ([www.mctp.info](http://www.mctp.info)) or Brown Paper Tickets 800-838-3006. Adults: \$20, Seniors 65+: \$18, Youth (18 and under): \$10

## Jewish Player Celebrates Super Bowl Win

Mitchell Schwartz's parents insisted he celebrate his bar mitzvah before taking up football. Apparently the delay didn't hurt him, as the 6'5, 320 pound offensive lineman celebrated another milestone with Kansas City Chiefs teammates on February 2 — a Super Bowl victory against the San Francisco 49ers.

Mitchell and his brother Geoff, a retired NFL lineman, co-authored the book *Eat My Schwartz: Our Story of NFL Football, Food, Family and Faith*. They are the first Jewish siblings to play professional football in almost 100 years.

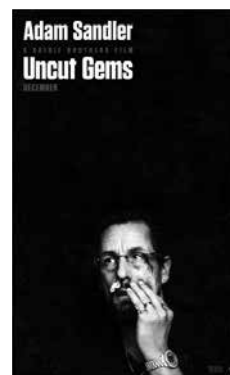
*Mazel tov and kol hakavod* to the entire team!



Kansas City Chiefs Offensive Lineman Mitchell Schwartz, #71. Photo by Andrew Mathers. Photo courtesy of the Kansas City Chiefs.

## NH's Own Adam Sandler Wins Multiple Awards for *Uncut Gems*

Santa Monica, California — On February 8, Manchester's own Adam Sandler won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead in the film *Uncut Gems*. (He also won a Best Actor Award at the National Board of Review Awards in January.) In *Uncut Gems*, Sandler plays Howard Ratner, a Jewish jeweler in New York's Diamond District. Howard's got a gambling addiction, a mountain of debt, an angry family, and a mistress — and he hopes one big score



can save him. Jewish filmmakers and brothers Josh and Benny Safdie modeled the character on their father's business associates, and a pivotal scene occurs at the family's seder. *Kol hakavod* to all.

## Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

### Books for Young Readers and Their Parents

*Rat Rule 79*, by Jewish author Rivka Galchen, does not deal with any Jewish topics directly but is a fun, entertaining book for young readers and a good read-aloud for parents and children. There are some delightful characters and entertaining dialogue. Galchen uses many "play on words" and references to other books and characters. The chapter headings are unusual: "Not the 91st Chapter," "A Round Tuit Chapter," and "An Unwritten Chapter."

The story of Fred, her mother, and their relationship has similar threads to *Wizard of Oz* and *Alice In Wonderland*. There are some word twists, like "Round Tuit," which is explained, "I can't speak to the plan of waiting until one gets a Round Tuit, but I do know that it is usually a very, very bad idea to put off thinking about or doing something until you get around to it. Not always, but often enough." There is the conversation with the Picky Mouse, who Fred meets along

the way to find her mother. The Mouse is the timekeeper, but now she cannot do her job. She explains, "time is valuable, precious - so precious that people steal it. And now suddenly time was worthless. Worse - it was illegal to have time on your hands or to keep time in any way. So there was a total collapse of the time market. Not only did no one want to steal time anymore, no one wanted to buy it either. Everyone with time on their hands wanted to sell it and couldn't." The cleverness of this book will appeal to adults reading to their children.

Fred is upset because she and her mother keep moving and with a new move just before Fred's birthday, she has no friends to celebrate with. She ends up in a strange land with unusual creatures searching for her mother. In this strange land there is a Rat Queen, who has enacted Rat Rule 79, which outlaws birthdays. As Fred gathers friends and searches for her mother, she helps every-

one, including the Rat Queen, learn an important lesson.

*White Bird* is a graphic novel written and illustrated by R.J. Palacio. This is a wonderful story about the Holocaust written and illustrated to appeal to younger readers. It is beautifully drawn and told as an exchange between a grandmother and her grandson. Though the subject matter is harsh, the presentation is not. This is a story of the power of kindness and determined courage during the war.

Julian Facetimes with his Grandmother, who was hidden from the Nazis as a young Jewish girl in occupied France, and tells her he would like to interview her for his essay for school. His grandmother tells him though it is hard to talk about, she thinks it is important to tell the story so we do not forget. She says, "those were dark times, yes, but what has stayed with me the most...is not the darkness but the light. That is what I have held onto all these years."

R.J. Palacio is also the author of

*Wonder*.

Another graphic novel for young readers is *Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children*, by Zane Whittingham (Illustrator), and Kath Shackleton (Editor). These are the true stories of six Jewish children who survived the Holocaust. Each child has a different experience to share.

The stories are told in children's words as if they are remembering it as it happened. The illustrations are colorful and simply drawn. The six children were Heinz, Trude, Ruth, Martin, Suzanne and Arek. They were living in homes with their families, going to school and playing with their friends until one day their lives changed forever. Their only crime was that they had been born into Jewish families. They each had a unique experience, one traveling on the Kindertransport, one hiding in the French countryside, one surviving Auschwitz. We learn how they each survived. Today they all live in Leeds, England.

## Opinion

### It's Time for Holocaust Education in New Hampshire Schools

By Sheila Salenger

The House of Representatives recently passed the Never Again Education Act.

The State of Massachusetts is currently involved in the passage of the Genocide Education Act.

The federal legislation authorizes \$10 million for education aimed at making Americans aware of the dangers of hate speech and actions, and the last century's debacle of the Holocaust. It is aimed at reversing the findings of the Anti-Defamation League that almost half of the world has NEVER even heard of the Holocaust.

Did you know that Facebook does not ban Holocaust denials? It does not consider them hate speech, merely disinformation.

Currently, only 15 states mandate the teaching of the Holocaust in their curricula.

If history is to be at all instructive, it must highlight the patterns of human be-

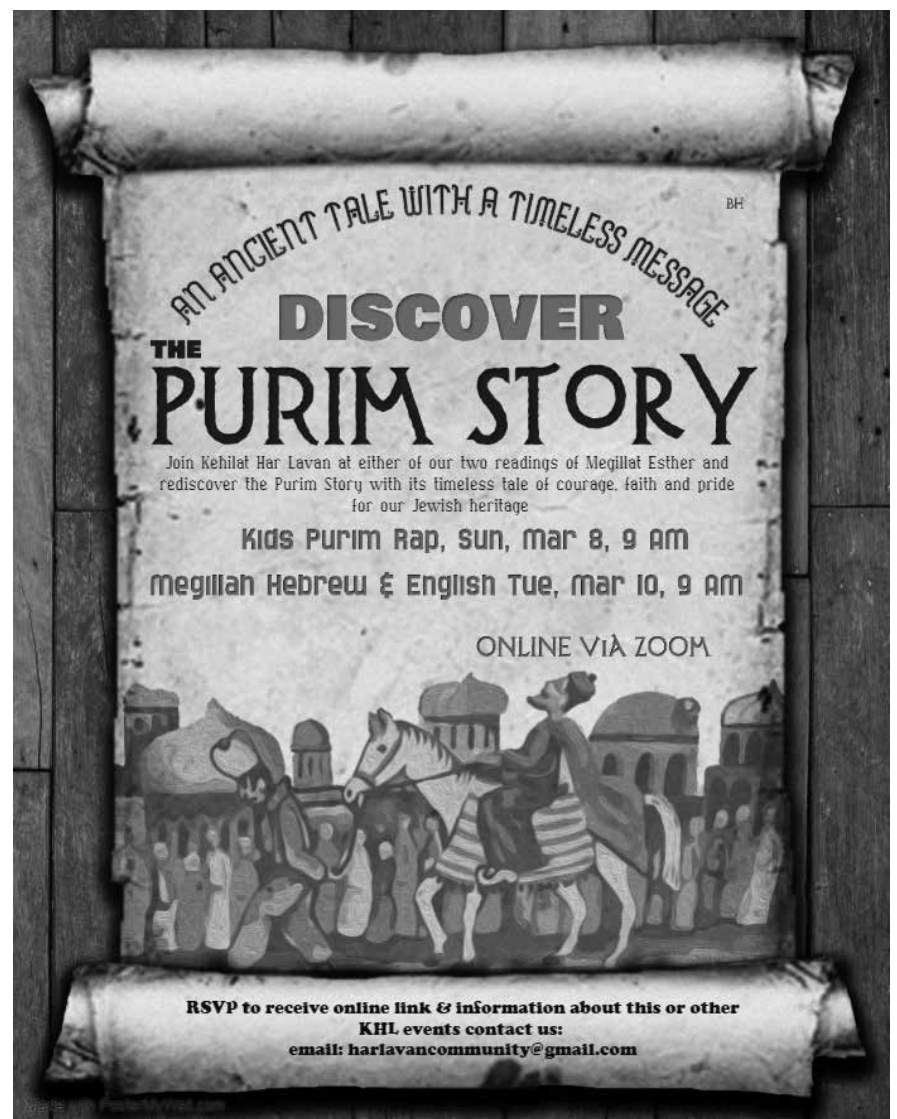
havior that tend toward destructiveness and hate. Is not the purpose of education to advance existence through learning of past disasters?

Referring to the Massachusetts bill to teach young people about the evils of hate speech and bigotry, Boston Globe columnist Kevin Cullen says it best: "...most young people have never heard of Auschwitz. Here's a way to make sure they will." Citizens of Massachusetts are being urged to contact their legislators (and are even provided with phone scripts and e-mail templates).

Concerning action on behalf of Holocaust Education in OUR schools, what about New Hampshire???

Sheila Salenger is a retired high school librarian and was a member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System for 23 years. She is a member of the Reporter's Publication Committee.

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.





## The Other Election

By Samantha Muskat

"Be the biggest character you can be in your history," is a refrain my mentor and boss Rav Yehuda HaKohen can often be heard telling his students. "Be the type of person they name streets after in Jerusalem." I always tended to brush these words off as exaggerations. I would always think to myself that there was no realistic possibility that I would be able to alter the course of Jewish history, but I was wrong.

In the summer of 2018, I participated in Onward Israel and interned for a political organization in Jerusalem called Brit Hazon, a grassroots peace initiative focused on leading Israel to the next stage of Jewish Liberation by providing strong Jewish education to high school and college-aged Jews as well as by creating a true dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. When I returned to Israel in August of 2019 to study abroad at Tel Aviv University, I reconnected with the movement and continue to volunteer to this day by contributing to an online magazine, *Vision Magazine*. In September of 2019, I was asked to be a candidate on



Graphic courtesy of the American Zionist Movement.

their slate for the upcoming World Zionist Congress. The first thing I asked myself when I received the offer was: what even is the Congress?

The World Zionist Congress was established in 1897 by Theodore Herzl to act as the governing body of the Zionist Organization. Every five years, publicly elected representatives convene to decide the policies of the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, and numerous other international pro-Israel

or Zionist groups.

Any individual that self-identifies as a Jew and has turned 18 by the beginning of the election cycle is eligible to vote or to run as a candidate. There are a total of 500 delegates elected to the congress, divided amongst Israel (receiving 38% of the total seats), America (receiving 29% of the seats), and the remainder of the Diaspora (receiving the remaining 33% of seats). The Israeli delegation is determined by Knesset elections, whereas delegates for America and the Diaspora are voted on via World Zionist Organization websites.

Although the World Zionist Congress has a recent history of creating legislation to ensure the inclusion of women and young professionals in delegations, there are times where its commitment to college-aged Jewry seems more superficial, such as when in late 2019 the WZO tried to repeal the young voter discount, which added a significant increase to voting charges for young students such as myself. Personally, I fought the WZO on this decision and, with help from some of my fellow concerned students, we were able to successfully reinstate the young voter discount.

The Congress is in charge of making budget allocations for \$1 Billion annually, so a budget of about \$5 billion is decided upon at each congress. Slates compete for influence on this budget, which can be used for any range of activities. Some popular initiatives include *Hasbarah* projects (like Birthright) or other education initiatives. Other parties seek to use the congress's money to invest in land in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank).

Whatever initiatives you hold dear, it is important to note that the World Zionist Congress is no negligible get-together of Zionist old-timers. Voter turnout for the 2020 election cycle is allegedly over five times higher than in past years, so voting is imperative, now more than ever.

To view a full list of parties running for the 2020 Congress and to vote, visit [www.zoinistelection.org](http://www.zoinistelection.org).

Samantha Muskat is currently a senior at American University in Washington D.C., where she studies International Relations with a focus on the Middle East and United States Foreign Policy. Samantha is a candidate for the 2020 WZC on VISION slate (#5) [www.visionmovement.org](http://www.visionmovement.org).

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## Cohen Camps



## News from Hadassah

By Michele Bank

January was a busy month for members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah. Gail Ellis was the guest speaker at the bimonthly meeting and spoke about her recent Jewish-themed trip to Spain and Portugal. Members were reminded about the centuries old plight of the conversos and the destruction/conversion of synagogues and evidence of Jewish existence.

Also in January, members of the book club met for lunch to discuss *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. This fascinating novel is about Hedy Lamar, who was not only a Jewish actress, but also had a brilliant scientific mind and played a role in World War II.

Some chapter members attended the Northern New England Region of Hadassah's 2020 Board Installation in Burlington. They went to honor chapter treasurer Gail Ellis, who was installed as Fundraising Vice President for the region.

In March, Shlichia Avia Sagron will be the guest speaker at the chapter meeting, and will discuss cultural diversity in Israel. The meeting will be on Thursday, March 19th at 1 PM at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire office at 273 South River Road in Bedford. An RSVP to [michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:michele.bank@gmail.com) is required for admission.

On Friday, March 27 at 7 PM, Rabbi Beth Davidson will lead chapter members in a Hadassah Shabbat Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester. Members will participate in the service and host the oneg that follows. The community is invited to attend the service.

On Sunday, June 14, the chapter will hold its annual fundraiser at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford. Carol Clingan, Research Projects Coordinator of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Boston, will be the guest speaker.

According to a study directed by Prof. Hagai Levine of Jerusalem's Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, people who smoke are two to three times more likely to experience depression than those who do not smoke. It is not yet clear which causes which. Some researchers believe that smoking may lead to depression, not



*The Northern New England Region of Hadassah celebrated the installation of its new Board of Directors in Burlington, MA. New to the Board is Gail Ellis of the Manchester chapter of Hadassah, who was installed as the Vice President of Fundraising. Gail has been the Treasurer of the Manchester Chapter for the past three years, and will continue in this role as well. She will work with other regional Hadassah chapters to establish fundraising goals and initiatives to ensure that the world-class medical care and cutting-edge research continues at the Hadassah Hospitals in Jerusalem.*

vice versa. Other studies have found that people who have never smoked generally have a better health-related quality of life, as well as less anxiety and depression. Those who smoked also consistently had more depressive symptoms and poorer mental health, as reflected in the "vitality" and "social functioning" parameters.

"These findings highlight the need for further research on the interaction between smoking, mental health, and quality of life, with implications for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment," conclude the study author.

Prof. Levine adds, "Our study adds to the growing body of evidence that smoking and depression are closely linked. While it may be too early to say that smoking causes depression, tobacco does appear to have an adverse effect on our mental health." He goes on to warn against the perils of smoking, and he encourages policymakers to help prevent these dangers. "I urge universities to advocate for their students' health by creating 'Smoke-Free Campuses' that not only ban smoking on campus but tobacco advertising too."

For more information about Hadassah or chapter programs, please contact Michele Bank at [michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:michele.bank@gmail.com).



*Manchester Chapter of Hadassah members attended Northern New England Hadassah's 2020 Board Installation. Left to right: Frankie Shapiro, Roslyn Levitt, Renee Brenner, Gail Ellis, Michele Bank and Roberta Silberberg long time members and devoted supporters of Hadassah.*

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## The Truth About Israeli Prisons

By Brian Grodman for NH4Israel,  
in loving memory of his father,  
Larry Grodman

I recently attended some programs in New Hampshire that did not tell the whole story of prisoners in Israel. The following are excerpts from MSNBC's "Lockup World Tour" probing prison life around the world.

Not only does Israel maintain fewer prisoners per capita than most Western countries, but released inmates achieve high levels of reintegration into society. Recidivism rates in the US and Europe hover at 75%, with rates in Israel as much as 20% lower. Israeli prisons themselves are less crowded than in most countries, in part due to the release of thousands of Palestinian "security"

prisoners in recent years.

A thread running through Lockup's Israeli prison interviews is the power of education, skills-development and job placement to prevent repeat offenses. "The prison looks more like a college campus than a prison, with freedom of movement for inmates who choose to serve their time therapeutically."

Producers are most captivated by the warm relations between Jewish and Arab inmates and officers, and the resemblance of the prison to a "fraternity house." Family members are allowed to live communally with 6 to 20 families living together and managing their own affairs, a key factor contributing to prison security and inmates' well-being. One Israeli-Arab inmate spoke about pranks he pulled on the guards, including pilfering cell phones from under their noses and returning them with a laugh.

Most international news coming from Israeli prisons has nothing to do with any of this. Only Palestinian hunger strikes and prisoner exchanges with Hamas make the headlines, along with ongoing accusations about "atrocities" committed in Israeli prisons.

Inmates of all backgrounds interviewed by Lockup appear more candid and hopeful about their future than prisoners typically encountered by the show, producers noted. "They save lives here," and "I discovered my soul in prison," are typical comments of Hermon Prison inmates, many of whom are shown engaged in academic learning or practicing a trade.



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# Recent Events

Would you like to see photos of your Jewish community event here? We accept a maximum of 2 high-resolution photos per event, with 1-sentence captions. Send jpeg attachments to [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org).



The live music of a talented string quartet alongside cinematic video introductions created a touching journey of the soul at the Chabad Center for Jewish Living's Songs for the Inspired Soul Concert.



The crowd at Chabad's 'Song of the Inspired Soul' was treated to a breathtaking evening on Sunday, Feb 9th.



Even with the bad weather, Etz Hayim enjoyed celebrating Scout Shabbat on February 7th.



Adult Hebrew class at JFNH with Shlichia Avia Sagron.



In conjunction with the Abraham & Lillian Heifetz Gruber Family Fund, Temple Israel Manchester treated the community to a presentation of "The Jewish History of Manchester" by renowned historian John Clayton and a nosh at the Manchester Millyard Museum.



Members of Temple Israel Manchester gathered at a member's home, where Chef Kim Pratt demonstrated how to prepare Jerusalem saffron chicken.

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



Jewish Federation  
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# Recent Events



Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia celebrated Tu B'Shevat with a luncheon program presented by Shlichah Avia Sagron and Rabbi Dan Danson.



Snowshoe Yoga at Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center with instructor Kate Kretschmer of Om-Mama Life (not in photo), JFNH Board of Directors Member Dina Michael Chaitowitz, JFNH Board of Directors Member Evelyn Miller, Shlichah Avia Sagron, and JFNH Young Mensches member Shana Bilech.



Temple B'nai Israel Religious School students learned about Tu B'Shevat and sampled some of its ritual foods with Rabbi Dan and volunteer teachers Suzanne Appleton and Nicole Small. The students also created a receptacle to collect donations to local food pantries.



An incredible Havdalah service at Temple Beth Jacob led by Cantor Shira, Nancy Jo, Reed, Rabbi Robin, EJ, Arlene, and students and families followed by supper, ice cream, games and a sleepover for students in grades 3 and 4 with chaperones. A huge thank you for all the teacher and parent support!

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas C. Cooper

8/16/1943 – 1/19/2020

Thomas C. Cooper of Weare passed away on January 19 in Wellington, Florida.

Tom was born on August 16, 1943 in Newark, New Jersey, the son of Dr. David Paul and Lotte Weil Cooper. He was the loving husband of Rhonda Frisch-Cooper. He will be greatly missed by his wife, his sister Anita Cooper Tsamakias of Volos, Greece, and her daughters Elli and Elizabeth and their families, his sister Camille Sutro Cooper (Kenneth Rossner) of New York City, and his sisters-in-law Susan Frisch Lehrer (Harvey Lehrer) of Lenox, MA and her family and Cynthia Frisch of Greenacres, Florida. He also leaves behind extended family in the United Kingdom and close friends including David and Marianne Gold of Genolier, Switzerland, and their daughters Hansje and Tanya.

Tom graduated from Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey and earned a PhD in Finance and Economics from Baruch College of the City University of New York. His early education came from the extraordinary experience of traveling the world with his father, who served as a surgeon on cargo ships. Tom particularly loved their time together in Mexico, where he became fluent in Spanish.

His love for international travel was matched by his passion for hiking. He was proud to have hiked Maine's challenging Mt. Katahdin Knife Edge Trail to the sum-

mit, as well as to have walked the bridges in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan area.

His professional career included his work at a London banking firm and in the State Emergency Health Services for both New Hampshire and Maine, as well as owning and working at several smaller businesses in New England.

A funeral service was held at Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapel, 10 Vinnin St., Salem, Massachusetts on Sunday, January 26 at 11:00 am, with interment at Pride of Lynn Cemetery, 89 Lake Shore Road, Lynn, Massachusetts.

As Tom was a member of Temple Beth Jacob, where he and his wife were married in 1984, as well as an associate member of Hadassah. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord, NH 03301, or Hadassah Northern New England, 1320 Centre Street, Suite 205, Newton Center, MA 02459.

For more information or to register in the online guestbook, please visit [www.stanetskyhymansonsalem.com](http://www.stanetskyhymansonsalem.com).

#### 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.



## JFNH Tributes

Received by February 10, 2020

### Preschool

To Alane Sabel for her incredible devotion to generations of Jewish children in the Manchester Community. May you continue to go from strength to strength. Sarah Denmark and Adam Solender

### Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

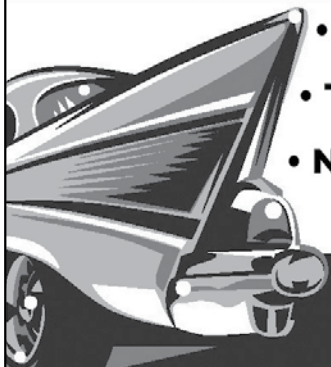
Norm and Andy Kushner to Sarit Itenberg and family in memory of her grandmother

Norm and Andy Kushner to Melanie Zalman-McDonald and family in memory of her mother Phyllis Rosell

### Tribute Page

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, Unite #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

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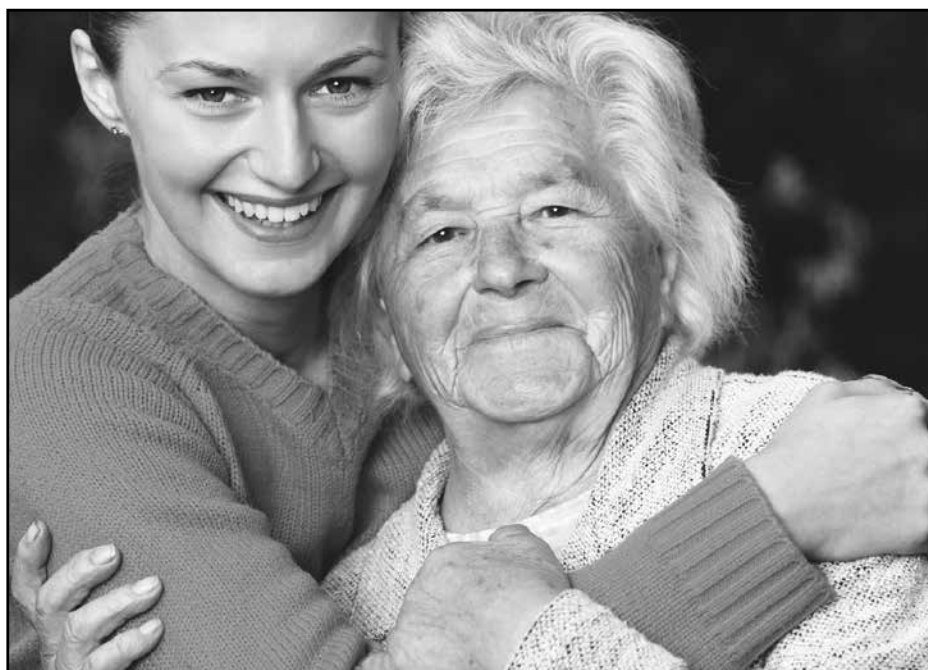
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 Honey Weiss and David Lewis • Julia and Ido Preis  
 Barbara and Barry Scotch • Anonymous

**Festival Schedule At A Glance**

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

**Crescendo**  
 7:00 PM, Mara Auditorium, Webster Hall, SNHU, Manchester

**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

**Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles**  
 8:00 PM, Roger and Francine Jean Student Center  
 St Anselm College, Manchester  
**GALA CELEBRATION**

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**Good Morning Son**  
 1:00 PM, Cinemagic, Merrimack

**Shooting Life**

1:00 PM, Peterborough Community Theatre, Peterborough

**My Name is Sara**

1:00 PM, The Music Hall Loft, Portsmouth

**Futures Past**

3:30 PM, Cinemagic, Merrimack  
 Special Guest: Jordan Melamed

**The Keeper**

3:30 PM, Peterborough Community Theatre  
 Peterborough

**Shooting Life**

3:30 PM, The Music Hall Loft, Portsmouth

**Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

**Food Flirts: Pastrami and Ramen**  
**Short Film Program includes Egg Cream, Cheeseburger, How to Swim, Sushi, Meatballs and Everything**  
 7:00 PM, Mara Auditorium, Webster Hall, SNHU, Manchester  
 Special Guest: Bruce Seidel, Director

**Thursday, March 26, 2020**

**Leona**  
 7:00 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**

**Paris Song**  
 8:00 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord  
**SOCIABLE SATURDAY NIGHT EVENT!**

**Sunday, March 29, 2020**

**The Keeper**  
 1:00 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord

**Shrek**

3:00 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord  
**PJ LIBRARY EVENT – FREE**

**Love In Suspenders**

3:30 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord

**Picture of His Life**

5:30 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord  
**FESTIVAL WRAP PARTY**



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