



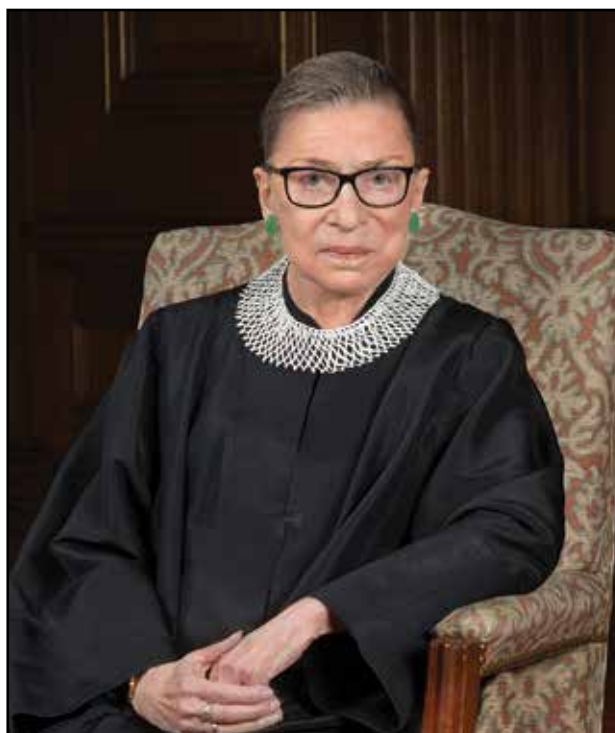
**CELEBRATIONS & SIMCHAS**

**A Tribute to the Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

This past Rosh Hashanah was an unconventional one, by any metric. That was to be expected, in the middle of a pandemic. Perhaps less expected, though, was that mere moments after the Jewish community of New Hampshire rung in the new year of 5781, all of us were soon struck by tragic news: that Ruth Bader Ginsburg—the Jewish Supreme Court justice, whose passionate work on behalf of women, combined with her outspoken nature, earned her the moniker of “the Notorious RBG”—had passed away from cancer.

From her earliest days as a lawyer, to her lifelong advocacy for gender equality and women's rights, to her landmark work as a Supreme Court justice, and of course, her tireless years of battle against multiple rounds of cancer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a genuine legend of these times, who never stopped fighting for justice, fairness, and equality.

Born in Brooklyn in 1933, she was the daughter of Jewish immigrants, and she herself acted as a “camp rabbi” at a Jewish summer program when was only 13 years old. From her school days into adulthood, she spent her life breaking stereotypes, challenging norms, and advancing progress. As an attorney, her landmark



*Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

efforts paved the way for numerous advances in the rights of women across the United States: looking back, her hard work can be credited for the fact that women are now allowed to maintain employment while pregnant, sign a mortgage—or open a bank account and/or credit card account – without a male co-signer, and more. In the seventies, she fought against the forced sterilization of women, and in the nineties, led the ruling that struck down male-only admissions in schools as being a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th amendment. In 2002, Ginsburg was honored by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs with an Albert D. Chernin Award, an honor which is given out each year to American Jewish individuals who have exemplified the social justice imperatives of Judaism, honored Jewish history, and protected the Bill of Rights.

To the very end, Ginsburg was known for always speaking up, her fiery disposition, and for never backing down in her lifelong fight for equality. While her loss on the first night of Rosh Hashanah was felt deeply by Jewish households across the nation, her legacy will live on.

May her memory be a blessing.

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**JFNH Extends a Warm Welcome to Elyse Hyman, Our New Executive Director**

After a long and dedicated search process, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is excited to introduce our new interim Executive Director, Elyse Hyman.

Elyse is a seasoned non-profit executive, who brings decades of experience to this highly important role. Over the years, her roles have included being the Associate Director of Hebrew College, the Director of Community Outreach at Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the Di-



*Elyse Hyman*

rector of the Jewish Emergency Management System, the Executive Director of Temple Beth Avodah in Newton, Massachusetts, and most recently, as the Director of Major Gifts and Endowment at Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters in Boston.

Needless to say, Elyse is a perfect fit, and we are thrilled to have her onboard. Stay tuned for more updates and information, as we move forward into this new year!

**An Update from JFNH—and Say Hello to our New Executive Director!**

**Dr. Sarit Itenberg,  
Board Chair**



**Board Column**

Greetings, and happy November! As pointed out by a dear friend and a community member (you know who you are), I have missed a month or two of board chair articles.

*Board Column continued on page 3*

# CONGREGATIONS

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

## AMHERST

### CONGREGATION BETENU

Dena Glasgow (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

## 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

## CONCORD

### TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

## DERRY

### ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

## DURHAM

### UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

## HANOVER

### THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

### KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

## KEENE

### CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson  
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 services 8:00 p.m., Shabbat Alive! first Friday of the month 6:30 p.m., online Saturday service 10 am, evening services daily at 7:30 p.m. except Saturday 45 minutes after sunset.

## 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 Kaya Stern-Kaufman  
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

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.

Opinions presented in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation. Photos submitted by individuals and organizations are published with their permission.

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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)

November 6 4:13 PM  
November 13 4:06 PM  
November 20 4:00 PM  
November 27 3:56 PM



## A Big Welcome to our Jewish Second Homeowners Community!

By JFNH

Some readers may be receiving *The NH Jewish Reporter* for the very first time. If you fall into this category, we would like to say an official WELCOME from Jewish New Hampshire!

Recently, a few of our members asked us to reach out to our wonderful community members that are lucky enough to call NH their second home. Whether you come here to play in our lakes, mountains or beaches, we are glad you are here, and we are here for you and your family! You may not live here full-time, but we thought it would be helpful to let you know about our Jewish community, nonetheless, in case you ever

need anything! We are here for not only those lucky enough to live here, year-round, but for any individual or family that visits our great state.

Should you ever need the services of a rabbi, or a physical temple, we have you covered from Berlin, to Nashua, to Keene, to Portsmouth! Our state covers a lot of territory, but so do we! We also have Chabads located in Manchester, Portsmouth, and Hanover if you ever need kosher food they are there to help you out.

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH) is growing—and getting younger! Many Jewish young adults are moving to New Hampshire, and starting families, and they need a strong Jewish community. Thus, our role is broad. Not

only do we support all the Jewish social service institutions and synagogues in NH, but we also play an important role in educating our children statewide. We have a dedicated Israeli Emissary (Shlichah): Avia is an impressive young woman, dedicated to showing our children her love of Judaism and Israel. Having a fulltime Shlichah is costly, for such a small Federation, but the impact is huge for this community, and our future generations.

Did you know our Federation puts on a Jewish Film Festival annually? We have been hosting this for 13 years, and while this year we were showing movies virtually, we hosted live zoom chats after each film and had record attendance. If you will be visiting us in May of next

year, please check out the films located across the state: Our dates will be May 13-23, 2021, and as we get closer you will find the showings listed on our website: <https://jewishnh.org>

We also offer PJ library books and events statewide, and run programs in partnership with the ADL for adults and teens. This year, meanwhile, New Hampshire became the 14th state in the country to require Holocaust and Genocide education for all public school children.

If you visit our website at <https://jewishnh.org/ways-to-give/donate-online>, we would be extremely grateful. And please, don't forget to reach out to us if we can ever be of service when you are visiting your home away from home!

## Connecting with Israel

By Evelyn Miller, Chair of the Israel Education and Engagement committee

Connecting with Israel is a goal of the Federation, but which Israel? Is it the historical 3000+ years ago birth of Judaism? Or is it the Zionist movement, beginning in the late 1800s, to return to the homeland? Or the May 14, 1948 birthday of the modern state of Israel? The many years of wars and integrating new immigrants into the country? Or the present day “Start Up Nation?”

Israel is a complicated country, from archaeology, to cultural and religious diversity, to its exceptionalism in innovation and its will to survive, thrive, and make a difference in the world. When asked by the Federation to chair their new Israel Education and Engagement Committee the challenge became “How to do this?”

Reinstating the Shlichah program, sponsored by the Jewish Federation, was a huge step in bringing Israel to the New Hampshire Jewish community. Avia's vitality and genuine love of people and life makes it easy to want to connect and share her enthusiasm for Israel. However, with sixteen synagogues, two Chabads, and several havurahs across the entire New Hampshire state, Avia can't be everywhere all of the time—she is a shared commodity.

Our new committee got excited thinking of other programming to connect the New Hampshire Jewish community with Israel. We had a presentation on the structure of the Israeli government and its election system. Another presentation lecture was from the first female commander of an Israeli navy combat

vessel. Each month we have an article in the *Jewish Reporter* featuring something interesting about Israel. We had an Israeli mandolin classical concert with Noam (our previous Shlichah) as a featured vocalist. We had a bird expert from the Squam Lake Science center do a presentation on the major flyway that goes straight through Israel from Europe and Asia to Africa and attracts over 1,500 species of birds.

We had hoped to bring you Shavuot on the Kibbutz with dancing, tractor rides, picnicking, and a cheesecake bake-off competition, as well ... THEN COVID HIT. Like everyone else, we had to cancel planned events and start to think outside the box. Presentations became zoom lectures, cooking classes were now scheduled remotely with ingredients first delivered to participants, paint classes were done in the park.

Another great tool for engaging and educating is film. We found three films all featuring different aspects of present day Israel. Like our in-house live presentations, we wanted to show a film once a month and follow by a speaker or panel discussion. Films will be available for viewing in October, November, and December.

Fall is taken care of, so onto winter planning! What new tools are at our disposal during this Covid period? I don't know about you, but I love to get out from under the snow for a week or two in the winter ... so, GREAT, let's plan a virtual “Winter Getaway” trip to Israel. A new idea and a new engagement and educating tool is conceived. The Israel Committee will contact an Israeli tour

*Connecting* continued on page 7

## Board Column *continued from page 1*

Please forgive me! My lack of writing has no correlation to my enthusiasm for our Federation. In fact, in recent months, our dedicated professionals and lay leaders have been more passionate than ever before.

Programming, although different, has been taking place, our Shlichah has safely reintroduced herself into our children's lives, our Momentum program is planning for their trip to Israel, our communities have continued to be safe, our social services is working compassionately with those in need, and our early education committee is working toward a promised solution.

Oh, and one more important update from our board: We have hired an interim Executive Director! The decision was unanimous, and we are so very excited to welcome Elyse Hyman to our JFNH team! Elyse is a seasoned nonprofit executive, with over 25 years of nonprofit experience; more than that, Elyse is so warm and energetic and passionate about Jewish communities—now, ours! Elyse has a unique experience that comes with her. She has worked in high-level leadership roles, both in Jewish nonprofits and in synagogues. Elyse cares about the whole community and all its partners.

And now on, a little bit of a more serious note: Like many of you, the work/family Covid-19 balance has been challenging for me. I am always an optimist, and a glass half full kind of gal, but these past weeks and months have even brought me down at times. Family and JFNH have been there for me. One must always look for the silver lining in things. Our health and safety are of paramount importance—without which we would

not be able to come out of these hard times together. Continuing, and maybe again even increasing, our efforts to stay safe is critical. Though we may find relief in knowing there are some new and innovative treatments and vaccinations for the Covid-19 virus on the horizon, we must stay strong and committed to practicing precautions. We made it through our first holiday season ever with these new changes. Our synagogues and communities took every precaution to have safe options and our friends and families were not as alone as we were worried about. I want to take this moment to thank our rabbis, and their colleagues, around NH, who stepped up in a way never expected before of them. It was not only emotionally difficult for them, I am sure, but also challenging logistically. Kol Ha Kavod and Yasher Koach to all. The community thanks you. JFNH thanks you.

Times right now are tough—we would all agree. What we see and what we hear sometimes can be very upsetting and frustrating. Feel comforted by your community and know that JFNH is here for you every step of the way. If you need some help or just need a friendly person to speak to, please reach out. If you want a visit with Avia, virtually or in person (with proper precautions in place, of course), please let us know. If there is something on your mind you want to share, please do so, either through a phone call or email.

I wish you all a beautiful month of November. Enjoy the fresh, clean air and the gorgeous, majestic colors. Stay healthy, stay strong. JFNH is here for you, and we know you are here for us too!

## A Mohel Speaks on the Importance of Maintaining Traditions During the Pandemic

By Dr. Amichai Kilchevsky, Board Chair

As a father I care for fearless boys, full of life and vigor, just learning their way in the world. As a urologic oncologist I treat fearful patients, weakened with cancer, often towards the end of life. Three years ago, I became a certified mohel, hoping to marry my surgical skills with the joy of helping young Jewish families grow. During my mohel training I learned the routine explanations in favor of the ritual. However, it was not until August of this year, after the birth of my son, Ze'ev, that I came to appreciate the deeper meaning behind the pact.

In addition to Ze'ev, my wife, Lindsay, and I have been blessed with two other

sons, Golan and Matan. As such, I had experienced the incredible emotion that comes with the brit milah though as a witness, not a mohel. For both sons, I had delegated the performance of the affirmation of the covenant between the Jewish people and G-d to the mohel. When we found out we were having a third boy I brought up the idea of actually performing the brit milah service myself. After all, if Abraham, at the youthful age of 100, could circumcise his son, Isaac, then certainly a urologist with a decade of training and all the tools of modern medicine at his disposal should be able to do the same. Of course, what we didn't realize at the time is that we were on a collision course with a pandemic. Soon, the idea of inviting family,



friends, or even a mohel into the house would be 'meshuga.' The decision to be my son's mohel had been made for me.

Since the day Abraham circumcised Isaac, the knife has transformed every Jewish father into a surgeon, asserting his responsibility to refine and perfect nature. I spent much of Ze'ev's first week of life pretending I was not a surgeon. I played with the older boys, spoke with friends and family, and took hundreds of baby pictures. It was not until I began seeing dozens of familiar faces "Zooming" into our living room for a remote bris that the nerves set in. I made it through the introduction and the opening prayers without much difficulty. Then, came time for the circumcision. Looking at Ze'ev, I realized that success was predicated on treating this like other surgeries I have performed thousands of times before. So, with a steady hand, sharp knife, and quick cut, the foreskin was gone. Ze'ev seemed less phased than Lindsay and me and just like

that, we welcomed another child into the Jewish faith.

Pandemic or not, no Jewish family should be deprived of this experience. Few events reestablish the sense of community and normalcy more than a brit milah, and for that reason, we must continue with this tradition even during these uncertain times. While I understand that not every parent has the technical know-how or desire to personally circumcise their son, there are still safe and religiously sound ways of engaging in this ritual. As a father, physician, and mohel, I want to make sure that this tradition continues in our Jewish community and I am eager to work with members of the community to make sure it does.

*Dr. Amichai Kilchevsky is a urologist in Concord where he lives with his wife and 3 sons. He is a member of Temple Israel in Manchester and sits on the Board of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.*

## 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, November 8

#### Virtual Adult Education Program: Hosted by Congregation Betenu of Amherst

1-2:30 PM  
This is the first in our "Great Jewish Debates" series. The focus of the session is on the role of "married monks" in Jewish tradition. We will immerse ourselves in a few wild stories from the Talmud including the famous story of Rabbi Akiva and his wife Rachel. No doubt that our time together will offer us some insights on the battle of the sexes and what a meaningful life looks like—both in the United States and Israel today. If interested, call 603-886-1633 or email [info@betenu.org](mailto:info@betenu.org) for the Zoom link prior to the event. Contact info: Dena Glasgow: [dglasgow.hebrewcollege@gmail.com](mailto:dglasgow.hebrewcollege@gmail.com)

#### Holocaust and Genocide Education in the 603

4PM, Hosted by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire via Zoom  
This 1 1/2 hour virtual program will introduce the audience to New Hampshire's new law and provide them with helpful information on how its mandates can be accomplished. The program will feature Jesse Tannetta, Operations and Outreach Manager, Echoes & Reflections; Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach, Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; and Ashley Harbel, a Sanborn High School teacher who has taught Holocaust studies and has been appointed to serve on the Commission.

Pre-registration is required by calling the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 or <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYqdOGtrTguGtJWxey5fw3PH0xXBEJC8as0>

### Thursday, November 12

#### Seniors Forever Young Virtual Speaker Series – Leading Woman of Israel presented by NH Shlichah Avia Sagron

11:30AM, Hosted by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire via Zoom

Hear the story and be inspired by four leading women of Israel

Pre-registration is required by calling the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 or <https://forms.gle/5QcsLfmnhEDb1ZA>

### Sunday, November 15

#### My Genealogical Journey

9:30AM – 11:30AM, Hosted by the Southern NH Jewish Men's Club via Zoom

Genealogist Paul Moverman will take you on a Genealogical Journey starting over 30 years ago with a columnar pad at the kitchen table with his father and tracing family members from Ukraine and Poland to the United States, Israel, Russia, France, England, Colombia, Brazil and more!

Registration is required in advance by emailing [president@snhjmc.org](mailto:president@snhjmc.org).

### Tuesday, November 24

#### Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

7:15PM – 8:45PM, Hosted by Etz Hayim Synagogue and Church of Transfiguration via Zoom

Etz Hayim and Church of Transfiguration annual Thanksgiving service, this year via Zoom. All are welcome to join our community. Please contact [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org) for link.

## Social Services: Give JFNH a Call

By David Goldstone, Social Services Committee Chair

In conversations among friends and family we often kvel with pride over accomplishments of our children, kibbitz about the local issues or argue over politics, but there are many issues we keep to ourselves.

We don't usually talk about struggles with paying the mortgage or rent after losing a job, or paying medical bills for infirmed loved ones, or dealing with drug abuse, physical abuse, or the physical, emotional and mental stress which we may have to deal with every day. We often don't know who to turn to or provide us with the help we need.

Here is one place to start: Call us at JFNH. The Federation has been work-

ing with our consulting Social Worker who has had decades of experience providing support, referral and follow-up services to individuals and families with wide ranging needs and finding state, national, and local resources to help them. They include: food and shelter, unemployment, medical and drug costs, spousal, parental or child abuse, drug or alcohol addiction, mental health, children with learning, emotional or physical disabilities, legal aid, incarceration, senior care, dementia, or police matters.

*Tikkun olam*, healing the world, includes your community, your family, you, and me. Don't let your problems simmer until they boil over. Call JFNH at (603) 627-7679.

*All calls and assistance are confidential.*

## An Introduction from the Editor

By Nicholas Conley

Hello, readers. First off—thank you. Your support, and the wonderfully warm welcome I received from so many of you when I worked on my first issue here last month, has been amazing. I genuinely appreciate hearing from so many of you, and it truly helps cement just how important *The Reporter* is, for all of us.



Nicholas Conley, Editor

Back in the September issue, Hannah Boyd introduced me as the new editor, and since then, a number of you have written, asking me to tell a bit about my story, how I got here, et cetera. So, some basics: I've lived on New Hampshire's Seacoast for over a decade, with my wife Veronica, and our daughter, Zaharina, who will be celebrating her first birthday (!) this month, as well as our pet German Shephard/Siberian Husky/Labrador Retriever mix, Nova, a rescue dog whom we are pretty sure possesses human-level intelligence. We are members

of Temple Israel Portsmouth.

Going further back: I was born in Los Angeles, and grew up mostly in Sedona, Arizona—as the oldest of five siblings—but have done a lot of traveling over my life, and lived all over the country. As for writing and editing, well, that all started when I was in elementary school: my teacher assigned us to do creative writing projects—stories of maybe a page, two pages at most—and I somehow found myself writing a 50-page fantasy epic, instead. An insane kid, obviously. From that moment, though, I *knew*—absolutely knew—that my driving passion in life would be writing, storytelling, and narratives, in general. Still, it took some time to forge a full-time writing career, naturally, so in my earlier adult years, I worked in healthcare. More specifically, in a nursing home setting with patients who had Alzheimer's, traumatic brain injuries, and so on. These experiences proved formative for me, both in turning me into an advocate, and also, because it was here that I met Veronica, then my coworker, the equally creative, adventurous soul who I've been

in love with ever since.

These days, my childhood dreams are adult realities: as a full-time writer and editor, my work has appeared in such publications as *Vox*, *the Huffington Post*, *Foster's Daily Democrat*, *Dictionary.com*, and—of course—this one right here. Fiction remains my greatest passion, particularly of the kind that combines realistic characters and settings with an undercurrent of sci-fi/fantasy, and my published books include *Pale Highway*, *Clay Tongue: A Novelette*, and my newest release, a dystopian novel titled *Knight in Paper Armor*.

And now, here I am. Being here on *The Reporter* is something I truly consider an honor, and I promise to do my best to always, always strive to make sure every issue of this newspaper is the best it can be. In times like these, fractured and polarized as they are, focusing on the importance of community has never been greater—and *The Reporter* is



Nicholas and Veronica Conley, with their daughter Zaharina, celebrating Rosh Hashanah.

a vital link to every corner of Jewish New Hampshire, from the mountains to the oceans. Thank you for reading, and for being a part of this.

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

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for a complimentary consultation.  
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or [info@investwithcohen.com](mailto:info@investwithcohen.com)

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## Haperach Be-Gani Since 1992

Have I told you that my mom, Levona, had a flower shop for 18 years? The name of the shop was “Haperach Be-Gani” (The flower in my garden), inspired by a famous song by Zohar Argov.

The shop was in the center of Kiryat Shmona, so everyone knew it, which meant everyone knew my mom, as Kiryat Shmona is a very small town. My mom is very creative, talented, and professional, so she had a great reputation. For many years she had permanent customers who loved her unusual flower arrangements. For as long as I can remember, I’ve been surrounded by plants and flowers. When I think about celebrations and holidays, I immediately think about my mom’s shop. We give flowers on so many special occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, Tu B-Av, births of children, and even Re-fuah Shlema (get well soon).



**Avia Sagron**  
**JFNH Shlichah**

My mom used to arrange flowers for wedding venues, and decorated wedding cars. As a young girl, I loved to follow my mom everywhere. I just loved to see her work and create magical environments.

One story I remember is about a wedding my mom decorated. It was a very big event, and my mom ordered a lot of flowers for it. Then, as often happened in Kiryat Shmona in those years, the city went under rocket attack. So, at the last minute the family of the happy couple moved the wedding venue to a nearby



Moshav. “The show must go on!” My mom took all the flowers arrangements she already made, and instead of hanging them on the Chuppah she hung them on the trees around it. The bride got her beautiful bouquet, and an outstanding story to tell her children.

As a young girl, I followed the changing month through my mom’s flower shop. Every holiday my mom spent hours and hours in the shop, to get ready for all the people who wanted to buy gifts including each Friday morning before Shabbat. I always say that Friday afternoon has a special feeling when the “Shechinah” of Shabbat is coming. Now when I think about it, maybe it is because of the magic hours I spent in my mom’s shop.

Every birthday, my parents sent me a big flower bouquet to school. Usually my father delivered it, and I felt like the luckiest girl in the world! When have you heard of a five-year-old that gets this experience? Until today, I love to send my friends this kind of surprise on their special day. I just want to share this wonder-



*Avia’s mother and grandmother decorate the Shabbat table.*

ful feeling with my loved ones. Especially now, when I am so far away from them.

I learned from my mom how wonderful it is to be a part of someone’s Simcha (Happiness) and celebration. I always felt that my mom created a community, and she had a very personal and unique connection with the people who ordered from her store. She knows so much about each one of them and what has happened in their life along the years. It really inspired me to find my own way to become a part of a community, and to find my own ways to be part of someone’s meaningful moments.

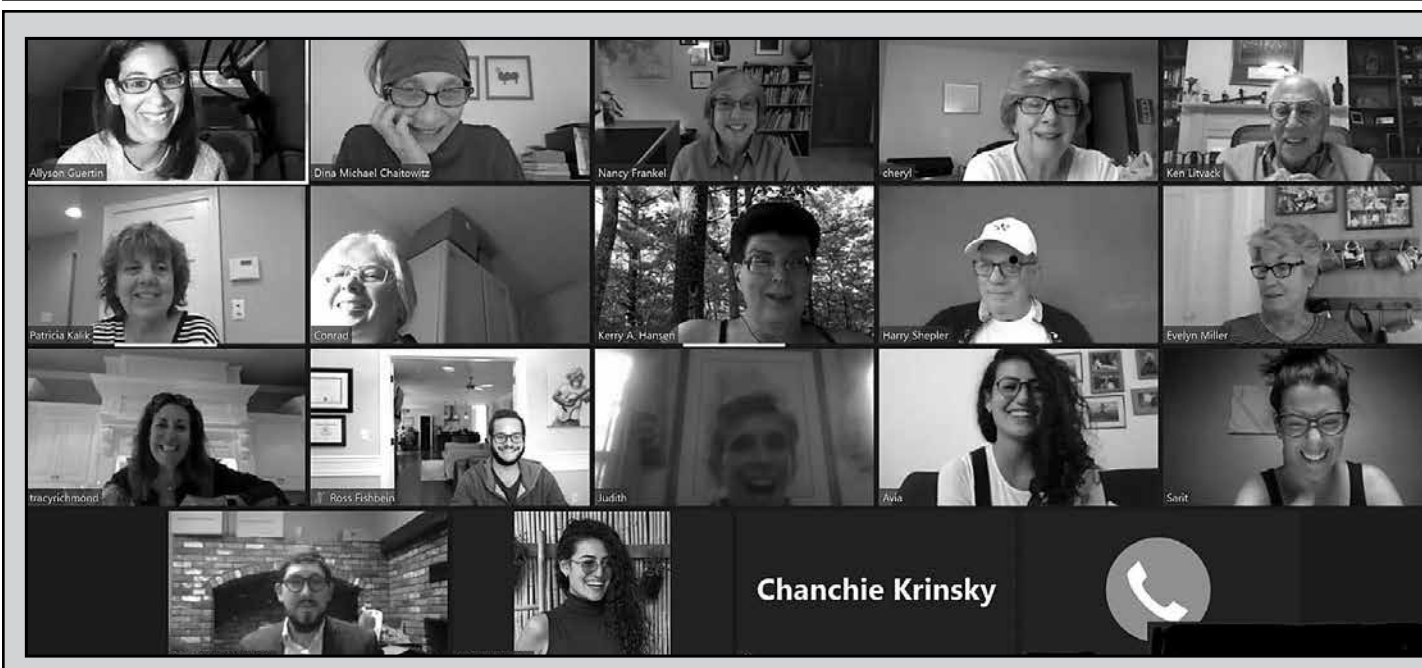
(Did I mention that my mom rode a motorcycle until I was 14 years old? The coolest mom ever.)



*A young Avia in her mother’s shop.*



*Avia’s mother sitting on the stairs.*



*On September 6, 2020, the JFNH Board of Directors had its first Zoom board meeting since the August 16 annual meeting. Visiting were Rabbi Berel Slavaticki of the UNH and Seacoast Chabad Center who gave the D'Var Torah and Nancy Frankel who gave a report on the Federation's campership program.*

## The Start of a School Year Like No Other

By Tracy Richmond

As the summer was winding down and the cool weather started to threaten us all, parents around the state of New Hampshire faced decisions we never thought we would have to even think about. The questions are broad, complicated, and stressful. The worst part for many of us was the pure uncertainty of the entire situation.

Would our children be going back to the classroom at all? Would it be safe? Can they ride the school bus if we even have in person classes? How about the teachers? Is it fair to put this burden on them? How can I work and teach my children from home at the same time?

These are just a few of the hundreds of questions parents grappled with. We have passed the uncertainty but not the stress. I can honestly say that this fall was the most stressful in all my 18 years as a mother. Both my boys faced major changes to their education. My oldest son attends a boarding school that moved 100% of their classes online. For my younger son it was a pretty drastic decision to move him from his beloved public school to a private school, that in our opinion, has a much better Covid plan. The tears and fears in my house were very real.

As I personally grappled with the struggles in our home I could not help thinking about mothers with younger children. My husband and I could at least have rational conversations with our high school children. I couldn't imagine how parents with children in the younger grades were handling the stress. As I was discussing this with some of my friends at JFNH we all agreed—this is a stressful time to be a mom! Yes, dads have stress too but hey—it was moms talking, so we are guilty of thinking of ourselves. :)

**Connecting** *continued from page 3*

guide and plan a virtual “Winter-get-away” trip to Israel, to be joined virtually by family and friends.

Look for newflashes in the coming months on virtual trips to Israel! Hopefully, through a variety of educational tools we'll tickle your fancy and engage you in the adventure of learning more about Israel.

**\*\*Note:** *This Fall's three-part Israel film series is a separate program, not part of JFNH's Jewish Film Festival.\*\**

This is how the idea of the “Mom’s Care Packages” came about. We reached out to some amazing New Hampshire-based companies and without fail they all said, “YES! We want to help the JFNH community.”

Our care packages had one goal in mind. **Make our Jewish moms with grade school children smile.** We asked some of our board members to nominate moms, and between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we sent out our first 36 care packages for the New Year. We hope to continue initiatives like this to build and support our community in creative ways.

We are always open to suggestions so please let us know if you have any creative ideas to share with us. Or, if you are a business that would like to get involved, please email [TracyRichmond@me.com](mailto:TracyRichmond@me.com)

*Special thanks to Pressed Cafe, Flight Coffee, Red Flower and Chill Spa for their donated items.*



The staff at JFNH starts the organization process.



Shelby Goldstein of Hollis enjoying her mom's cookie.



Avia, our JFNH Shlichah working out the details.

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

## Finding Jewish Meaning in the Age of Zoom

Imagine if this pandemic occurred in 1999. All we had is 100 minutes and 30 text messages... Oy. How lucky we are for the endless data.

The new business dress code is a shirt and a tie from the waist up. All else is none of your business...

In just a few days, everyone shifted their lives to Zoom. Even comedians, rabbis, and therapists. The only ones who could not figure out how to work via Zoom are the mohels...

Judaism teaches us to find a deeper message in everything. Why did G-d want us all to give over our lives to Zoom and Google? I'm not sure. But perhaps there is a lesson which we desperately need, and the new technologies can provide us perspective.

There is so much anxiety and stress everywhere. People are afraid and overwhelmed. The most basic principal of Judaism is that G-d is always watching over us. He's always with us, and we're never ever alone. But for millennia there was a matter of abstract faith—are you going to tell me that some heavenly Creator knows



all that is happening in my life?

In the beginning of the pandemic, in March 2020, a bar mitzvah boy had his Zoom bar mitzvah. He is an only child, whose parents planned a special trip to Israel. At the end, with coronavirus, all he had was a Zoom event, with 200 devices from all over the world, relatives and well-wishers from four continents. The boy was devastated. After the event, the boy looked at me for some words of encouragement. I struggled to find something positive to say. He was truly let down. At a loss, I offered a meek consolation: "Matthew, it may not have been what you hoped for, but Hashem was definitely there..." Trying to sound rabbinic, and helpful.

Matthew was open to any words of encouragement: "Rabbi, you really believe that G-d saw me read from the Torah? He saw me wrap Tefilin and give my sermon?"

Now I responded enthusiastically and emphatically: "Are you kidding, Matthew?! You're wondering if G-d was able to see you?! Your grandparents from Israel, your uncle from Los Angeles, your aunt from Miami, and your cousins from France were able to see you! You gaze at a webcam, your voice and image are converted into signals carried by air waves to the other side of the world, and you doubt if the Creator of all of this can see you?"

All of this. Zoom, Google, the miracle of technology that we've all been operating on for this past half year is a stark reminder: We're not alone, we're watched, we're monitored each moment, and protected, not (just...) by humans who want to take advantage and turn a profit from the information, but by the Creator who invented all of this technology. G-d is in the room with you. Your loving Creator is always with you. He is watching you, and cares about every move you make, every breath you take.

There is a story about a little girl, who walked daily to and from school. Though the weather that morning was questionable, and clouds were forming, she made her daily trip to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school, so the mother quickly got in her

car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly, each with the little girl stopping, looking up and smiling.

Finally, the mother called over to her child and asked, "What are you doing?"

The child answered, "God just keeps taking pictures of me, so I lift up my face and smile for the picture!"

The Talmud relates a story that when Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai, one of the greatest sages and leaders in Jewish history, was on his deathbed, his disciples came to visit him. They said to him, "Our teacher—bless us!" He said, "May your fear of Heaven be like your fear of mortals."

His disciples were let down. Here is the greatest sage, mystic and leader, and this is all he can tell them as his dying words? He said to them: "If only it were so! We all know that when a person sins, he says, 'May no human see me.'"

This is the real foundation of Judaism. G-d is here, with you, right now, in this space, in this time, loving you, cheering for you, assisting you, setting the path for you, and with great love and passion gazing at you, at your next choice, at your next behavior. So, as we just started our new year, let us show G-d our face, every day. And know that He's always watching us and taking pictures of me and you, but He needs you to look back and smile... And when we will dance through this year, let us remember that Heaven will dance with us.

G-d is ZOOMED into my life and your life. It's time to unblock our video.



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## Leading Jewish Day School Educator Training Group Releases 5 Tips for Teachers Returning to Virtual Learning

By Joshua Steinreich

With many of the region's Jewish day schools temporarily transitioning back to virtual learning as a result of students testing positive for COVID-19, Hidden Sparks has released five tips for teachers to support students in mainstream Jewish day schools.

Hidden Sparks spent the summer months studying the impact that virtual learning has had on students and how teachers can rise to the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Hidden Sparks' Social Emotional Learning Coach Lily Howard Scott, MS, has developed these tips for the transition back to virtual learning:

**1. #AloneTogether: create space for students to connect:** Learning remotely can leave children feeling disheartened and disconnected from each other and their schoolwork and jumping right back into the standard curriculum can alienate them further. Therefore, Hidden Sparks suggests building in time for students to reflect on the transition to remote

learning, to share their questions and to connect with one another.

**2. Keep things fun:** When learning remotely, a disengaged student can simply walk away from their computer. Whenever possible, weave in games, such as a virtual scavenger hunt: "Take 30 seconds and bring something back to your computer that sparks joy. Go!" These scavenger hunts can be connected to the academic curriculum—a math teacher, for instance, might ask students to grab any object that can be split into thirds, such as a piece of paper or a cookie. It's very important to create more interactive learning opportunities for students.

**3. Get kids moving:** For younger students, create hand signals (I agree, silent cheer, and mind-blown, to name a few) that allow children to participate physically even if they aren't speaking. Also consider asking kids to stand behind their computers and participate in silly one-minute movement breaks a few times each day.

**4. Create a remote learning classroom charter:** Ask children how they want their new remote classroom to feel (not deadly-boring? Fun, even? Respectful?) and record their answers. Then, as a group, develop a list of agreements or rules that will help cultivate such an environment. Many of the agreements will be online-learning specific, related to the use of the chat-box, muting/unmuting, and the like. This charter will enable both you and your students to anticipate remote learning management issues before they occur.

**5. Remember how difficult virtual school can be on families, and be flexible:** It's frustrating to pour your heart into a lesson and receive partially completed work (if any at all) from some students. But remember that your Zoom portal into a student's home only reveals a sliver of their quarantine reality. Siblings may need to share devices, an internet connection may be unstable, and parents may be struggling to balance work commitments with ensuring that

young children sign on to meetings on time. Before you reprimand students, try to learn more about their particular circumstances and then consider how you might differentiate or support accordingly. Unfortunately, a student who feels that they've gotten in trouble for one of these things during remote learning is more likely to turn-off from the lesson which leads to a larger issue, so keeping the moral high is more important than ever before.

Founded in 2006, Hidden Sparks is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping teachers and schools educate struggling learners. Through professional development programs and on-site coaching for teachers to better understand children's learning and behavior, it helps educators deepen their understanding and teaching approaches for all kinds of learners, particularly those who struggle. Since its inception, the organization has impacted a total of 47,450 students in the United States and Israel by working with 3,875 educators in 110 day schools. For more information please visit: [hiddensparks.org](http://hiddensparks.org).

## The iCenter for Israel Education Offers "Binge Watch Israel": Resources for Educators to Use Israeli TV Shows as Learning Experiences

Educators can now access Israeli TV shows and specially developed resources from The iCenter for Israel Education to offer unique and engaging learning experiences, both in person and virtual. Known as Binge Watch Israel, ([theicenter.org/bingewatchisrael](http://theicenter.org/bingewatchisrael)), The iCenter's platform categorizes Israeli TV shows and its resources, spanning Cultural Diversity, Army and Society, Religious Diversity, and Humor and Satire. A special section—How to Read a TV Series—covers how to utilize television shows as educational resources.

The iCenter notes on the Binge Watch Israel website:

Over the last few years, Israeli TV has come into its own. As a country, Israel may be physically small, but it has plenty of material for great TV: a diverse population, schism and tensions be-

tween groups, war, terrorism, and plenty of chutzpah.

In Israel and around the world, viewers are binging on Israeli TV series that give them a peek into Israeli society's most burning issues. These shows expose viewers to different sectors' lifestyles and habits and challenge them to make sense of a nation riddled with conflict and complexity—all while enjoying high dramas and light comedies.

These Israeli TV episodes and supporting materials offer unique perspectives into Israeli society and culture, allowing audiences to ponder the many versions of Israeliness.

The television shows chosen for the collection can all be watched in the US via streaming services or YouTube, and include English subtitles. Each show contains an educational guide to enhance the watching and learning experience.



*The Sukkah comes to you! The Chabad Sukkah Mobile visited cities and towns all over southern NH during the holiday week as a safe and distanced Sukkot experience.*



*Rabbi Dan Danson teaching the Temple B'nai Israel religious school students about the lulav and etrog in front of our sukkah after the children gleaned the fields at Beans and Greens in Gilford.*

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# In the Community

## An Unconventional Bat Mitzvah

By Alex Benson

For the past year, I had been looking forward to and planning my bat mitzvah. Everything was planned, the perfect venue, the perfect dress, and the perfect invitations. Just days before we were going to send out my invitations for the May 16th event, the world had completely shut down. School, every activity, every event all came to an abrupt halt, and I began to wonder what was going to happen to the one event I had been looking forward to and preparing for all year. Sometime in early March, my mother came into my room and told me that there was no way to safely hold my event, so my Bat Mitzvah date had to be changed to October 3rd. She reassured me that, certainly, by October 3, the world would go back to normal.

As summer wore on and Covid showed few signs of going away, my mom decided we could not risk a large gathering, even in October. So, while I was away at summer camp, I got a call saying it had been changed again, but this time I knew we weren't going to have the traditional Bat Mitzvah I had been planning for months. Instead, we were having a virtual service, a "Zoom Mitzvah," with only my parents, sister, aunt, grandparents and Cantor in attendance, and the everyone else over Zoom.

Coming home after camp, I had only a week to prepare before my Zoom mitzvah. My Cantor and I had reviewed everything, my D'var was finalized, my grandparents and aunt had arrived, and before I knew it—the big day had arrived. That morning, I went to get my hair done



at a local salon (all masked up, of course) before coming home and putting my dress on. We had the professional photographer take pictures to commemorate the occasion. After he had taken so many pictures my face began to hurt from smiling, it was time to start the service.

Since it was over Zoom, many things had to be set up before we could actually start the virtual meeting, and let people into the "Zoom room" to watch. My dad had bought a tripod to hold a camera, lights, and a speaker. He turned the camera on and linked it to my mom's laptop, which would control the video. Everything was set up in my family's formal living room, which we only ever use for fancy occasions. Upon logging in to the Zoom, there was a two-minute slideshow photo montage of pictures of me throughout my life. Although only eight people were live in the service with me, at one point, there were over one hundred and fifty people logged into the Zoom, to watch and celebrate my event. My grandparents presented me with my great grandfather's Tallis, and I read from the Torah. My cat even snuck into



Alex Benson at her virtual Bat Mitzvah

the Zoom, making an appearance and playing with the fringe on my Tallis until my grandmother carried her away.

Had things been normal after my service, there would have been a huge party, with all my family and friends in attendance, and dancing the Horah. But instead, my family sat down at our dining room table and had a catered meal from a local restaurant. We recounted our favorite parts of the service, and they told me who was in attendance virtually. People had logged on from California, Cleveland, New York, and everywhere between, to watch. Texts were streaming in from everyone wishing me well and telling me what an amazing job I had done.

Even though it was not the bat mitzvah I had hoped for, having only a few people in the room gave it a more intimate, special feel. Celebrating virtually with my extended family and friends made the moment so special. During Oseh Shalom, I almost couldn't keep singing. I was overcome with such a strong feeling of love and joy at the sight of my family all singing together—I thought I might collapse in a fit of laughter. I realized how lucky I was to be celebrating with everyone, even in this unique way.

While it may not have been a traditional bat mitzvah, it was perfect in its own way, and I was glad everyone was there to watch.

## The Shul Comes to You!

By Heather Tomlinson, Administrative Director of Temple Israel Portsmouth

Beginning with a month-long series of Elul events, members of Temple Israel Portsmouth celebrated a High Holiday season like no other in a wide variety of venues. Congregants and friends gathered in the temple courtyard for yoga, at the African Buying Ground Memorial for an interfaith Selichot service, in the parking lot for "Drive-thru Shofar-blowing," at four different bodies of water for Tashlikh, and online for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Since the building was mostly closed, volunteers assembled and delivered gift bags containing items to support an Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder at home.

Adding "Multimedia Production Coordinator" to their clerical duties, Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro planned services which included members of the congregation participating live via Zoom or in pre-recorded sessions. A choir of voices sang *Alvina Malkeinu* in wonderful harmony: individuals shared their heartfelt wishes for the new year from their homes, gardens, and balconies. Volunteers drove to people's houses to bring them the sound of the shofar.

As Board President Amy Hyett wryly observed, while it's easy to divide this year into before and after, "The 'after' is full of challenges and also opportunities." This year, many members were able to participate fully in the services,



Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro (left) and Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman (right)

where in times past, ill health or distance might have prevented their attendance. Others had difficulty with the technology, struggled with "Zoom fatigue," and flocked to outdoor prayer services. A

common conclusion: being prevented from gathering in person, in the historic sanctuary that has sheltered generations, reminds us all not to take for granted that precious opportunity.

## Public Health Notice: Even in a Pandemic, it's Important to Get Your Flu Shot!

While flu shots are important every year, this year—as the Covid-19 pandemic continues—renders them more vital than ever.

Even though a Covid-19 vaccine is anticipated to arrive in record time, the experts are still saying that, even if everything goes perfectly smoothly, we'll have to get through the winter first: winter is, as everyone knows, flu season, and as people are brought indoors, it's predicted that a "second wave" of coronavirus cases may be imminent, right alongside a potential influenza epidemic. This deadly pairing could overwhelm local hospitals, nurses, and doctors, creating a health crisis, and while the current recommended precautions such as masks, social distancing, handwashing, and so on will help, it's important that the pub-

lic acts now to cut back on potential influenza cases, to each play our vital role in public health. By getting a flu shot early, you can boost these efforts.

Flu shots are easily accessible, whether through your doctor's office or local pharmacy, and this time of year – before the winter is in full swing – is one of the best times to get vaccinated. While flu shots are not foolproof, they are our best line of defense against this seasonal spread, particularly in regard to protecting our older and/or immunocompromised population.

While the pandemic isn't over yet, small steps like these can help us get through this second wave, while protecting our vulnerable populations, health-care workers, and the public at large. Thanks for your assistance.

## Local FBI Agent from NH Stars on New TV Show

By Dr. Sarit Itenberg, Board Chair

Looking for some good new TV? Look no more! In addition to the new hit *Tehran* on AppleTV and the much-anticipated return of *Fauda*, and not to mention all the great new Jewish-themed shows and movies one can find with a simple search on Netflix, Amazon or Apple, you should tune into CBS on October 6, 2020 at 10:00 PM, for the season premiere of *The FBI Declassified*.

This all new, six-part series will give us unprecedented access to some of the biggest cases handled by real-life FBI agents. Why do we care, you ask? Well, aside from a cool new series to give us some more screen time in these current moments where we find ourselves simply not glued enough to our cell phones, iPads, computers or television sets ... just kidding, of course. We care because our very own Supervisory Senior Resident Agent to the FBI, Michael Gibeley, will be starring in the November 10th episode!

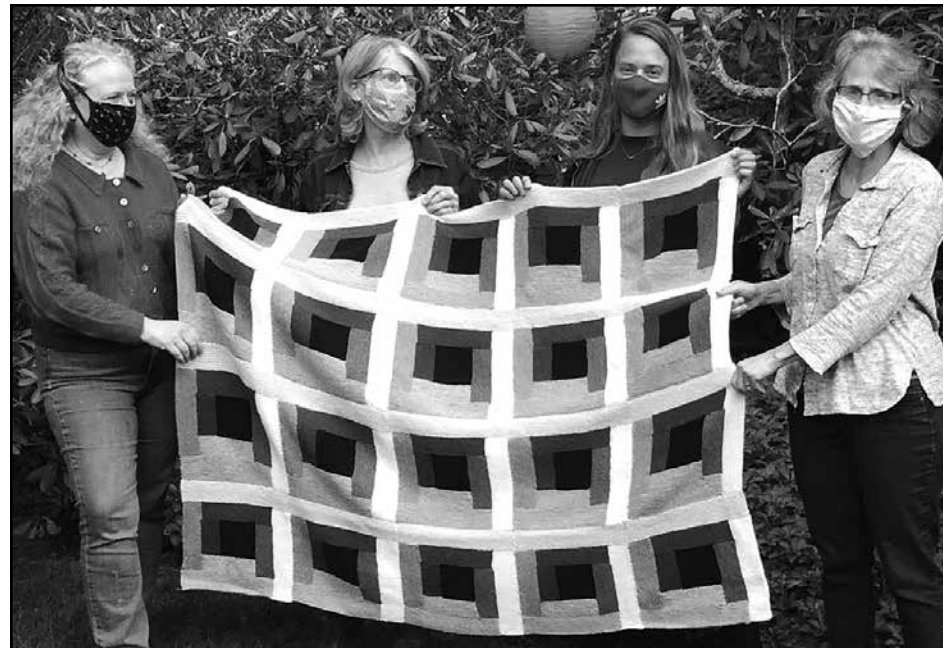
Supervisory Special Agent Gibeley is the seniormost FBI agent in New Hampshire. Serving as the Resident Agent in Charge of our state, he is directly responsible for all aspects of FBI's

missions and programs throughout NH. He provides oversight and strategic decision making to numerous federal employees spanning federal, state and local agencies in conducting national security, white collar crime, violent crime, domestic and international terrorism, crimes against children, cyber, money laundering, and other national security and criminal investigations and operations throughout NH.

Hitting close to home, for us, he and his team are responsible for putting Mr. Cantwell, AKA "the Crying Nazi"—organizer of the racist Charlottesville rally, and yes, our fellow NH resident—behind bars!

Mr. Gibeley is a close friend to JFNH, and to each of you. He has been available to all of us in times of need, and in times of questions. He has always been only a phone call or an email away. He cares about everyone deeply, and has a spot in his heart for the Jewish community, as well as people of all religions in our great state! We are so grateful to have him be our shining light in this often scary world.

Please join me and tune in! We will be watching as his days of being undercover will be a thing of the past!



(left to right) Susan Zlotnick-Hale, Gena Cohen Moses, Abby Moses, Miriam Lebby

## Just in Time for Hanukkah! The Stay Home Afghan Fun-Raiser Raffle

By Temple Beth Jacob

The Temple Beth Jacob Knit-Crochet Group is at it again with their fourth project – The Stay Home Afghan! Planning began back in the fall of 2019. It was to be 20 matching Log Cabin blocks – a design borrowed from a well-known quilt block with a central square to symbolize the chimney, the center of the home. Little did we know how much time all of us would be spending at home in 2020!

To commemorate 2020, the year we all stayed home to stay healthy and safe, the project has been named The Stay Home Afghan. Once again, Alice Kinsler selected the color palette – this time with a focus on nine neutral colors. This handmade beauty (44" x 55") is knit with SuperWash wool so it's easy to clean in your washer and dryer.

The group was originated three afghans-ago by Susan Zlotnick-Hale. A

big thank you goes to all 20 contributors: Abby Moses, Alice Kinsler, Alicia Semiatin, Amanda Solomon, Amy Goldstein, Ben Feldman, Carol Ringo, Carol Sobelson, Gena Cohen Moses, Leslie Melby, Liz Lewy, Marlene Goldman, Marsha Turner, Mary Bresler, Mindy Fitterman, Miriam Lebby, Pamela Schacter, Robin Helrich, Susan Friedburg, Susan Zlotnick-Hale.

This warm and wonderful creation will make a fabulous Hanukkah, graduation or wedding gift!

To buy raffle tickets (\$20 each), email [office@tbjconcord.org](mailto:office@tbjconcord.org). Be sure to return your checks (payable to Temple Beth Jacob) and tickets to Temple Beth Jacob, PO Box 568, Concord NH 03302 before the Wednesday 2 December drawing. All proceeds benefit Temple Beth Jacob, Concord NH.

To join the TBJ Knit-Crochet Group, RSVP Susan Zlotnick-Hale at [szlotnickh@gmail.com](mailto:szlotnickh@gmail.com).



Our MOMentum group welcomed in a New Year by "Awakening their Souls" with an afternoon of yoga in the park led by Arielle Welch of Nahar Yoga. L – R: Deb DePasse, Kate Buff, Allyson Guertin, Rebecca Abrams, Stephanie Lee, Jennifer Buck.

## In the Community



### Etz Hayim Adds a Personal Touch to High Holiday Services

We have all had to make many adjustments to our “new normal,” and observing the High Holidays this year was no exception. Families struggled, as many were unable to be together, as they have been in years past. Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry, led by Rabbi Peter Levy, figured out a way to keep its congregation together in a special way when they were unable to be in the sanctuary in person.

An idea came about when, during Erev Rosh Hashanah services, the Rabbi's wife, Amy Dattner-Levy, looked out at the empty chairs. She thought of how baseball stadiums and concert halls are

using cutouts, so it was announced to the congregation that the synagogue would start collecting photos by email as soon as possible. Photos of the congregants and their families would be displayed on the empty chairs in the sanctuary.

As snapshots of the growing virtual congregation were posted on the synagogue's internal Facebook page, the members were impressed, saying it was a comfort to look at the pictures as tangible evidence they exist and belong together even when they can't be, and that this idea made it possible to observe the High Holidays together. Members left

several comments saying they loved the idea, that it was heartwarming, and the sanctuary looked great.

Dr. Albert Sandler has been leading the congregation of Etz Hayim Synagogue in song for the Kol Nidre service of Yom Kippur evening since 1992. He said it was surreal to chant in a sanctuary devoid of the usual 100+ participants. “I enjoy the participation of the congregation's voices during services. I feed off their energy and enthusiasm,” said Sandler. “Having the faces taped to chairs of my friends and fellow congregants was a wonderful consolation to

them actually being there.”

The Rabbi and his wife, who often accompanies him by singing and playing her guitar, were the only ones in the sanctuary to stream the services live on Yom Kippur. Dattner-Levy felt at home being surrounded by the familiar faces and thought the room felt more full. She found comfort in the faces, and called the experience a blessing on the holiest of nights. “I felt a little less alone. It really made a difference,” said Rabbi Levy.

The photos will continue to occupy the seats until the time comes that their human counterparts can replace them.

### ‘My Genealogical Journey,’ a Talk by Genealogist Paul Moverman

*My Genealogical Journey*, a talk featuring genealogist Paul Moverman, will take place on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 9:30 AM LIVE via Zoom jointly presented by The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club and the Temple Beth Abraham Programming Committee.

Paul's Genealogical Journey began more than 30 years ago, with a columnar pad and a pencil, while sitting at the kitchen table with his father. The story will cover the unexpected family information that he discovered back in the days when one of the only search engines available was Alta Vista and the only genealogy software available was primarily DOS based. When visiting libraries and archives, you would find yourself manually cranking 16 and 35mm microfilm for hours on end.

Learn how this personal Journey, which started in Warwick, RI, ended up leading Paul to relatives not only here in the United States, but also in Israel, Russia, England, France, Colombia, Brazil and more! Learn how people reacted when this New England native contacted

people by telephone, sometimes communicating in a foreign language, letting them know that they had been discovered by someone they had never known of, thousands of miles away! You'll hear the story about how two branches of the Moverman family reunited after a separation of multiple generations and decades. Discover how today's technology has enabled sometimes easier and deeper research into the family's history, and why Paul expects to be able to eventually prove that all of the Movermans in the world are, in fact, related.

Paul's presentation will include family photographs, plus examples of the domestic and foreign documentation Paul has used to be able to confirm relationships. The discussion will be followed with an open question and answer period.

Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club and the Temple Beth Abraham Programming Committee are proud to sponsor Paul's presentation which will start off with “Schmooze Time” from 9:00 am to 9:30 AM. This joint presentation is open to the public but advance



*Learn what Emile Movermann was toasting when the family picture was snapped.*

registration is required. Please contact Don Gorelick at [president@snhjmc.org](mailto:president@snhjmc.org) to confirm your registration.

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club was founded in 1982 and conducts monthly Zoom meetings during the pandemic. The Club's mission is based on building a brotherhood of like-minded men who wish to share their commitment and values to those in the greater NH Jewish community. The SN-HJMC has provided quality programming such as a town hall-style political event each fall, and our annual children's breakfast, which this year featured a science exhibit designed to both educate

and entertain young minds. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is a nonprofit organization serving all of southern NH's Jewish communities regardless of synagogue membership for over thirty years. 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>. Membership Dues have been waived this year due to the COVID pandemic.

The Temple Beth Abraham Programming Committee regularly provides a wide variety of Intellectual, Entertainment, Cultural and Religious events at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. This assortment of programming is sometimes presented in conjunction with the TBA Ritual Committee, the TBA Sisterhood, The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club and sometimes in conjunction with Shabbat Services. For further information about the Programming Committee or if you would like to suggest an event, please contact Jeff Masors, Chairman at [office@tbanashua.org](mailto:office@tbanashua.org).



## Rockenmacher receives first "Brotherhood Lifetime Achievement Award"

By David Penchansky

Over the years, it was a tradition for the TAY Brotherhood to present past members who have served as president of the TAY Brotherhood with a plaque in appreciation of their contribution. Fortunately, one of the co-presidents will not step down, and such is the reason we are standing here today. The Brotherhood has a longstanding tradition of temple and community service that goes back to 1959, starting with Harvey Winneg, as the Brotherhood's first president. The average term of a president or co-president is two years—and Sol has done that six times over.

Yes, Sol has served in the leadership role as co-president for 13 years, and recording secretary for at least six times. Sol has been involved on the executive committee almost since the day he joined the Brotherhood. There have many great men before who have been involved with the Brotherhood, either as a member or serving on the executive committee, and I thank all have served past and present—but one those men is at the top of that list, and that is Sol. Fortunately, Sol has a poor vocabulary and never learned the word NO. Even if he is not chairing the program, he is at the event, and providing support. Even with the limitations of his health, Sol would be there, and chances are, so would Linda, who would not be far behind: basically, you get a two for one special.

Besides serving as co-president over 13 years, Sol has chaired or been in-

involved in many events. He is a regular at Shabbat services, Torah study, morning Minyan at Temple Israel, and has coordinated the candidates forum, the mitzvah program, and sets up the bags on Christmas day that go to meals on wheels recipients or platters for our police and firefighters working on Christmas day, as well as our various special program breakfasts, and our Veteran's Day program of placing flags on the graves of veterans at the Jewish cemetery. Sol writes almost every article for *The Reporter*, or Temple newsletter, pertaining to the Brotherhood, serving on the Temple board or picking up food for our monthly meetings. He is a veteran, and a strong supporter of the Temple, the Jewish community, the secular community, the interfaith community, and an all-around great humanitarian.

I could not begin to tell you all the organizations or individuals Sol has touched over the years, while never looking for any recognition. As you all know, Sol is a retired pediatric cardiologist and whenever a person—whether or not a temple member, brotherhood member, or family member—is in distress, it is like having your own private physician, who would be there with you in support.

He really is the ultimate brother. We are all fortunate to call Sol a coworker, father, uncle, husband and—most of all—our friend. It is our distinct pleasure to present Sol Rockenmacher with the first ever TAY Brotherhood Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Important Talk: The Emerging Next Normal

By Steve Soreff, MD

Wayne Kurtzman is going to present a Zoom talk entitled *The Emerging Next Normal* on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Kurtzman is a market intelligence analyst, an adjunct educator, and the Research Director, IDC. In this program he will discuss how technology adoption and culture changed during the Covid-19 pandemic. He says the presentation, "Will help



Wayne Kurtzman

you make sense of the emerging Future of Work, what is changing, and what comes next for work, play and education—and how you can chart your own path."

This program is part Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. To get the Zoom link for this talk, please email [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org). For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD,

at [soreffs15@aol.com](mailto:soreffs15@aol.com) or 603-895-6120.

## Join Etz Hayim's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

By Bruce Wechsler, Ritual Committee of Etz Hayim

On Tuesday, November 24 at 7:15 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Church of Transfiguration will once again celebrate their annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service, this year via Zoom. These two houses of worship are side by side on Hood Road in Derry

and make up our "interfaith campus." Each alternates hosting the event, but this year it will be virtual. Rabbi Peter Levy will be speaking. The synagogue and church members also join forces in providing Elijah's Table, a community dinner, and have a long history of worshipping, working and celebrating together. Please join us on Zoom, or contact [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org).



Temple B'nai Israel's Sunday school teachers and students again went to Beans and Greens to glean the corners of their fields (Lev 23:22). This produce, along with 9 bags of groceries collected during the Days of Awe, were delivered to the food pantry at St. Vincent de Paul in Laconia.

# In the Community

## Temple Adath Yeshurun Invites You to Our Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Via Zoom

By Karen L. Rothstein

All are cordially invited to worship as a community on Monday, November 23, 7:00 PM, at the annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, sponsored by the Greater Manchester Clergy Association. This year we will gather together to ask for God's blessing virtually. Our host will be St Paul's United Methodist Church, and please watch your home congregation's emails for the Zoom address.

Kind donations of food will be used

to support the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry, and the Food Pantry of First United Methodist Church. You can drop your canned goods at either St. Paul's (335b Smyth Road) or Temple Adath Yeshurun, (152 Prospect Street,) between Nov. 15 and Nov. 24. If you prefer to send a financial donation, please feel free to send to either congregation, and whatever is collected will support New Horizons.

Give thanks for our many blessings, by helping our neighbors in need.



Shlichah Avia Sagron held Art in the Park for the community to paint honey pots for Rosh Hashanah.



Shlichah Avia Sagron hosted a separate Art in the Park for Seniors Forever Young to also paint honey pots.



Susan Needleman was honored with the 2020 Mitzvah Award during Temple B'nai Israel's High Holidays celebration. Susan is a powerhouse who works tirelessly on our fundraising and Jewish Food Festival, as well as organizing our oneg schedule, and much more! Yasher Koach, Susan!



Erica Gerson was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah virtually on September 5th at Temple Adath Yeshurun.



Jesse Sag was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah virtually on August 29th at Temple Adath Yeshurun.



Chabad's CTeen (youth group) got together to kick off their new year of exciting events on a beautiful fall day this September.



After so many months of meeting only through "Zoom" some Temple B'nai Israel congregants gathered for Tashlich at Bartlett Beach in Laconia after our second day service for Rosh Hashanah.



## A Translated Excerpt from the Yiddish Novel 'My Father's Tavern,' by Isaac Horowitz

By Ollie Elkus, Yiddish Translator

The following is an excerpt from *Di Kretshme* or "The Tavern", a chapter from the novel *Mayn Tatns Kretshme* or "My Father's Tavern" written by Isaac Horowitz and translated by Ollie Elkus. Ollie is currently under fellowship with the Yiddish Book Center and is seeking a publisher for the finished novel.



**Introduction:** *Mayn Tatns Kretshme* (p. 1953) is both a work of art and a historical document written by belletrist Isaac Horowitz. What it is in truth, is memoir, but in the tone of Isaac's storytelling it's hard not to sense that certain mystifying feeling of folklore. In *Mayn Tatns Kretshme*, Isaac recalls some of the more anecdotal experiences of his youth, and documents them one chapter at a time. The stories mostly revolve around his father's tavern in Popricani, Romania, where Isaac worked as a young man.

Among the more lighthearted musings are examples of the staple ghouls, ghosts, and goblins of Yiddish folklore, which haunt the basement of the tavern. Isaac, a boy of all but ten years old, taps the kegs and pours the wine while fearing for his life in the darkness of the storage room. He is joined in his neurosis by two older villagers who sit down to share drinks and trade ghost stories. This particular scene may make the modern reader yearn for a time when such stories could be entertained by grown men and women. The world certainly seems more wondrous without the cold voice of reason in your ear.

There's plenty of Yiddish fiction set in the early twentieth century, but I feel the reality of this particular book being not fiction, but memoir, serves to further induce a contemplation of our past in its actuality. To read the real exploits of characters that are not just characters, but walking talking individuals from over one hundred years ago, is an oddity. A book like this was begging to be translated if for no reason other than to immortalize these individuals whose etching in history had been smudged. So, I introduce to you an excerpt from the first chapter of *Mayn Tatns Kretshme*, a chapter aptly titled, "Di Kretshme."

\*\*\*

In the tavern, the long oak tables were freshly washed and waiting. All was clean

and ready for the holiday. The vast clay floor was swept and sprayed with pleasant little beads of water, which my older brother had braided masterfully with the large tin pump. The brandy bottles stood full and polished on the upper shelves and sparkled over the washed glasses and scoured lead quarts that my father spread onto the bar in perfect alignment, each according to their measure.

The first two villagers to enter sat down at a table, one facing the other, and ordered brandy. The first one paid and the second one thanked him. After that, the second one paid and the first one thanked. They thanked each other so much that day that their eyes got cloudy and their tongues went loose. The first one aired his troubles while the second one sighed. And as the second one sighed, it seemed to him that he sighed over his own troubles.

Then more villagers began to arrive. Some came in groups, some came separately, and the women followed in the same fashion. The men were outfitted in fresh linen shirts, adorned with embroidered buds and blossoms at the collars and sleeves. The shirts hung half strewn over their white fitted pants and were bound with red woolen belts, which were decorated with bright yellow spangles, and spattered with tiny beads of various colors. The young *shkotzim*, that is to say, the gentile boys, wore black hats with straight wide bands and delicate peacock feathers fixed at the sides.

The women perked their ears to hear what the men were discussing. Every so often they'd turn away, seemingly out of modesty or embarrassment, however with such tact that these mysterious men shouldn't fail to notice the many forms of dress that they wore one atop the other in a mingling of bright and stunning colors. They touched themselves with their combs, they stroked the strings of beads around their necks, and they fondled their sensuous hand-hemmed

blouses with the tips of their fingers to ensure that their charm and dexterity would not escape the masculine eye.

The tables were set. The drinks multiplied. Everyone drank. Everyone sighed.

The quiet speech of each individual peasant melded together to create a loud indiscernible clamor. The same peasants that, at first, spoke so calmly, so quiet and tame, were promptly feeling their oats. As for the lightweights, they'd already lost their wits.

My father stood by the bar and, with a piece of chalk, took record of the glasses of brandy and bottles of wine that we, the small boys, brought out to the tables. When he supposed that a peasant had, "had enough", he'd have us collect the money before the drunken peasant lost all account.

The damsels sat on the surrounding benches and waited for the men to treat them to a drink. They shushed and snickered and it was obvious that they were talking gossip. A drunken peasant staggered over to his wife and thrust her a glass of brandy.

"Here, have a drink."

His wife blushed and buried her face in her hands.

"Go on, don't be embarrassed."

She toyed with him a bit more, and shrugged with her shoulders as if to refuse. The man blinked - he didn't understand.

"You really don't want it?"

"No."

"Honest?"

"Honest."

As the man was about to leave, she snatched the glass from his hand and cleared it in one gulp.

The two peasants who were first to come in, stood dead drunk in the middle of the tavern. They held each other by the shoulders and drank from each other's glasses, but even this they couldn't manage. Their bodies swayed, their hands trembled, and they couldn't seem to get the glasses to each other's mouths. In the end, they opted to drink from their own glasses. They drenched themselves more than they drank, and they continued swaying with their hands on each other's shoulders.

"Mihai", one of them asked, "where are you?"

"What do you mean? I'm still right here, Alecu."

"Why can't I see your eyes then?"

"What are you talking about? They're right here!"

"Yes, I see them now. But tell me Mihai, why do they seem so sad?"

"Why? Akh, Alecu!"

"Correct, Mihai. Because why shouldn't they seem sad when your heart is forlorn? But why Mihai, why is your heart forlorn?"

"Why? Akh, Alecu!"

"Correct, Mihai. Absolutely correct. Because why shouldn't your heart be forlorn, when for an entire summer you work like an ox, then comes winter and you haven't even a drop of oil!"

"Right, Alecu."

"Yes, Mihai, it seems both right, and not right at all."

Alecu dropped his head to Mihai's chest and wailed hoarsely...

*Green leaves, barren earth  
Twas not destined for me*

Mihai joined in on the *doina*

*Green leaves, fertile earth  
May well be my destiny*

A long, thin gypsy shuffled out from the corner with a fiddle to his chin. A second one followed, a thick and a short one, with a kobza in his hand. The first one drew his bow over the thin string of the fiddle, and the string quaked and quivered, wept and wailed, and plucked pieces from the peasant hearts. The second one accompanied him with his bulging *kobza*, strumming over the broad strings with his goose feather, and droning beneath the weeps of the fiddle.

The peasants sat stupefied at the tables. From pillar to post resounded woe-ful tunes with woe-ful words. Those that couldn't sing accompanied the *doina* with a sigh or a sob.

The two drunken peasants standing in the middle of the tavern shuffled off to the corner. They stood swaddled in sighs.

"Akh, Mihai!"

"Akh, Alecu!"

An incited young peasant jumped up, waving his hands about. "Hey, gypsy! We've sobbed enough! A *sirba*!"

The gangling gypsy flashed his white teeth and threw his head to the side. The sobs of the *doina* disintegrated into short, impelling tones, and the gypsy's fingers sprung like dancing daubs on the thinly stretched neck of the fiddle. The

*Yiddish Novel continued on page 17*

## Justin Sheriff, Jewish Musician from Portsmouth, Offering Audio Engineering Classes at UNH in Early 2021

During the early months of 2021, the University of New Hampshire will be partnering with Cybersound Studios to offer two workshops in audio engineering. The instructor for these courses will be Justin Sheriff, a Jewish musician and audio engineer who grew up in Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Sheriff has worked with such big names as DMX, Run-DMC, Lauv, Greg Hawks of The Cars, Audible.com, and the voice recognition software for the Amazon Alexa.

This is the second time Sheriff has taught these courses at UNH, having recently completed his first run at them over the summer. As Sheriff explains, “UNH was looking for a new outside course to offer to students and realized audio engineering would gain a lot of interest. The program director had called Cybersound, where I work, and inquired if anyone taught audio engineering. Little did they know that I did in fact teach it, that I was born in Portsmouth, and that I’ve been doing this for years.”



Justin Sheriff

The first course, which runs on Fridays from January 22nd through February 19th, will be “Introduction to Audio Engineering Part 1 (Basic Techniques), a course perfectly designed for those who are completely new to the art of recording and producing music. Through this class, students can learn and master the use of audio equipment, critical listening,

pro tools, and more. In the second course, Part 2 – which runs on Fridays from February 26th to March 26th – students can learn how to mix and master music, to create sound of the highest quality.

Sheriff is excited to teach the courses again. “Looking back, I could not be happier with how it all turned out,” he says. “It was truly humbling to hear that some students wanted to be doing exactly what I am doing now with my life, and that I was an inspiration for them. Audio engineering is one of the most complicated things to teach, since there really is no manual on how to do it properly—especially considering it’s so subjective in nature. So, I believe it is my duty, as someone who has done it for a while now, to help people gain a better understanding of it, without all the fluff that school classes often have.” He also added, “I’m looking forward to helping a whole new group of students learn about this profession.”

Sheriff is originally a Seacoast native,

having gone to Temple Israel of Portsmouth in his youth, and is a graduate of Berklee College of Music. Though he now lives and works in Boston, he returns to New Hampshire regularly for his role as the keyboardist in a popular local band, People Like You, and to visit family and friends. During the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic earlier this year, Sheriff created and released his first solo album, *The Quarantine Diaries, Vol. 1*, available on Spotify.

Throughout all this, Sheriff’s connections to New Hampshire remain strong. “NH to me will always be such a special place. Growing up in the Seacoast was truly a blessing, and with all the culture and scenic beauty. I have also found a wealth of very talented musicians in NH, and I’ve been fortunate enough to connect with them and play together, forming some of the strongest bonds.”

For more information on these classes, please visit: <https://training.unh.edu/audio-engineering>

## Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

### Hannukah Books

This month, as we prepare to give Hannukah gifts and share the story of Hannukah with our children and grandchildren, I would like to share some of the new books coming out for the holidays.

Moving to a new home is always a challenge, but when Hannukah is starting the night the moving company leaves you in your new apartment, it can add a special spin on the situation. Max and Rachel turn the eight nights of Hannukah into a creative way to meet your new neighbors in *The Ninth of Hanukkah*. Author Erica S. Perl tells a delightful story, and even gives tips in the end, so that families who read the story can make new friends or celebrate longtime friends and neighbors themselves. Colorful illustrations by Shahar Kober beautifully build on the plot.

*Honey on The Page* is a collection of Yiddish children’s short stories. Each written by a different author, with introductions, there are many stories about Shabbat and Jewish holidays, all with a moral at the end, which have been gathered together, edited, and translated, by Emory professor, Miriam Udel. Wonderful folktales and fables will entertain the entire family: You can read them at bed-

time, or share the stories around the table at a family meal. Many of these stories are available for the first time, here in English, and written by well-known and less prominent Yiddish authors. These stories are from as long ago as 1910, and as current as the 1970s. Collected from around the globe, including Latin America, Eastern Europe, and New York, this book will delight young people—and people who are young at heart.

*The Eight Knights of Hanukkah* is a very cleverly written book by Leslie Kimmelman. Using humor and word play, Kimmelman has created a new version of the Hannukah story. What else would eight knights do when it’s Hannukah, but fight a dragon who is threatening to ruin the holiday? Delightful illustrations by Galia Bernstein help build the story, as each of the eight knights fixes something the dragon has destroyed. There is Sir Alex, who fixes a dreidel, and Sir Lily, who helps make sufganiyot along with Sir Gabriel, Sir Margaret, Sir Julian, Sir Henry, and Sir Isabella. But, of course, my favorite knight is Sir Rugelach.

Another fun title this Hannukah is also a play on words: Nate Gadol is always there if a family is one latke, one candle,

or a wish short for the holiday. *The Holiday Magic of Nat Gadol* is written by Arthur Levine and illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. This story plays on the words from the dreidel, Nes Gadol Haya Sham, a great miracle happened there. Nat Gadol travels around the world finding people in need and helping them secretly with his magic, but the people he likes to

help the most are those who give when they themselves can little afford to share. Interestingly this story brings us back to 1881. The idea, here, is that this is when presents became a part of the Hannukah celebration in America.

Happy Hannukah, and may the candles on the menorah burn brightly in your window.

### Yiddish Novel *continued from page 16*

second gypsy buried his head in his bulging kobza, growing frantic with his goose feather – and the young peasant, alone in the middle of the tavern, pitched and plaited his feet in a passionate *sirba*.

The feverish tones of the *sirba* flew under the long tables, sought the feet of the drunken peasants, and drug them out to dance. The peasants slowly got up from the tables, laid their hands atop each others shoulders, and plodded into the dance. They worked hard to match the meter of the *sirba*, but their drunk faltering feet wouldn’t let them. Soon the women jumped in, fervid and frenzied, and the men’s partnerless feet flushed with fresh motive. The two gyp-

sies stood in the middle of the tavern and played with eyes ablaze. The heavy bodies of the drunken peasants became lighter and more limber. They swung and shuffled, they bent and spun, and with their great forged iron boots they tapped their many moves on the hard clay floor of the tavern.

*Ollie Elkus is a Yiddish translator of printed prose and poetry, as well as handwritten letters and postcards. Ollie also likes to bake bread, play drums, and drink tea. For more information, or to inquire about translation services, Ollie can be reached through his website [ohelkustranslations.com](http://ohelkustranslations.com) or by emailing him directly at [ollieelkus@gmail.com](mailto:ollieelkus@gmail.com).*

## 'Surviving Evil,' a documentary about the Holocaust, to be presented by MCTP

Manchester Community Theatre Players (MCTP) will present the short film documentary *Surviving Evil: The Holocaust through the story of Stephan H. Lewy* on Monday November 9th as a virtual presentation. Stephen was born in 1925 in Berlin and experienced the anti-Jewish sentiment as Hitler rose to power. *Surviving Evil* chronicles Stephan's escape

from the Nazis, his time in hiding in France, his escape to the United States after the occupation of France, and his eventually becoming an American Citizen as fighting in the 3rd Army under Patton, liberating the largest Concentration Camp, Buchenwald.

*Surviving Evil* is written by Tom Anastasi and Alan D. Kaplan and directed by

Alan D. Kaplan. It was originally written as a stage play that, through a grant from the Sidor foundation, toured mostly schools, colleges, and organizations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, but also had a performance in New York City in 2011. It premiered to a sell-out audience at the Palace Theater in 2003 and has been seen by over 10,000 people

with over 20 different productions.

*Surviving Evil* has been seen by many Jewish organizations, but it is also intended for non-Jewish audiences who may be learning

about the Holocaust for the first time. A theme of the film is that Holocausts do not happen by accident, but because societies allow them to happen over a long period of time.

Last fall, Anastasi and Kaplan decided to make *Surviving Evil* into a film to preserve Stephan's story for history. Stephan, now 95 years-old, and Windham, NH resident Steven Short narrate the film that features photos from Stephan's family album as well as stock footage brought to life through voiceovers. "It's a moving and powerful story. And to have Stephan in his own words tell what it was like to rescue the prisoners at Buchenwald truly gripping," said Anastasi. Short adds "Having known Stephan for 35+ years, it was humbling to have voiced his words in this project".

November 9th was chosen to broadcast the film (which recently became a finalist in the Lonely Seal film festival that will run Mid October) as part of the Kristallnacht observance, which many believe was the start of the Holocaust. Parents should know there are brief disturbing images of the Buchenwald camp that were taken on the day of its liberation.

Stephan, a NH resident for decades, now lives near Buffalo with his family. The film begins at 7:30 PM and runs for 40 minutes and includes a Q&A afterward. The stream of the movie can be seen at MCTP's homepage [www.mctp.info](http://www.mctp.info) as well as MCTP's Facebook page. There is no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. For questions, email [info@manchestercommunitytheatre.com](mailto:info@manchestercommunitytheatre.com).



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# Jewish Journeys

## Meant to Be

By Chanchie Krinsky

There is nothing quite like seeing divine providence play out before your very eyes. When we are privy to it, it leaves us floored with wonderment. To inspire us all to see G-d's mysterious but intentional workings in daily "happencance," I will share a series of events that occurred late this summer that was nothing short of supernatural.

It all started with the cancellation of our annual visit to our friend's home, out on the ocean in Maine. It is normally a blissful two-day escape for our busy family. We unwind, chill out, and enjoy each other's company before everyone goes back to work and school.

Due to Covid-19, the trip was a no-go.

With the rental market in high demand due to the virus, we were nearly resigned to no getaway this summer, but in a last-ditch effort, my dad reached out to some friends in search of a plan B. The inimitable Evelyn and Mike Miller responded in record time that they were leaving their cabin on Newfound Lake the next night, and we were welcome to it later that week. Score!

So, we found ourselves on the banks of Newfound Lake in Hebron, NH. Turns out, we got there on possibly the windiest day of the year, which took kayaking and swimming out of the equation. We had heard of Sculptured Rocks Natural Area, a beautiful spot with waterfalls and such, which was only a few miles away. As we approached the street to the park entrance, a sign reading 'road closed' let us know that we were not going to see any sculptured rocks anytime soon. Turns out the road



was closed literally only the two days that we were in the area.

Slightly frustrated and running out of ideas for things to do, we remembered that Evelyn had told us about a campground down the road that had some interesting trivia. For one, the camp had hosted the Obama girls several years ago. Two, this summer it had been rented by a Chassidic camp from NY, and three—there was a tunnel that ran underground to bring the campers safely across the street to the waterfront. Armed with these nuggets of information, we decided that was going to be our next stop.

We wandered around the entrance of the deserted campground and were about to leave when some maintenance

staff pulled up in a golf cart. They were very warm to us nosy strangers, and they told us we were welcome to take the tunnel to check out the waterfront. We didn't need any further urging.

As we made our way towards the waterfront, an eager dog came bounding towards us, with not a human in sight. After a few moments, a friendly guy came out of his nearby home, calling after the dog, whom we now know as Cooper, and reassuring us that, as all excitable dogs are—"He's friendly."

Within the first few minutes of small talk, this fellow with a kind smile, named Michael, let us know that he oversees the camp property in the summer months—and that he too is Jewish! If you've ever met my dad, Rabbi Levi

Krinsky, his *joie de vivre* is meeting and connecting with Jewish souls. And let me tell you, these two hit it off. We continued to the waterfront and then while the rest of us headed back to the cabin, my dad schmoozed with Mike and his girlfriend, Tammy, for a while. We later heard that not only did Mike lay the Tefillin & say the Shema, but my dad also blew the Shofar (as is customary in the month of Elul, leading up to Rosh Hashanah) and even affixed a mezuzah to their doorpost! Having a spare mezuzah in the car is not the norm, even for a Rabbi, but it was another small detail in this day that was obviously meant to be.

The kicker of this whole story is that, just the night before, Mike had been on his couch, pondering life and having a heart to heart with G-d, asking for some sign to help him through some bumps. The next day, a rabbi and his family come walking down a dirt road in the middle of Hebron, NH. Whoa.

Since that summer day, Mike and Tammy have come to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, which is not the end of this story ... but rather, just the beginning. To me and my family, this was a most obvious display of G-d's perfect providence. Rarely are we lucky enough to be able to connect the dots in this way, but even when we don't see the big picture, there is not a sliver of doubt in my mind that there is a master plan at work. There is no such thing as coincidence. I have realized that the more I make this concept a conscious thought, the more I see it abound in my life. May we all be worthy of seeing revealed blessings on the daily!

## Opinion

### A New Year Arrives and a Temple Dies

By Joseph D. Steinfeld

*Note: This piece was originally published on Sept. 24 in the Concord Monitor. The copyright belongs to the author, who submitted it for publication, and is reprinted with his permission.*

Starting at Sunset on September 18, Jews around the world, and in New Hampshire, welcomed the Jewish New Year, 5781. Services were held that evening, and they were real even though

they were virtual. Then came the news that Ruth Bader Ginsburg, our esteemed Supreme Court Justice and fellow Jew, had died. A light had been extinguished.

Every year at this time, I think back to my days growing up Jewish in Claremont. I was nine years old when the Jews of Claremont bought an old school on Putnam Street, which my father had attended early in the 20th century and made into our synagogue. Before then, services had been held in the home of Mr. Blumberg, a kosher butcher

("shochet" in Yiddish).

Yes, there were enough Jews to support such an enterprise, and Mr. Blumberg conducted Friday night services. I went there to Sunday School.

In 1948, Temple Meyer-David came into existence. My grandfather, Maurice Firestone, and my father, Frank Steinfeld, were two of many who spearheaded this undertaking. The community named our temple for Second Lieutenant Meyer Satzow and Private First Class David Blumberg (Mr. Blumberg's

son), the two Claremont Jews who were killed in action serving our country in World War II.

The birth of Temple Meyer-David represented a Claremont milestone for at least two reasons. It was a living statement that the Jewish population was large enough, around 50 families, to support its own religious home. And it served as a symbolic message that, in the shadow of the Holocaust, this small, overwhelmingly Christian, New Hamp-

*Opinion continued on page 20*

**Opinion** continued from page 19

shire community was a place where Jews could live, worship, and be safe.

We were blessed to have Michael Szenes, a Hungarian Holocaust survivor, as our first rabbi. He was with us only a few years—by the time of my bar mitzvah in 1952 he had moved on to Temple Beth Jacob in Concord, and he later went to Temple Gates of Heaven in

Schenectady, New York, where he served for 25 years. But to me, he will always be “my rabbi.” He was long retired when I called him in 1998 and asked him to officiate at my mother’s funeral. He immediately said yes, and the next day he came from Schenectady to Boston for the funeral and then to Claremont for her burial. The last time I saw him was

at Temple Meyer-David Cemetery.

Several years after the temple on Putnam Street was established, my grandfather Firestone decided that we should have our own cemetery. Members of the congregation put up the funds to purchase land on North Street, and Temple Meyer David Cemetery, where all gravestones are the same size, was

born. My grandparents and my parents are buried there.

Over the years, the Jewish population of Claremont kept shrinking, to the point where only a few families remained. Even so, Temple Meyer David survived, albeit on a much reduced scale, with no rabbi. A man named Arnie Cover, married to Donna Diamond from Claremont and, like Mr. Blumberg, a learned layman, came from Massachusetts to officiate at monthly Friday night services.

Mr. Cover died earlier this year, and then, on September 13, the small Temple Meyer-David congregation made the fateful decision to bring my boyhood temple to an end. I learned about this a few days later from Steve Borofsky, a Claremonter whose parents attended my bar mitzvah nearly 70 years ago.

What is there to say when a synagogue dies? What will become of the Memorial Scrolls, which include the names of my family members along with many others who, like my Firestone grandparents, were immigrants from Eastern Europe? And what of the cemetery where they are buried? Who will maintain it? I don’t have the answers, and I can’t think of words to comfort myself.

This is a time of national mourning. Justice Ginsburg is dead; so are George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. Covid-19 has taken over 200,000 lives. I do not compare the closing, I hesitate to use the word liquidation, of Temple Meyer David to these losses, but for me, and I’m sure many others, the loss of that eternal light on Putnam Street is an occasion of incalculable sadness.

*Joseph D. Steinfield is a lawyer who lives in Keene. He can be reached at joe@joesteinfeld.com.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL FILM SERIES



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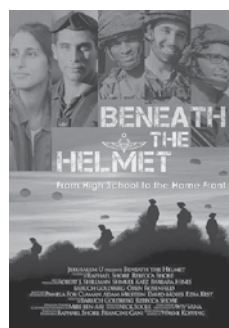
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Director:  
Micah Smith  
Documentary  
2019, Israel  
60 minutes  
Hebrew with  
English subtitles

#### Sustainable Nation Thursday, October 15, 6 PM

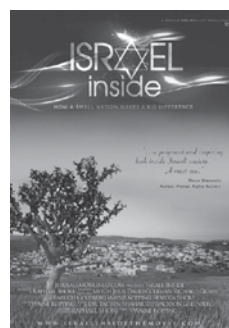
Post film discussion with Producer/Writer,  
Rebecca Shore on Sunday, October 18, 2:00 PM  
*Sustainable Nation*, a compelling documentary, follows  
three individuals who are bringing innovative and  
sustainable water solutions developed in Israel to an  
increasingly thirsty planet.



Director:  
Wayne Kopping  
Documentary/Drama  
2014, Israel  
80 Minutes  
English, Hebrew

#### Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front Thursday, November 12, 6 PM

Post film discussion /time scheduled TBA  
Sunday, November 15  
*Beneath the Helmet: From High School to the Home Front*  
is a coming-of-age story. The film highlights five Israeli  
high school graduates who are drafted into the army to  
defend their country. Appeals to audiences of all ages, in  
particular teenagers and young adults.



Director:  
Wayne Kopping  
Documentary  
2011, Israel  
55 Minutes  
English

#### Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference Thursday, December 17, 6 PM

Post film discussion/time scheduled TBA  
Sunday, December 20  
*Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big  
Difference*, focuses on the human side behind Israel’s  
accomplishments, emphasizing the core character  
traits and deep-seated values that enable Israelis  
to succeed.

Film series is FREE.  
Suggested donation  
of \$18 supports JFNH  
Israel Committee  
programs.

### FREE Israel Film Series

All films premiere on Thursday afternoons at 6:00 PM and are available for streaming for 72 hours.  
ZOOM post film discussions are scheduled on Sunday afternoons, October 18, November 15, and December 20, 2020.  
The link and password for each film and ZOOM event link will be sent to all registered attendees by email by 4:00 PM  
on the (Thursday) streaming dates for each virtual film and the post film discussion event.

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ISRAEL FILM SERIES. Attendees must register no later than 2 pm on the Thursday film streaming date to receive the 4pm email viewing link.**

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Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



## Another First in Israel: Telemedicine for Women's Health

By Sharon Gelbach

If you thought fintech was cool, wait until you hear about femtech: cutting-edge, high-tech OB/GYN treatment. Originally devised keep patients and physicians safe during COVID, femtech will eventually bring first-rate OB/GYN care to women in developing countries.

In the just under a year since its opening, the ARC Innovation Center at Sheba Medical Center has been spearheading pioneering innovation in digital health — locally and in collaboration with other top medical centers globally. Last month, ARC@Sheba launched the world's very first Women's Health Innovation Center, directed by Dr. Avi Tsur, an OB/GYN and high-risk pregnancy expert, affiliated with Sheba's Josef Buchmann Gynecology and Maternity Center, directed by Professor Eyal Sivan. Having recently returned from a three-year stint at the prestigious Stanford Medical Center where he was a visiting clinical fellow and research fellow, Dr. Tsur says that the brand-new Women's Health Innovation Center will provide women from across the country with quality OB/GYN medical treatment via the latest high-tech solutions employing artificial intelligence, telemedicine, precision medicine and more.

"Providing remote health care with the use of telemedicine will enable us to ensure the safety of our patients in the era of COVID-19 — but regardless, it's certainly better for a woman to monitor herself at home for 10 minutes than to have to wait for four hours in the clinic," said Dr. Tsur. "In terms of our long-term goals, it will enable also women who live at a distance to be able to benefit from our treatment."

With the help of the very latest, cutting-edge technologies for remote health care, the center will deal with various categories of women's health, including high-risk pregnancies, postpartum follow-up, contraception, IVF, gynecological oncology and more.

At the event launching the center, Dr. Tsur presented many of the new technologies, explaining how his team integrates solutions developed by different startups. "For each specific field, we first perform a pilot study to see how the technology plays out in the clinical setting. Depending on the circumstances, patients can now have part of all of their 'visits' performed from home."

Many doctors have mixed feelings



Dr. Tsur during COVID-19 C-section. "Even in the era of maternal-fetal telemedicine, some things will still need to be done in person."

about treating patients remotely, and Dr. Tsur is no exception. "Telemedicine creates new challenges because part of our clinical skill depends on being in the same room with the patient. I think that we need to leverage the new technology so as to overcome the associated disadvantages," he said, clarifying that at the end of the day, it's about providing patients with the best treatment. "Clearly, we will never compromise; telemedicine is meant to enhance treatment; when the need arises, we will convert a telemedicine visit to a real visit."

Dr. Tsur conveys his excitement with the center's many new projects, devising solutions to new and old problems. One example: an AI model that Dr. Tsur developed together with Dvir Aran, a data scientist (PhD) from the University of California, San Francisco, to predict shoulder dystopia in labor. "Until now, this potentially life-threatening complication was considered unpredictable, but we developed a technological model to predict it. We were then able to validate that model with our ongoing collaboration with Stanford, the University of Texas, and UCSF."

According to Dr. Tsur, that collaboration doesn't end there. "We can also develop various high-tech solutions one step further using AI, extended reality and other tools. That's the most exciting aspect of collaboration."

At the launching event of the Women's Health Innovation Center, Dr. Tsur described the various high-tech gadgets that enable women with high-risk pregnancies the luxury of staying at home to self-monitor. "Remote monitoring of vital signs, blood count- and glucose monitoring, fetal monitoring and sonographic evaluation all reduce the need for high-risk and post-date pregnant women to attend the clinic in person, while the situation is constantly assessed either by AI methods or by an obstetrician who is online," he said.

One of the inherent challenges is responding to a deceleration in fetal heart-

beat when the woman is not in a hospital setting. "But that is no different from a situation where a woman would be monitored at an outpatient clinic," Dr. Tsur pointed out. In both instances she would be rushed to the hospital if the need arose.

Another pilot study involves discharging women about eight hours after delivery, instead of the usual 36 to 48 hours. The pilot is investigating a comprehensive telemedicine solution aimed at replacing hospitalization with at-home follow up and early detection of the most common postpartum complications—surgical wound infection, thromboembolic complications, breastfeeding difficulties, and postpartum depression.

The concept of telemedicine is generally thought of as a diagnostic tool between the physician and the patient. But one of Dr. Tsur's pilots involves a system that enables image-sharing between physicians. Thus, an obstetrician performing an ultrasound in one venue can share the imaging online, in real time, with top experts anywhere in the world, who can then offer guidance, such as for better positioning and the like.

Plans are in the pipeline for various other projects, including gynecological oncology remote evaluation, a pilot to be led by Dr. Jacob Korach employing an AI-enabled device for self-examination. The success of these pilots will determine the use of these technologies also in developing countries where women lack access to first-rate medical care.

## Israel Innovates with Water

By Evelyn Miller

This year, New Hampshire has experienced extreme drought, and my brown lawn is a testament to that condition. Yet, I still look out and see trees, my tomato plants were thriving in the heat, and my pond still has water in it at a shockingly low level. Now, imagine living in a land where there is almost no natural water, and a population of 8.5 million people: Yes, you guessed it, I am talking about the land of Israel, once either a dry, hot, starved for water region, or in other parts, malaria-infested swamps.

History tells us the swamps were filled, the land was tilled, and the lack of water remained a problem. Over the years, Israelis would relentlessly attack this problem, searching for solutions to sus-

taining its ever-increasing population.

We went on a water tour several years ago, and were amazed to see the results of the Israeli innovative mind at work on the water problem. The Israelis produced the majority of their drinking water by an efficient and effective method of extracting potable water from sea water, called reverse osmosis. At the time there were six desalination plants on the coast. We visited the largest plant that produces pure, drinkable water for 3.5 million people daily.

The Kinneret, or Sea of Galilee, is the only body of fresh water in all of the Middle East. For a number of years, Israel had been faced with severe drought, and the Kinneret had dramatically shrunk in size. Just as Israel was planning a huge project of bringing sea water through enormous pipes to a planned

newly constructed desalination plant, the drought abated. The Kinneret again is full, and the water is distributed through international agreement to Israel, Jordan, and Syria. Unfortunately, international agreements sometimes get violated. North of the Kinneret in Syria and Jordan, many wells are being drilled to reach the ground water that supplies this body of fresh water. Hopefully, this situation will be resolved without the necessity of another conflict.

Because all water is so precious, and not evenly distributed around the country, Israel treats water as a national commodity. All water is owned by the state, and it is distributed at a fee. Water is expensive, so the public has been educated on water conservation techniques. In Jerusalem, where streets are covered with

*Water continued on page 22*



## Hadassah Looks Back on the Life and Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Michele Bank

On September 20, 2020, we lost the iconic Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG). As a lawyer, professor and the first Jewish female Justice of the Supreme Court, she was a staunch champion of justice, gender equality, inclusivity and individual dignity. Born in Brooklyn in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, her parents, Celia, a homemaker, and Nathan, a furrier who later worked in a men's clothing store, were both from immigrant families that escaped Eastern Europe. Her mother encouraged Ginsburg's independence and pushed her to excel. She instilled in her a love of reading and saved \$8,000 for her daughter's college education. RBG later said, "I have the good fortune of coming from a culture that prides learning, that thrives on arguing. I am tremendously fortunate to be part of that heritage."

Her identity as a Jew played a big role in her life. RBG was a life member of Hadassah, a gift from her mother-in-law. This fact made it especially exciting each year, for a group of Hadassah members and Associates from the Hadassah Attorneys Council. They gathered at the Supreme Court to observe for what is, for most, a professional highlight: being sworn in as Members of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ginsburg said that she wished she knew, as a teenager, about a letter written by Hadassah founder Henrietta Szold—



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, as depicted by Simmie Knox (Public Domain).

who was one of seven daughters—to Hyam Peretz, who offered to say Kaddish in Szold's stead following her mother's death. Szold said, "I understand how kind your offer is, but my mother would want me and my sisters to say the prayer." Ginsburg also was not allowed to say the mourner's prayer for her own mother when she died: She was told that as a woman, she could not recite Kaddish. The exclusion forever marked her relationship with religious Judaism.

Though not religiously observant, Ginsburg said that Jewish values informed her identity. Several works of art in her chambers, on the wall and on her desk, framed the biblical words from the Book of Deuteronomy, Tzedek, tzedek tirdof (Justice, justice you shall pursue).

"Being Jewish is part of what I am, just as being a woman is part of what I am," she once said, adding a caveat: "I can't say that I decide cases one way or another because of my Jewish heritage." In addition to the art, a silver mezuzah adorned her door.

RBG also considered one of her "big achievements"—with the aid of Justice Stephen Breyer, who is also Jewish—was to get the court not to hear cases on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, a practice that continues to this day. Ginsburg saw being a Jew as having a place in society in which you are always reminded you are an outsider. During an interview she said, "It makes you empathetic to other people who are not insiders, who are outsiders."

Behind the scenes, she tried in small ways to make the court more hospitable to Jews. Several Orthodox Jewish lawyers had complained that a certificate issued by the court read "In the Year of Our Lord." For Jews, explicitly framing the calendar year as Christian was offensive. Ginsburg successfully urged the court to excise it.

Even as a young girl, Ginsburg wondered why boys had a bar mitzvah at age 13, while "there was no comparable ceremony for me," a struggle that may have shaped her into the gender equality advocate she was. Published in 1946 in her synagogue's bulletin is an essay on the Holocaust, written by Ginsburg, a little over a year after Bergen-Belsen was liberated. It reveals the deep impact the

Holocaust made on her, and her humanity, at an early age:

### One People

*The war has left a bloody trail and many deep wounds not too easily healed. Many people have been left with scars that take a long time to pass away. We must never forget the horrors which our brethren were subjected to in Bergen-Belsen and other Nazi concentration camps. Then, too, we must try hard to understand that for righteous people hate and prejudice are neither good occupations nor fit companions. Rabbi Alfred Bettelheim once said: "Prejudice saves us a painful trouble, the trouble of thinking." In our beloved land families were not scattered, communities not erased nor our nation destroyed by the ravages of the World War.*

*Yet, dare we be at ease? We are part of a world whose unity has been almost completely shattered. No one can feel free from danger and destruction until the many torn threads of civilization are bound together again. We cannot feel safer until every nation, regardless of weapons or power, will meet together in good faith, the people worthy of mutual association.*

*There can be a happy world and there will be once again, when men create a strong bond towards one another, a bond unbreakable by a studied prejudice or a passing circumstance. Then and only then shall we have a world built on the foundation of the Fatherhood of God and whose structure is the Brotherhood of Man.*

### Water *continued from page 21*

centuries old cobble stone, water leaks are first detected by high water bills. The Israelis then invented a way to use sonar to determine where the leak was and then inject a liquid material that would ooze through the pipe, harden, and fix the leaky pipe all without having to tear-

up the cobblestone streets.

Because water is so precious and expensive, it is not economical nor available to use for farming irrigation. Strapped for water, a kibbutz played with ancient irrigation canals, sprinkler systems, and finally hoses with pin holes

to release water next to the plant roots. Today, this drip method minimizes evaporation of water while fully meeting the needs of the plant. The film Sustainable Nation shows how a young Kibbutznik took this drip method a step further by the use of probes on the plants, and in the soil, and hooking the data to computers to determine the plants need for water, fertilizer, and pesticide.

In the extreme desert, drinking water is too expensive a commodity to use in agriculture. Innovative Israel came up with a method of cleansing waste water to an almost drinkable state. This water is used to for crops and as result, has expanded all farming throughout Israel, to the degree that they produce all of their own food, plus export to other countries.

Finally, in our Covid-19 world, Israel

again is innovating. As of this writing, there have been new disturbing outbreaks. To determine quickly where the source of the outbreaks may be coming from, it was decided to test the wastewater around the country first, then when Covid is detected, a team can go in and test individuals quickly. The Dutch and the Israelis are using this wastewater Covid detection now.

Water is a precious commodity. 25% of the world's population lacks good, safe drinking water. 57% of the world population does not treat its wastewater, and it is used for agricultural purposes. Israel has innovated, to solve its water scarcity problem. Today, these innovations are being used in other parts of the world to solve their water problems.

I find Israel's innovative spirit exciting. I hope you do, too!

Keeping you connected



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## Temple Israel of Portsmouth: A Word on the Graffiti Incident

By *Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman*

Dear Friends,

I am sorry to let you know about some disturbing graffiti that appeared yesterday morning across the street from our synagogue on the Jersey barriers in front of The Cure restaurant. The graffiti mentioned Governor Sununu with a Nazi salute, and displayed two swastikas. Upon discovery in the morning, officials from the city's Dept. of Public Works were immediately dispatched and painted over the graffiti. Additionally, word went out on the (un)Official City of Portsmouth Facebook page and several community members immediately volunteered to meet at the site and paint over the hateful messages. As the day progressed, we learned that several other town sites had been defaced with graffiti carrying a variety of political messages. It is unclear if these are all linked, however what is clear

is that the Town of Portsmouth and its residents will not tolerate such hateful messaging or the defacing of property.

We are living through very disturbing times and it is natural to react with fear and concern. However, there are at least two stories here. One is the story of hateful messaging created by a few people, meant to confuse, threaten, and provoke. The other story, however, belongs to the town of Portsmouth and its residents, who refuse to allow such words and images to remain, and who rallied with immediate support and condemnation of these acts.

We all dream of the day when all our voices will be unified in a single chorus of respect for our fellow human beings. Until then, let us be heartened by all efforts to create the world we wish to see, through the acts of our hands. Thank you city of Portsmouth, and Facebook friends.



*Rabba Kaya standing before the Jersey Barriers, with a clean coat of paint.*

## JCPA Reiterates Statements on the Need for Civil Discourse and Condemnation of White Supremacy

By *the Jewish Council for Public Affairs*

New York, NY — In the current political environment, marked by extreme polarization and inflammatory rhetoric, JCPA is sharing our 2016 Statement on Civility Around Elections, as well as excerpts from our 2018 Resolution on White Supremacy. JCPA calls on all candidates to clearly and publicly reject and condemn white supremacy, and to ensure the safety and security of everyone in the United States, in both speech and in deed.

### JCPA Civility Statement Around Elections (2016)

We, as Americans, enjoy a rich tradition of political discourse, ideological diversity, and debate. This diversity can be a durable source of strength. A vigorous exchange of ideas featuring different perspectives allows us to experiment with

varied approaches and arrive at effective public policy solutions that help improve the lives of us all. Held in a spirit of respect, this exchange can allow us to find common ground when warranted and foster a more united America.

However, at times, particularly during elections, political discourse can become needlessly acrimonious and undermine the spirit of engagement and citizenship among Americans. Such discord can pull us apart and make it more, not less, difficult to find common ground or even maintain neighborly relations. Moreover, shrill political discussion can cross the line, and spread intolerance and bigotry. Especially during elections, when divisions are most pronounced, we must be vigilant in preventing political discourse from drawing on deep-seated resentment and intolerance.

We call upon all candidates running for elected office, as well as all Americans, to engage during this election sea-

son in a thoughtful, respectful, and civil discussion over the future direction of this country. We strive to make our politics represent the best of our American values -- free thought, mutual respect, and civic engagement.

### JCPA Resolution on White Supremacy (2018)

Along with communities of color, many Jewish communities are main targets of white nationalist rhetoric and activity...The Jewish Council for Public Affairs:

- Rejects white supremacy and all other forms of bigotry, in consonance with the traditional Jewish belief that people of all ethnicities and creeds are created be-tzelem Elohim, in the Image of God;
- Affirms the importance of exposing and rejecting the hateful message of white supremacists, including the

alt-right, whenever they appear in our communities;

- Affirms its obligation to protect and support all targets of white supremacist harassment and attacks; and
- Recognizes that all persons must be afforded the rights guaranteed to all residents of the United States under the law, while also affirming our obligation to oppose white supremacists' hateful messages and deny them platforms to the extent consistent with the law."

*The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the national hub of the community relations network, representing 125 local Jewish community relations councils (JCRCs) and 16 national Jewish agencies, including the four main denominations of American Judaism. It advocates for a just and pluralistic American society, Israel's quest for peace and security, and human rights around the world.*

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# Recent Events

## Simon Wiesenthal Center Releases Latest Report Detailing Origins of QAnon: From Fringe Conspiracy Theory to Mainstream Politics

By the Simon Wiesenthal Center

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) is releasing a special 11-page report detailing the origins of QAnon; what about this conspiracy is new, how much support QAnon really has, incidents sparked by Qanon; politicians who support it, and the future of QAnon.

Just as anti-Semitism and Jew-hatred have been around for thousands of years, QAnon: From Fringe Conspiracy to Mainstream Politics highlights the staying power of pernicious and lurid conspiracy theories spawned by fertile imagi-

nations and nurtured by people's fears.

As this report attests, there is very little original about QAnon's conspiratorial core. The Rothschilds have been accused of controlling banks for hundreds of years. Every decent person should be concerned about pedophilia and child sex trafficking. That they might be true despite no corroborating evidence, could and has motivated some people to act violently. Echoes of the baseless but disastrous historic blood libel against the Jewish people resound.

In the leadup to the 2020 elections, we urge all elected officials to review this re-



port. Whatever their affiliations, they should focus their efforts to deal with the real challenges besetting our nation and denounce, not support, fear-mongers, and conspiracy peddlers.

For further information, please email Michele Alkin, Director of Global Communications at [malkin@wiesenthal.com](mailto:malkin@wiesenthal.com), or call at 310-739-8063; join the Center on Facebook, or follow @simonwiesenthal for news updates sent directly to your Twitter feed.

*The Simon Wiesenthal Center is an international Jewish human rights organization numbering over 400,000 members. It holds consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the OAS and the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO).*

## Hadassah Programs From Home

By Michele Bank

Hadassah is working hard to keep its members engaged during this pandemic's new normal of being "at home."

There are many engaging online programs from which to choose. Resilience and Relaxation with Rebecca is offered Tuesdays at 4 PM and Thursdays at 1:30 PM. Hadassah @ Home Online has a wide variety of prerecorded videos on the topics of Hadassah Magazine Discussions, Covid-19 Medical Updates, Israel and Zionism, Health and Wellness, and Culture and History. EVOLVE Ha-

dassah is the young women's network. Also, there is a series of ongoing online programs. The first one is a guided yoga video with introductory stretches. Hadassah Magazine will have a live online discussion on November 18 at 8 PM. The topic will be How Genealogy Became the Great Jewish Pastime. Interested members should register ahead of time either through the link sent in your Hadassah emails or go to [www.hadassah.org/member-engagement.html](http://www.hadassah.org/member-engagement.html).

For more information about Hadassah, please contact [Michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:Michele.bank@gmail.com).

## Israeli American-Council's Statement on Facebook's New Holocaust Denial Policy

Los Angeles, CA - The Israeli-American Council (IAC) applauds the new Facebook policy banning posts that deny or distort the Holocaust. This is an important step in the ongoing battle to fight

for the truth and combat antisemitism and hate on social networks. We call on all social media platforms to follow Facebook's example and join the fight against antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

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Candlelit makeshift memorial on the steps of the US Supreme Court following the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. (Photo Credit: Ben J / Public Domain / Wikimedia Commons)

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# Recent Events

## Cantors and Black Music Ministers from Around the World Release New Video – “Voices for Change” with Legendary “Total Praise” Composer Richard Smallwood

By Cantors Assembly

In an effort to promote peace through harmony, more than 100 faith leaders came together to produce an interfaith, multiracial virtual video that unites the voices of Black and Jewish prayer leaders from around the world. The Cantors Assembly, an international membership group of Jewish Clergy, came up with the idea for the “Voices for Change” video as a way to build bridges among the Black and Jewish communities through music following the murder of George Floyd by police violence in May.

The song “Total Praise” – written by African American gospel artist Richard Smallwood – was sung individually by a group of Cantors and Black prayer leaders and integrated into a 3 ½ minute video that will be used to promote peaceful healing while simultaneously benefiting music-related scholarships for the Afro-American Music Institute. The musical piece, Total Praise, is based on Psalm 121 and is a well-known anthem to many in the Black community. The Grammy-award winning Mr. Smallwood, who believes in the promise of this project as to lend his talents, served as conductor.

“I am honored and humbled to be a part of this amazing collaboration. To direct my composition, Total Praise, that features my Jewish and African American brothers and sisters standing together in solidarity is something of which I am immensely proud,” said Mr. Smallwood. “I pray that this will help to inspire, encourage and bring healing to all people everywhere.”

The song “Total Praise” was originally composed in 1996 and promoted faith and healing. “We can all lean in on faith and music to heal,” said Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro, immediate past president of the Cantors Assembly and who thought of the idea. Hazzan, the Hebrew word for Cantor, literally translates as “visionary” and is ordained as a fully functioning Clergy person of the synagogue. In addition to leading worship services, Cantors perform all life cycle events, teach, counsel, do pastoral work, and use music and prayer to bring people close.

“We believe in the power of music to elevate and transform, so that people



of all ages will feel more deeply connected to one another, to God and to their own sense of purpose,” said Pomerantz-Boro.

Eliezer Katzoff of Stormport Productions served as video producer to create the video with voices from people in the United States, Canada, Uruguay and Israel.

This is believed to be the first time that Jewish and Black music ministers have come together for a collaborative video production. Pastor Eric Manning of Charleston, S.C., and Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of Pittsburgh, Pa., will introduce the musical piece with a brief discussion about why faith is now more important than ever. Being able to demonstrate genuine love for one another, in the fashion of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who denounced in 1963 the Soviet Union’s treatment of its Jewish population by restating that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The video highlighting voices for change will be shared on various social media platforms and can also be viewed on the Cantors Assembly website and its Facebook page.

Members of all faith groups are asked to share in the spirit of this video and to consider making a donation to

support the Afro-American Music Institute (AAMI) which has several scholarship funds that provides musical opportunities for young Black musicians as well as residents living in senior centers. The scholarship for AAMI will specifically benefit the Boys’ Choir and provide programming for seniors. To donate to the Afro-American Music Institute, please go to [www.afroamericanmusic.org/scholarships](http://www.afroamericanmusic.org/scholarships).

“We want to show solidarity and support with our Black brothers and sisters and believe our voices can be used to create positive change in the world. Music is more important than ever,” said Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers, who has served as the Rabbi and Cantor for the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh since the summer of 2017. Myers, an active member of the Cantors Assembly, also previously served on its Executive Council.

“Music has a way of bringing different communities together, providing healing and encouragement to communities that had suffered trauma,” said Reverend Eric Manning, pastor of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. “With our communities coming together to sing total praise, we celebrate our ‘oneness,’ the fact that there is more that unites us than divides us and that our combined histories are

interwoven together.”

As background, within days of the Oct. 27 attack at Tree of Life which killed 11 worshippers, Pastor Manning (whose congregation experienced its own tragedy in 2015 with the murder of nine worshippers) reached out to Rabbi Myers and the two have since become friends, continuing to inspire and provide strength to one another. The two faith leaders—Rev. Manning and Rabbi Myers—introduce the “Total Praise” ensemble video which is followed by a pre-recorded conversation on issues of faith, race and actions needed to forge better relationships.

### About the Cantors Assembly

The Cantors Assembly promotes the profession of the Cantorate, serving its 650 members and their congregations by supporting colleagues in their roles as vibrant, engaging, vital clergy and musical leaders. It offers its members opportunities for mentorship, professional development and personal growth, and is affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti movement, serving congregations from across the denominational spectrum. It seeks to ensure that its members are fully prepared to lead synagogues and the whole Jewish community through an ever-evolving musical and spiritual landscape.



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