

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 42, Number 4

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Kislev-Tevet-Shevat 5782



CELEBRATIONS & SIMCHAS



The author with her MOMentum friends.

Why I Give to JFNH

By Debbie DePasse

When thinking about why I donate to JFNH, I thought about the many opportunities that JFNH has provided to me and my family through the years. I grew up in New Hampshire, and although I have lived in other states, and even in another country, I moved back to New Hampshire with my husband in 2003, and we have since called this state our home.

Some of the areas in which we've lived have had a larger population of Jews than here in NH — there, it was easy to walk down the street, and not only see Christmas lights in December, but also menorahs glowing in the windows. Here in NH, you may have to look a bit harder to find that. I have always said that to live a Jewish life in NH, you have to sometimes take more purposeful actions. For example, we have to go out of our way to find foods that are kosher for Passover. Our kids don't automatically have Rosh Hashanah off from school. Local businesses in NH aren't often closed for Yom Kippur.

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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUPER SUNDAY TELETHON
December 12th
11AM - 1PM

Klezmer Music
Cooking demonstration
Kahoot Trivia Game
Catch up with past Shlichim

YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A SUPERHERO FOR JEWISH NEW HAMPSHIRE. SIMPLY ANSWER THE CALL AND MAKE A POWERFUL DONATION TO FEDERATION. YOU'LL CHANGE LIVES AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY AT HOME, IN ISRAEL AND WHEREVER JEWS ARE IN NEED AROUND THE GLOBE—ALL WITHOUT EVEN DONNING A CAPE. ANSWER BY PHONE OR ONLINE. MAKE A SUPERHUMAN DIFFERENCE.

Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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273 South River Rd. Unit #5
Bedford, NH 03110
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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 Gary Atkins (Interim)
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org
Services: Fridays at 7 PM
Saturdays at 10 AM

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
4 Raymond Street, Nashua
Conservative, unaffiliated
(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.

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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.

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut please consult your rabbi.

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

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



December 3	3:54 PM
December 10	3:53 PM
December 17	3:55 PM
December 24	3:58 PM
December 31	4:03 PM
January 7	4:10 PM
January 14	4:18 PM
January 21	4:26 PM
January 28	4:35 PM

It's All Powered by You

When I was a young man working my way through college, I took a daytime job at a Wall Street brokerage firm as a statistician. One day, as I was eating lunch in the company cafeteria, my immediate supervisor sat down at my table. I thought I was in trouble -- I had taken some time to run off and see the ticker tape parade for John F. Kennedy -- but as it turned out, he had another motivation. As I sat across from him, he proceeded to tell me that, "Jews do not advance in this company."

I was shocked. After growing up in a Jewish neighborhood, and going to a very racially mixed high school, I had no idea that this kind of resentment could fester inside another human being. So I went to see my uncle Walter, who was my mentor. He laid out the facts about anti-semitism, and he told me stories of his own. He talked about a sign he read in the office of a senior executive that read, "No dogs, no Jews." His advice was to find another job in a more Jewish-friendly industry, and to make a commitment to fight antisemitism.

I took his advice. Over the years, I have been the president of three different congregations, along with being the chair of the Jewish Community Center in Margate, NJ. And now, as they say, my swan song will be serving as the chair of the Jewish Federation of NH. I have often mentioned how amazing and committed our board and staff are in helping to grow the Federation into a bigger and better statewide organization. We are achieving this every day though our Film Festival, our Israel Engagement and Education Committee, PJ

Ken Litvack

JFNH
Chair



library, the Holocaust Survivor Committee, the Anti-Semitism Committee, and so on. A new board member said to me, "It is amazing how much our small Federation can do," and they're right: we might be small in numbers, but we are large in commitment.

Bertha and I had an opportunity to meet some of the Momentum moms in Miami -- what an amazing group of young ladies. This is the kind of program that builds new leadership in the years ahead. We had a truly wonderful evening, topped off with most of the restaurant singing Hava Nagila -- Jews and non-Jews singing and dancing together. Other than that, as they say, what happens in Miami stays in Miami.

Over the last two years, I have served as co-chair of the campaign, along with my amazing co-chairs Judith Jolton and Tracy Richmond. Each year, we have seen the campaign exceed the budgeted line item. I am proud to say that all indications point to this happening again this year. As many of our ads say, it's all powered by you. Not only in giving, but in working, to help create a greater Jewish NH.

As we draw close to 2022, Bertha and I want to wish you and yours a happy and healthy new year. Am Yisrael Chai.

Finding The Spirit of Celebration

By Dinah Berch, JFNH Program Coordinator

My playlist is slowly shifting over from "Zombie Jamboree" and "Monster Mash" to Daveed Diggs' "A Puppy for Hanukkah" and Six13's "Arianukah." My kids' snacks mutate from leftover candy to donut muffins. The skeletons go back into the garage until next year and the blue and gold window clings come out. My kids are especially proud of their electric menorah that lives in their second floor window.

Yes, I'm "that mom" -- the one who (pre-Covid) went into the classrooms to read a book about the Jewish holiday of the season, complete with dreidels and gelt for everyone. My house is decorated.

I go all out for holidays, especially birthdays. I used to work for a nonprofit that had "spirit of celebration" as a core value, and needless to say, I was pretty good at that one. Fortunately, Judaism is big on celebrations. Our years are marked with festivals and holidays and so many wonderful reasons to get together, in person or virtually, and enjoy the foods and sounds and stories.

Sometimes, it's helpful to have a place to start: a holiday cheat sheet. If you're "that parent" this season, PJ Library has all the resources you'll need at the "Hanukkah Hub" at pjlibrary.org.

My current favorite book for explaining Chanukah is *Meet the Latkes* by Alan Silverberg. If you haven't met the

Finding The Spirit continued on page 5

How JFNH is Able to Continue This Important Work

As a lifelong New Hampshire resident, I often speak about how our Federation helped shape my Jewish identity. I've gone on about the different opportunities and programs I've taken part in since I was a child.

Since 1948, our Federation has provided NH residents with opportunities for our Jewish community. But how, after all this time, is JFNH able to continue this important work? It is through the generous support of Jewish community members like you. YOU allow us to continue providing these important programs and shaping Jewish lives in NH.

This year, Super Sunday -- the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's largest fundraising event of the year -- takes place on December 12th. So, when your phone rings, I ask that you please consider making a gift to JFNH. Just \$40 allows a NH child to receive a one-year subscription to PJ Library, \$100 allows Social Services to assist a struggling

Allyson Guertin

JFNH
Director



community member make ends meet through the end of the month, \$700 sends a child to a Jewish sleepaway camp for the first time. Your gift allows JFNH to create NH and Israel connections through our Shlichut program, Momentum, Israel Experience Grants and our Sister Cities, it provides learning and social opportunities to our seniors, entertainment through our Film Festival, support to NH Hebrew School, and so much more.

Your gift to our Annual Campaign helps ensure we can continue to work for the NH community for many more years to come.

JFNH Board Spotlight - Board Member of the Month: Roberta Gordenstein

Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm a New Englander through and through! I grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, lived in Connecticut most of my adult life, and retired to Rindge, New Hampshire. I taught in the Hartford Bilingual Program and after I got my Ph.D., I taught Spanish at Elms College in Chicopee, Mass. My husband and I fell in love with New Hampshire and retired here. He was a social studies teacher. We both did volunteer work for the American Federation of Teachers in Nicaragua, Uzbekistan, Romania, and other countries that were just becoming democratic. Unfortunately, he passed away last year and I'm still adjusting to my new life. I have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren but since they live in California and Arkansas, I don't get to see them as often as I'd like. I'm also a trustee of the Ingalls Memorial Library in Rindge, and a member of the Rindge Woman's Club, an organization that serves the community through scholarships and donations to the Scouts and other groups. I swim regularly at the YMCA. All these activities keep me busy!



Roberta Gordenstein

Why did you join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Board of Directors?

When Jeff Crocker asked if I'd be interested in serving on the JFNH Board, I was very excited to do so. One of the things that has been a constant in my life has been my commitment to Judaism. As a teen, I was involved in the Springfield JCC. Later I served as Sisterhood President and Temple Vice President in East Hartford, CT. I currently belong to Congregation Agudat Achim, a Conser-

Gordenstein continued on page 11

Statewide Calendar of Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are submitted weeks in advance of publication, and are subject to change, particularly during the pandemic. For information on format changes, re-scheduling, and so on, please contact the event's host.

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.

Wednesday, December 1

Hanukkah Musical Adventure

4:45PM -- 6:00PM Temple Israel Portsmouth
An interactive performance for kids of all ages by Carla Friend of Tkyia, featuring communal candle lighting, singing, menorah parade and sufganiyot. All are welcome: co-sponsored by PJ Library. Contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org Temple Israel Portsmouth is located at 200 State Street Portsmouth, NH

Thursday, December 2

Interfaith Candle Lighting

6:30PM-5:30PM Temple Israel Portsmouth
Please join Temple Israel, Portsmouth and members of the Portsmouth Ministerium in the temple's garden courtyard on the fifth night of Hanukkah to light candles in the "Hands of Hope" menorah. Contact Heather Tomlinson 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org <http://www.templeisraelnh.org> Temple Israel 200 State Street Portsmouth, NH

NH Interfaith Collaboration talks with Abenaki Spokespeople

7:00PM -- 8:PM, Zoom
The NH Interfaith Collaborative talks with Paul and Denise Pouliot, the spokespeople for the NH Abenaki. The collaborative focuses on issue of racism, diversity, and inclusion. This is a zoom event. Contact Dinah Chaitowitz dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com

Friday December 3

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:00PM-7:00PM Temple Israel Portsmouth
Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro joins Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman in a musical Hanukkah/Shabbat service. Engaging and fun for all ages. Contact Heather Tomlinson 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org <http://www.templeisraelnh.org> Temple Israel 200 State Street Portsmouth, NH

Betenu Hanukkah Service and Candle Lighting

7:00PM-8:30PM In person and Zoom event
Bring your Menorah to Betenu's community candle lighting service. Candles will be lit at 7:15 followed by services. There will be take out latkes with fixings and a gift swap for those there in person. Contact Betenu office for Zoom link. Elsa Conrad 603-886-1633 office@betenu.org <http://Betenu.org> Congregation Betenu 5 Northern Boulevard Amherst, NH

Shabbat and Chanukah Candle Lighting and Confirmation

7:15-8:40 In person and Zoom
Etz Hayim will host a Family Shabbat, 6th night of

chanukah, and confirmations for Shayna Adams and Emma Plater. Please bring your menorahs as we all light the candles together, celebrate Shabbat with our families and honor the milestone of confirmation for two members of our community. For a Zoom link please contact office@etzhayim.org Rtz Hayim 1 1/2 Hood Road Derry, NH

Friday and Saturday December 3 and 4

Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins

7PM
Written by Eric Kimmel and illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman. The text of this play was first published in 1985 in Cricket magazine for children and the book in 1989. Herschel has delighted children and adults since and has become a yearly read for Hanukkah in millions of households. Herschel of Ostropol (Ukraine), traveling by foot on the first night of Hanukkah, arrives in a darkened village. He had expected to enjoy the festive lights, food, and joy of Hanukkah, but instead is told Hanukkah cannot be celebrated because the local goblins didn't like it and forbid its celebration. The village Rabbi tells him the only way to break the spell is for someone to spend eight nights in the old, deserted synagogue up on the hill lighting the candles each night. On the last night the king of the goblins must light the candles himself. Herschel says, "I am not afraid" and sets off with just some hard-boiled eggs, a jar of pickles and a box of Hanukkah candles to match wits with the goblins. Please join us for this delightful adventure as Herschel meets the goblins and tries to bring Hanukkah back to the village. This play is appropriate for both children and adults and will have you laughing as Herschel plays dreidel with one of the goblins, frightens a flying goblin (actually flying on our stage) and meets the king of goblins. You won't want to miss this award-winning story and make it part of your family Hanukkah celebration.

Limited socially distanced seating at MCTP theater for those with proof of Covid vaccination and masked, or see it on live stream with your family at www.mctp.info All tickets or questions through www.mctp.info Manchester Community Theater 698 Beech Street Manchester, NH

Sponsored jointly by Temple Adath Yeshurun and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

Sunday December 5

Herschel and the Hanukkah Goblins

7PM
See information above for December 3 and 4

Donuts with Dinah

9AM – 10AM, Zoom
Join new program coordinator Dinah Berch for a virtual jelly donut muffin baking class over Zoom. Perfect for the last night of Chanukah! Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 x100 dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Betenu Adult Education

1:00PM-2:00PM Virtual Event
Adult education program led by Rav Giulia Fleishman. Discussion Title: Leaning into the Light: A journey through Jewish Metaphors of Light to Brighten our Chanukah Celebrations. Contact Giulia Fleishman 603-886-1633 office@betenu.org <http://Betenu.org>

Thursday, December 9

ADL Words to Action

7PM – 9PM Zoom

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is excited to welcome the ADL back for Words to Action. This program is approximately 1 1/2 hours and is for students in High School (Grades 9-12). The program is designed to help students increase their understanding of anti-Semitism and the way it manifests itself, including anti-Semitism that is fueled by anti-Israel sentiment; increase their awareness of incidents of anti-Semitism in their environment; improve their ability to address specific incidents of anti-Semitism and or anti-Israel bias and to select appropriate responses; develop and use a variety of preventive and reactive responses to challenge incidents of anti-Semitism and/or anti-Israel bias; increase their ability to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to address anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias; and enhance their leadership skills by developing a willingness, motivation and commitment to take personal action against anti-Semitism.

Whole group and break out rooms will be used to allow students the opportunity to share and discuss as well as reflect.

This program is for students only.

Contact Allyson Guertin 603-627-7679 allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org

Sunday, December 12

"Bringing Sports to the Masses"

9:30AM-11:30AM Live via Zoom
Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club invites you to join us. New England Patriots Former General Manager Patrick Sullivan founded Game Creek Video in 1993. Today Game Creek Video designs, builds and operates television production facilities for a wide list of clients including ESPN, FOX Sports NBC Sports, NESN, Madison Square Garden Network, NFL Network, NHL Network, NHL Network and MLB Network. Game Creek also provides video production facilities for CNN, ABC News and NBC News and virtually all presidential debates, the State of the Union, and the presidential inauguration. As President of Game Creek Video, Pat is responsible for all strategic planning and corporate sales. Contact Paul Moverman breakfast@snhjm.org <http://www.snhjm.org> Sponsor: The Southern New Hampshire Men's Club

Tuesday, December 14

Leaving Afghanistan: A Conversation with Dr. Barrett Ward

7:00PM-8:30PM Zoom
Please join us via Zoom for this special presentation. Register on the Temple Israel Portsmouth website calendar to receive the Zoom link. New Hampshire will be the new home for Afghan evacuees in the near future. Learning about the harrowing journey that many of these individuals and families would help our understanding of the difficult choices that need to be made in order to leave Afghanistan. The Tikun Olan Committee is hosting and evening conversation with Dr. Barrett Ward and his involvement in helping over 40 Afghans leave their country. This promises to be an educational and interesting conversation. About the speaker: Barrett Ward is from Plano, Texas. He was commissioned by an Amor Officer in the US Army in 2004 after graduating Texas Christian University. In 2009 he took command of an interrogation analysis company and served in Baghdad, Iraq for a year, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in a combat zone. In 2012 he began his PhD Studies in English Literature at the University of Texas at Austin and went on to teach at West Point and the United

States Air Force Academy. He is presently teaching at the Pingry School.

In late August 2021, Dr. Ward contacted one of his former students from West Point, Shabir Kabiri. As Kabul was being overtaken by the Taliban, Shabir indicated that he needed immediate assistance. Dr. Ward along with a small cohort of Shabir's West Point 2015 classmates, joined together to find a way to get Shabir, his family, and another West Point graduate, Naquib (and his family) out of Kabul. Dr. Ward will discuss the attempts made to provide Shabir, Naquib, and their families an escape route from the chaos in Kabul.

Following the presentation Dr. Ward will be happy to take questions from the audience. Contact Heather Tomlinson 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisrael.org <http://www.templeisraelnh.org>

Friday, December 17

Temple Israel Tot Shabbat with Rabba Kaya

5:00PM-5:30PM
Please join Temple Israel Portsmouth for a kid-friendly musical Shabbat experience led by Rabba Kaya in the Social Hall! Geared for children age 5 and under; all are welcome. Contact Temple Israel 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org

Sunday, December 19

Shallah Shabati Post Film Discussion

3PM – 4PM Zoom
Shallah Shabati streaming Sunday December 12-18
Post film Zoom Discussion with JFNH Saliach, Ra'anah de Haas and guest panel December 19 3PM
A 1964 Israeli comedy classic about the chaos of Israeli immigration/transit camp resettlement. Israel's most successful film in their history, follows Shallah's family flown with 49,000 Yemenite Jews in "Operation Magic Carpet" to Israel. Shallah wishes to provide for his family in a country barely providing for its citizens while absorbing refugees from Arab countries. This Golden Globe Award winner and nominee for an Academy Award/Best Foreign Film, put Israel on the international stage.

Friday, January 14

Temple Israel Tot Shabbat with Rabba Kaya

Please join Temple Israel Portsmouth for a kid-friendly musical Shabbat experience led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman in the Social Hall! Geared for children age 5 and under; all are welcome. Contact Temple Israel 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisrael.org

Betenu Tu B'shevat Seder

7:00PM-9:00PM Zoom
Annual Tu B'shevat Seder. Virtual event. Congregation Betenu 5 Northern Boulevard Amherst, NH. Please contact the Betenu office for more information. 603-886-1633 office@betenu.org <http://Betenu.org> Sponsor: Congregation Betenu

Sunday, January 30

KALEIDOSCOPE Workshop Via Zoom

7:00PM-8:30PM Zoom
Kaleidoscope is a narrative-arts driven initiative that was sparked by a desire to highlight the stories of Jews of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, observance levels, and interfaith experiences. Join the Kaleidoscope cast for an evening of finely crafted monologues as we explore the deeply personal intersections between racial and ethnic diversity and the Jewish experience. Contact Allyson Guertin Allyson.Guertin@jewishnh.org Sponsor: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

Federation Voices

Finding The Spirit *continued from page 3*

Latke Family and heard about the mega-bees and tater tyrants, I strongly recommend it. I often return to a few childhood favorites as well: *A Chanukah Story for Night Number Three* and *All of a Kind Family Hanukkah*. The National Geographic Kids “Holidays Around the World” series has a nice *Celebrate Hanukkah* edition as well, perfect for school libraries.

If your kids like cartoons and TV as much as mine, I recommend “The Chanukah Shaboom! Special – Great Miracles” on YouTube. This 10-minute cartoon features the Plony family and “Sparks” Gabi and Rafi as they try to fix the world with an epic Chanukah party.

I love all the Chanukah craft ideas on Pinterest. I really want to try and make a pool noodle menorah this year. There are some great ideas for using recycled materials to make menorahs: toilet paper rolls or egg cartons or even paper plates and clothespins. For Chanukah cards try painting your children’s hands

and using the fingers as the candles for a cute handprint menorah.

Where I struggle is with games that are interesting enough to separate my kids from their tablets. This year I might try the “Chanukah Chocolate Gelt Challenge”. Here’s how you play: Unwrap one piece of chocolate Chanukah gelt per player. Each player tips their head back and places the gelt on their forehead. Each player must get the gelt into their mouth WITHOUT using their hands. If the gelt falls on the floor, they start over from their forehead. The first one who gets the gelt into their mouth is the winner!

We might also try a version of musical chairs that involves hiding thousands of dreidels and then having my kids try to find them before the music stops. The winner is the child with the most dreidels at the end of the music. The loser is my husband, who will be finding (and likely stepping on) dreidels for the rest of the year.

If you have a large group, try playing “Maccabees.” Think Capture the Flag

meets Freeze Tag — two teams, each with a bottle of “olive oil” that they must protect. If you get tagged by the other team, you’re frozen until one of your teammate rescues you. First team to find the other team’s oil and bring it safely to their “temple” wins! But careful – if you break or spill the olive oil, the other team wins.

For a little “spirit of giving” try “dreideling” a neighbor or friend! Leave a small bag on their doorstep with a few dreidels, some chocolate gelt and the instructions for playing dreidel, with a sign that reads “You’ve been dreideled!”

I’ve always found it special that Chanukah comes in the winter when we really need that extra light – but then Chanukah ends and we still have December and January and February and – at least, in New Hampshire — March, before the snow melts. So, this year I’m hoping to add the Ninth Night of Chanukah, the Shamash Night, to help add a little more light into the world. On the ninth night of Chanukah – this year that would be

December 6th –light only the Shamash. Celebrate Shamash Night by doing nice things to honor the helpers in your life, whether that’s a grandparent or neighbor or maybe first responders. Leave a water bottle for the mailman. Order some pizzas for the local fire department (but call first to check on local Covid protocols). Send a large container of coffee to the school office. Leave compliment cards on their car. Take the time to say thank you.

And as Chanukah winds to a close, rather than getting depressed about the doom and gloom of New Hampshire winter, I’m going to find the next reason to celebrate: Tu B’shvat! I’m not great at keeping plants alive indoors – in fact, I’d go so far as to say that I have a black thumb. But throwing a birthday party for the trees, now that’s something I can do. Watch the JFNH Community Calendar and Email blasts for Tu B’shvat seders, fruit mandalas, “Green Thumb” training and more.

Happy Chanukah, and happy celebrating!

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Why I Give *continued from page 1*

And come December, it is more common for someone here to wish you a “merry Christmas” than it is to hear a “happy holidays,” much less a “happy Hanukkah.”

Thankfully, I found a community in the Jewish Federation of NH many years ago, when my children were very young. Through JFNH, I met other Jewish families, and was fortunate to be involved in the programs JFNH offered. My husband and I had started the first steps in providing our children with a Jewish identity, so it was important to us that we continue to enhance the ways in which we were providing our kids with a strong cultural and religious background. Our children received Jewish books through PJ Library and then, when they were older, through PJ Our Way. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire supports PJ Library, PJ Our Way, and also provides programs and activities for babies, toddlers and preschoolers throughout the state, with the Early Education Initiative.

Our family joined a synagogue, and we

enrolled our kids in Hebrew school. We encouraged our children to go to Jewish summer camp, as well, which has been such an amazing experience for our kids, and they are looking forward to next summer when they get to go back. JFNH financially supports the Hebrew Schools throughout the state, and also provides campership grants to children attending their first time at a Jewish overnight camp. The money that JFNH receives from donations goes to help fund these and many other programs.

I would like to share the mission statement of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire:

Promoting Jewish continuity by enhancing and expanding a connected and vibrant Jewish community in New Hampshire, Israel, and around the world.

I feel that JFNH is doing an incredible job in meeting these goals. What stands out to me, with this mission statement, is the concept of Jewish continuity. I want a

Jewish future for my children and my children’s children, and I think this is a desire that likely resonates with all of us. I give because I want to be part of a vibrant Jewish community in NH, and I want the Jewish community here to be growing and thriving in the future.

Our connection to Israel keeps on growing as well. JFNH has wonderful Israel Education and Engagement program opportunities, which keep us close to Israeli events and culture. In addition, our community has been lucky to have amazing Schlichim (Israeli emissaries) throughout the past several years. Our current Shaliach, Ra’anán de Haas, is creating programs for adults and children, where he will share his love of Israel with all of us in NH.

I am also fortunate enough to be part of the MOMentum program. We have a great group of NH moms who are planning to travel to Israel together in May 2022. While in Israel, we will not only be able to experience the beautiful land of Israel, but we will also learn together—each day, a different Jewish value—and we will plan to bring back what we learn to our families,

to incorporate these Jewish values into our daily lives. Our group has been getting together on a monthly basis for over a year. I can already tell that the women I’ve met through this program will be my friends for life. JFNH has brought us together. These opportunities would not exist if JFNH did not have the funds to support these programs. I give so that our Jewish experience can be enhanced through these programs and opportunities.

When thinking about why I choose to donate to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, I wanted to express how I have been personally impacted by the work, and the programs, that JFNH offers. There are ways that JFNH has, or will, impact each of us, many of which I had not yet mentioned, such as Seniors Forever Young, fighting antisemitism, NH Jewish Film Festival, social work support, and more. It is your financial support that will allow the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire to continue to provide these programs and services. Please join me in supporting this amazing organization with your donation.



This Chanukah, serve an extra helping of Thanks

This year, Chanukah begins only a few days after Thanksgiving. Both holidays are about gratitude and giving. So as you plan your holiday meal, please give to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Even a small donation to our Annual Campaign helps to nurture feelings of Jewish identity and pride during the holiday season and all year long. Your generosity, volunteerism and passion empower Federation to improve thousands of lives in New Hampshire and aspire to leave no community member behind.

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JFNH Israel Engagement and Education Sponsorship Program Opportunities

Jewish Federation’s signature Israel Engagement and Education Committee is dedicated to its mission to engage, educate and connect New Hampshire’s Jewish community to Israel and our brethren in the Jewish State. We accomplish our ‘Spotlight on Israel’ pursuit by presenting compelling Israel themed programs throughout the year to our statewide NH community.

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www.jewishnh.org

A Kaleidoscope of Jewish Identity!

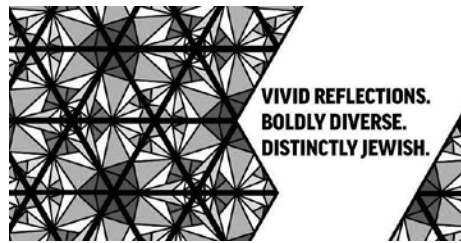
By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

Get ready for a hip, bold, musical, poetic, and memorable experience about being different, being the same, and all the colors of Jewish.

Be prepared to be entertained, excited, challenged, and rewarded. Thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous JFNH member, the Kaleidoscope Project is coming to JFNH (via Zoom) on January 30 at 7:00 pm. The workshop is a theatrical storytelling journey designed to explore diverse Jewish identities through monologues, stories, and spoken word. Space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible.

The workshop was created by Vanessa Hidary, an internationally acclaimed spoken-word artist who grew up on Manhattan's culturally diverse Upper West Side. Her experiences as a Mizrahi Jew of Syrian origin and close friendships with folks from different ethnic and religious backgrounds inspired her use of art to foster understanding between people from different backgrounds. Her popular poem addressing stereotypes, *The Hebrew Mamita*, went viral, garnering over half a million YouTube hits and igniting widespread discussion among Jews and non-Jews regarding the subject of identity. You can find articles about the poem and Ms. Hidary in *The Forward*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and on the website for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, among other places. In conjunction with Birthright Israel NEXT, Ms. Hidary also developed and directed the show *Monologues*, an evening of solo performances by 15 young adults, exploring their Jewish Identity as inspired by their 10-day trip through Israel. Her first collection of poems and stories, *The Last Kaiser Roll in the Bodega*, was published in 2011. She has appeared on "Def Poetry Jam" on HBO, NBC's 9/11 tribute Concert for America, at schools around the country, and at many other events and locations.

Kendell Pinkney is the equally accomplished associate producer of the project. He is a Brooklyn-based theatre writer who works and creates art at the intersection of race, religion, identity, and sacred text. Among other achievements, Mr. Pinkney is the founding Artistic Director of The Workshop, an arts and culture fellowship for JOCISM (Jews of Color, Indigenous Jews, Sephardi, and Mizrahi) artists and he also attends the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he is a



Wexner-Davidson Fellow in the Rabbinical Program.

I recently had the pleasure to chat about Kaleidoscope with Mr. Pinkney. He explained that the workshop is a series of well-crafted, pre-recorded monologues by Jews of Color and Jews of Sephardi and Mizrahi heritage sharing from their personal experiences of being "othered," while at the same time drawing strength from the unique expression of their identities. In the second part of the program, the audience is given prompts

to reflect on and write about their own experiences of being "othered," and there is time for some to share those experiences. Mr. Pinkney hopes the workshop will "help develop people's understanding that Jewish communities have been racially and ethnically diverse for a very long time." As he added, "Jews have lived in dozens of countries throughout the world for thousands of years and they often share many of the same physical characteristics as their neighbors."

The workshop is exciting, entertaining, challenging, and rewarding. In the same way that cast members have crafted deeply personal monologues about their experiences of being "othered," we hope that audience members will develop and share their personal histories.

The program will take place on Sunday, January 30, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to



8:30 p.m. There will be an additional program for teens on Sunday, February 6 at 5:00 p.m. Please register by using either the link below, or QR code provided above. The program is free but donations to the Federation are gratefully accepted.

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcvde2urz0sEt29wn_5KPk95SGbOCzMGpM4

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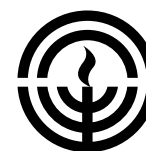
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Holidays in Israel

Winter is coming! Even before I arrived in New Hampshire, everyone was warning me about the New England weather. Coming from Israel—where the coldest it ever gets is about 50 Fahrenheit, and if it ever snows it's only once or twice a year in Jerusalem—I'm excited to experience a "real" winter. Hopefully, next time you hear from me, I'll still have that same enthusiasm.

This past month I started delivering my adult programming, and I continued with Hebrew schools. In addition to the "regular" programming, this past month was filled with *simchas* (celebrations) that represent the diversity of Israel. We started the month off celebrating Sigd, a holiday celebrated by the Ethiopian Jewish community. It's celebrated 50 days after Yom Kippur, and it symbolizes the acceptance of the Torah and the renewal of vows with God and praying for redemption. In recent years, Sigd was adopted by the state of Israel as an official holiday, giving the Ethiopian Jews the recognition they deserve.

The next holiday in Israel is one we all know about: Hanukkah. I'm sure you all know the story of Hanukkah and are aware of the many traditions the holiday has. Last month, I shared a bit of my own family's holiday tradition, and this month, I'd like to spotlight a cool tradition I've



Ra'anan de Haas
JFNH Shaliach

SPOTLIGHT
ON ISRAEL



recently learned about which will be joining my own Hanukkah tradition box: a friend of mine from Israel told me that



Snow in Israel!

every year for Hanukkah, his family gets together for a special day of "reconnection." They shut off all electronics, turn off the lights, and sit on the floor of their living room with just the light of the Menorah. They spend the whole time—until the candles go out—talking about their own miracles, reminiscing on the past year, sharing what amazing things happened to them, and discussing their hopes for the upcoming year. I think this is such a unique approach to remembering the Hanukkah miracle, and a perfect way to celebrate the holiday.

The next holiday celebrated in Israel might raise a few eyebrows. Even though Israel is a Jewish state, we have a large

Christian community of over 200,000 people, and they celebrate Christmas. Christmas in Israel is kind of like Hanukkah in the US. It's unique to walk through some of the mixed cities in Israel, like Haifa or Jaffa, and see the Christmas decorations next to the Hanukkah ones.

Israel is a diverse country, filled with people from numerous different backgrounds, religions, beliefs, and traditions, and what I love about this is that everybody has an opportunity to practice what they believe in. Obviously, Israel is far from perfect when it comes to accepting others, but I do believe that with every passing year, we're taking another step in the right direction.



Me and my family with a Christmas tree in Jaffa.

Please Join our Articles Club on Antisemitism and Diversity

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

You'll meet people, read an article or two, and share your ideas and experiences.

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Antisemitism and Diversity Committee is excited to announce the formation of a new Articles Club. What is that? It's when friends and acquaintances get

together – at this point, via Zoom – to talk about an article we've read, or a video we've watched. It's just like a book club, except it is less of a time commitment. We hope you will join us for this fun and simple way to talk about important topics, share your thoughts and ideas, and learn together. Here are the articles and videos we are starting with:

• **Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. -**

We will be reading an article about Jewish Pride by Ben Freeman. Mr. Freeman is a Jewish thinker and educator whose work is focused on Jewish identity, combating antisemitism, and raising awareness of the Holocaust. His first book, *Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People*, was released to great international acclaim in February 2021.

• **Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. -** We will be reading an article by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl discussing the risks and limitations of conceptualizing Jews as a race, and arguing for conceptualizing Jews as a family, for a number of reasons, including greater inclusion of diverse Jewry. Rabbi Buchdahl is the Senior Rabbi of Central Synagogue in New York City. Born in Korea to a Jewish American father and a Korean Buddhist mother, Rabbi Buchdahl is the first Asian American to be ordained as a cantor or rabbi in North America. She is also the first woman to lead Central's Reform congregation in its 180-year history.

• **Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. -**

We will be reading an article touching on antisemitism and anti-Zionism by historian Deborah Esther Lipstadt, who is perhaps best known for the unsuccessful libel suit filed against her by the Holocaust denier David Irving. Lipstadt won the case in 2000. Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University; author of the books *Denying the Holocaust* (1993), *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* (2005), *The Eichmann Trial* (2011), and *Antisemitism: Here and Now* (2019); and has been nominated by President Biden to be the United States Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism.

Come to all of them, or to just one or two. And bring a friend, a cup of tea, or a glass of wine, a nosh, and your ideas and experiences. If you are interested, please send an email to JFNH Board member Dina Michael Chaitowitz at dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com. Stayed tuned for further information about registration.

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The CHAI Challenge for Teens: Be an Ambassador for Tolerance

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

Last month, JFNH's Antisemitism and Diversity Committee announced its new CHAI (Combating Hate, Antisemitism, and Injustice) Challenge initiative for teens. This initiative challenges teens to participate, during this academic year, in three programs offered by JFNH — dealing with racism, antisemitism, and injustice in our society — and to become ambassadors for tolerance in their communities. We hope teens will encourage their friends — Jewish and non-Jewish — to participate, and that they will have fun, as well as learn about antisemitism and other forms of hate, and strategies for dealing with these troubling encounters. Here are the programs we are currently offering that qualify for the CHAI Challenge:

- **Thursday, December 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m.** - Words to Action with JFNH and the Anti-Defamation League. This program is approximately 1-1/2 hours, on Zoom. The program is designed to help students increase their understanding of antisemitism and the way it manifests itself; improve their ability to address specific incidents of antisemitism; and enhance their leadership skills by developing a willingness, motivation, and commitment to take personal action against antisemitism. Register with this link or use the QR code in the Words to Action advertisement. <https://forms.gle/1kxcSxsP7zFwGyYJ6>
- **Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm.** - JFNH's Articles Club will be reading

and discussing (via Zoom) an article about Jewish Pride by Ben Freeman. Mr. Freeman is a Jewish thinker and educator whose work is focused on Jewish identity, combating antisemitism, and raising awareness of the Holocaust. His first book, *Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People*, was released to great international acclaim in February 2021.

- **Sunday, February 6, 2022, 5:00 p.m.** - The Kaleidoscope project for teens. This workshop is a theatrical storytelling journey designed to explore diverse Jewish identities through monologues, stories, and spoken word. After a series of well-crafted, pre-recorded monologues by Jews of Color and Jews of Sephardi and Mizrahi heritage sharing from their personal experiences of being "othered," the audience will be given prompts to reflect on and write about their own experiences. While the pre-recorded monologues are about the experiences of ethnically diverse Jews, non-Jewish teens who have experienced being "othered" will find meaning in those stories and may share their own experiences during the sharing portion of the program.
- **Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** - JFNH's Articles Club will be reading and discussing (via Zoom) an article by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl about the risks and limitations of conceptualizing Jews as a race and arguing for conceptualizing Jews as a family — for a number of reasons, including greater inclusion of diverse Jewry. Rabbi Buchdahl is the Senior Rabbi of Central Synagogue in New

York City. Born in Korea to a Jewish American father and a Korean Buddhist mother, Rabbi Buchdahl is the first Asian American to be ordained as a cantor or rabbi in North America. She is also the first woman to lead Central's Reform congregation in its 180-year history.

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- **Sunday, March 27, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.** - A conversation for teens with New Hamp-

shire's Shaliach Ra'anán de Haas. The details of the program will be decided later, but the program is likely to involve a discussion of issues arising from diverse populations in Israel and comparisons with issues arising in the United States today. We hope this program can be a hybrid one — with an in-person gathering, including pizza, as well as a Zoom component for those who cannot make it to our Bedford office.

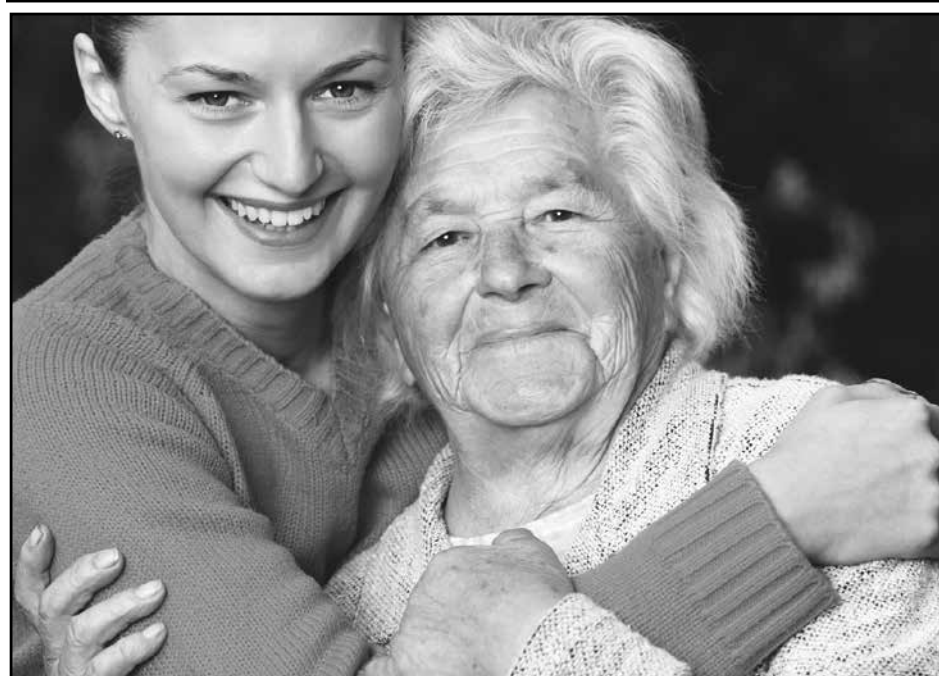
- **TikTok anyone?** - Create a TikTok video about antisemitism and the dangers of prejudice and intolerance.
- **Like to write?** - Write an article for *The Reporter* about antisemitism and the dangers of prejudice and intolerance.

Teens who complete the challenge during this academic year will receive a certificate of program completion and a gift certificate. More importantly, they will be leaders in the fight against antisemitism, hate, and injustice.

If you are interested in the CHAI Challenge, please email JFNH Board member Dina Michael Chaitowitz your name, age, and contact information at dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com. Stayed tuned for links to register.



Members of JFNH's new Holocaust Remembrance and Survivors Committee met on October 26, 2021 to plan events for International Holocaust Remembrance Day (1/27/22) and Yom HaShoah (4/27-4/28/22). In attendance at this meeting were (top row, from left to right) — Dinah Berch, JFNH's new Program Director; Dina Michael Chaitowitz, JFNH Board of Directors member; Michel F. Adler. (Middle row) Allyson Guertin, JFNH Director; Stephen M. Soreff, Board of Directors member; Elliot Eisenberg. (Bottom row) Ken Litvak, JFNH Board Chairperson; Ra'anán De-Has, Shaliach; and Celia Rabinowitz, Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Interim Director.



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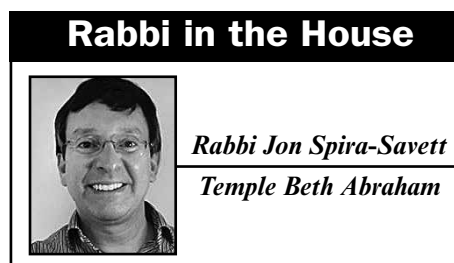
American Zionist

I have been a Zionist since I was a kid. I didn't become an American Zionist, though, until I was 22. That was when I decided not to make Aliyah and make my life in the State of Israel.

I was just back from a year in Israel as a college student. In Jerusalem, I was seeing myself a few years in the future as a Hebrew speaker, a soldier, a Masorti (Conservative) rabbi, and a member of Oz V'shalom, the religious peace movement. I came home and couldn't wait to go back. However, within a few weeks back on campus, immersed more than ever in my Hillel community, I realized how American I was feeling. I had the sudden realization that the only way I would fulfill my life was an American – an American Jew and probably an American rabbi. My great-grandparents came to America as a choice, and in flight from the czar's tyranny. I was born American – but at the age of 22 I made my choice to be an American.

And my Zionism changed, from future Israeli to American Zionist.

I want to argue that an American Jew-



ish Zionist is a Jew rooted in America. A first-class Zionist—not a consolation prize for not having the courage to make Aliyah. A full partner in the project of Zionism. A partner with a specific and essential role that is obviously different from the role of Israelis. My American Jewish Zionism is also a religious Jewish Zionism, and I realize that's not the case for everyone reading. But I hope my concepts are useful regardless of whether that specific profile fits.

These are some of my fundamental tenets as an American Jewish Zionist. This thinking is hardly my own, and I owe more than anyone Rabbi Donniel Hartman, leader of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

Israel is the original and ongoing land of the Jewish people. The claim is religious and historical. It may be complicated in terms of Palestinians and their claim, but the claim still stands without compromise. It's a fascinating dimension of Jewish life for the past 2,500 years that even during the times of a center in Eretz Yisrael, or a longing for it, there have been strong centers of Judaism outside the land. The fact that Jews like me affirmatively choose to live in America as members of Am Yisrael does not undermine Israel at all. One of our roles as American Zionists is to explain this to people around us – the uniqueness of Jewish peoplehood in Israel and America.

Zionism is a movement of moral and spiritual excellence. Rabbi Hartman put it this way in an address to the 2007 Reform movement biennial: "The birth of the State of Israel provided Judaism with an unprecedented opportunity of permeating and actively shaping all aspects of society. Whether in areas of political theory or economic policy, religious practice or ethical conduct, human rights or environmental care, hospitals or army bases, classrooms or courthouses - Israel is where Jewish values meet the road."

American Jewish Zionists should see ourselves as partners in Zionist excellence. Rabbi Hartman made two points about this in his 2007 talk. First, American Jews have unique intellectual and cultural contributions to make to Israel. If Israel is a unique lab for Jewish values, the American Jewish experience has been a longer and better-established lab around issues of religious freedom, minority-majority relationships, and ideological pluralism.

It is because we are in America that Jewish thinkers and leaders have had to formulate a Torah of concern for human beings and not just for Jews. A Torah of responsibility for the whole earth and not just the Jewish community. It is because of America that totalitarianism and technology forced Jewish thinking to ask questions about the ethics of power and the limits on human innovation. In the past few decades, Israeli and American Jewish thinkers have indeed become thought partners and innovators around all these issues.

Hence Rabbi Hartman's second point about the role of American Jewish Zionists as partners. He charged each of us to find that aspect of Israel and the Israeli striving for moral excellence that inspires us. It could be climate, or bio-ethics, or human rights, or aging... chances are the answer is a moral passion you already have here. Learn about its unique Israeli shape. Connect to the people who drive it and work on it there. Join those projects and institutions in any way that's available – by taking a role, by contributing or investing money, by advocacy.

It is as partners that we move from vicarious spectators, and from our own inferiority complex about not being Israeli, to an affirmative Jewish identity as American Zionists. Israel needs this kind of American Zionists. It's a responsibility, and it's work.

The responsibility and the work do not come without trouble. Indeed, Rabbi Hartman says what Israel and the Jewish people need from American Zionists often is for us to be "the troubled committed." We need to feel issues that trouble Israelis as our own issues. Sometimes we need to be more troubled than many Israelis are, and bring that to them.

But commitment first, as American Zionists. The troubled-ness of the non-committed, the non-Zionist, is not likely to make a difference on any contentious issue. Not in Israel and not here among the many people around us who purport to care about what happens in Israel but have no commitment to it.

Every year especially around Chanukah and around the Fourth of July, I reflect on my decision to embrace America and American Zionism. And I resolve to do both of those better, with more follow-through and more clarity to myself and as a teacher. For those of us in New Hampshire who will always be American, consider becoming a truly American Zionist.

Rabbi Jon serves Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. He is current president of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council and serves on the New Hampshire Commission for Holocaust and Genocide Education. Rabbi Jon is the creator of "Tov! A Podcast About 'The Good Place' and Jewish Ideas."

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TAY Sisterhood Membership Dinner and Woman of the Year

By Fran Short

October was a special month for TAY Sisterhood, as we had our annual Paid Up Member Dinner, once again by Zoom. For over 10 years, Linda Rockenmacher has chaired this lovely event, which features a different country each year, highlighting its cuisine and its Jewish history. This year, Argentina was the theme, and Linda and her committee cooked a wonderful meal with empanadas, rice, salmon, salad and a special desert imported from Argentina! Helping Linda with the cooking were Ruth Kleinfeld, Rona Zlokower, Ellie Rudnick, JoAnn Meyers, and Priscilla Malcolm, with Marilyn Cavanaugh and Brenda Schadick helped with the distribution. It was a very special evening!

One of the highlights of our Paid Up Dinner is the presentation of our Woman of the Year Award. This award is given to a woman who has demonstrated out-



standing service and commitment to our Temple and Sisterhood. This year's very worthy recipient was June Mittelmark. June is a long time TAY Sisterhood member and is currently serving as our Treasurer, though she is always ready to lend a hand wherever she is needed! June is

married to Bob Katchen (who has been a recipient of Brotherhood's Man of the Year). They have two sons, Aaron and Sam, a wonderful daughter in law, Allana, and, the apple of their eye, 18-month-old grandson, Everett. June has worked in commercial insurance for over 40

years, and she is currently the Underwriting Manager at Merchants Insurance in Bedford. She is also finishing her Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing, and has an art studio called JuneBug Art, where she works with fused glass creations and acrylic art. June is a very busy woman!



Youth Groups in Israel, by Ra'anana DeHaas – December 16, 7:00 PM at Etz Hayim

By Stephen Soreff

Ra'anana DeHaas, JFNH's Israeli Shaliach, will present "Youth Groups in Israel" on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry, NH. He will explain the uniqueness of Israeli youth groups and how they took part in the founding of Israel, and we will discuss how the various youth groups in Israel differ from the ones you might know in the US. Emphasis will be placed on how youth groups took a key part in the founding of Israel, and the role they played during the Holocaust. The talk will be held in person, with CDC protocols in place – that means seating is six feet apart, and masks are required.

This is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Pro-



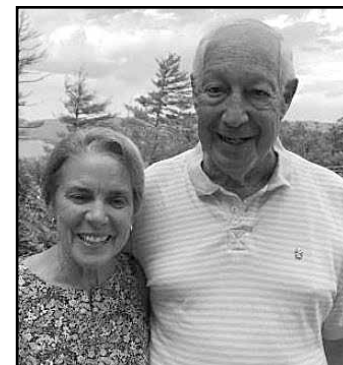
Ra'anana DeHaas, JFNH Israeli Shaliach

gram Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. This program is open to the public at no charge. Donations to the synagogue, to allow us to continue with these and other programs, are welcomed. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia Shem Tov Award Recipients: Naomi and Mark Goldman

On Friday, November 19, JFNH Board Member Harry Shepler presented the JFNH 2021 Shem Tov award to Temple B'nai Israel members Naomi and Mark Goldman. The TBI Board of Directors unanimously selected Naomi and Mark for their unwavering dedication to Temple B'nai Israel.

In 2006, Naomi and Mark joined TBI when they made the Lakes Region their permanent home. Mark became a member of the Board of Directors that same year and Naomi followed in 2009. Mark has served as an officer and financial secretary since 2009, expertly handling member dues tracking, as well as serving on the



Finance Committee. Naomi has served on the Ritual Committee, Membership Committee, chaired the Holiday Committee, as well as the Fundraising/We Care Committee. As chair of the Holiday Committee, Naomi has created engaging pro-

grams including Chanukah celebrations, Israeli dancing, wine and olive oil tastings, Purim Shpiels, picnics, and art auctions. Naomi is especially famous for her strudels, which are a staple at the New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival.

Naomi and Mark truly represent the best of TBI and are most deserving of this Shem Tov Award.

Gordenstein *continued from page 3*

native synagogue in Leominster, where I've been writing a regular column about our members for the monthly bulletin.

What committee(s) do you currently volunteer with?

I'm looking forward to working on the antisemitism committee. I think this is a major problem facing Jews here and

around the world, and it's important for us to come up with ways to combat it. When I taught at Elms, which is a Catholic College, I organized Passover Seders every year and introduced students, faculty, and staff to our traditions. It was very well received and hopefully increased their understanding of the Jew-

ish faith. I think knowledge of others is the first step to eliminating hatred.

What do you love most about JFNH?

In the short time I've been a member of the Board, I've been impressed by the talent, creativity, and commitment of the Board members and staff. I can't believe how much they accomplish with so

few people! I've enjoyed the Film Festival for a number of years, and my grandsons loved receiving PJ Library books when they were younger. My grandson Ben attended the JFNH preschool before he moved back to Arkansas, and I always enjoyed sharing the holiday activities with him at the school.



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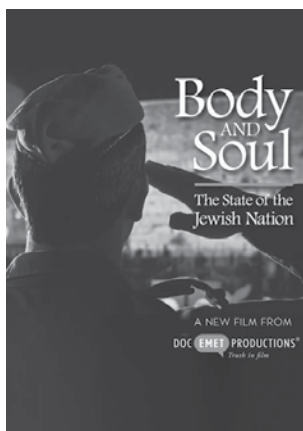
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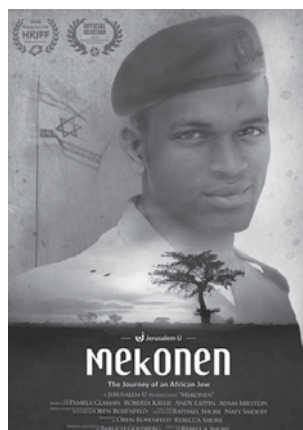
On Facebook, visit Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.



Director/Producer:
Gloria Z. Greenfield,
Documentary
2014, USA
64 minutes
English

**Body and Soul-
The State of the Jewish Nation
Streaming Sunday, October 10-16**

The film presents a comprehensive examination of the broad and deep connections between the Jewish People and The Land of Israel. World-renowned historians, archaeologists, political scientists, religious leaders, and International law and media experts trace the evocative evolution of the relationship between the Jewish People and their homeland that is over 3000 years old.



Director/Producer:
Rebecca Shore
Documentary
2016, Israel/Ethiopia
43 minutes
Hebrew with
English subtitles

**Mekonen, The Journey of an African Jew
Streaming Sunday, November 14-Saturday 20**
Post film Zoom discussion with Rebecca Shore,
Director/Producer, Sunday, November 21 at 3pm

The Journey of an African Jew follows the backstory and personal journey of Mekonen Abebe, a young African-Israeli Jew, once a young shepherd in Africa and now a commander in the Israeli Defense Forces. Mekonen is one of many brave young men and women drafted into compulsory service in the IDF, to defend their homeland and the liberal values of democracy, freedom and equality.



Director:
Efraim Kishon,
Comedy,
1964, Israel
110 minutes
Hebrew with
English subtitles

**Sallah Shabati
Streaming Sunday December 12-18**
Post film Zoom discussion with JFNH Shaliach, Ra'anan DeHaas & guest panel, Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3pm

A 1964 Israeli comedy classic about the chaos of Israeli immigration/transit camp resettlement. Israel's most successful film in their history, follows Sallah's family flown with 49,000 Yemenite Jews in "Operation Magic Carpet" to Israel. Sallah wishes to provide for his family in a country barely providing for its citizens while absorbing refugees from Arab countries. This Golden Globe Award winner and nominee for an Academy Award/Best Foreign Film, put Israel on the international stage.

Film series is FREE.

Suggested donation of \$18 or more supports JFNH Israel Committee.

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ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ISRAEL FILM SERIES.

Please register early! Advance registration provides for registered attendees to receive by email both film links/passwords and Zoom links for the Speaker programs. Films will be available to stream on the dates so noted above.

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VIRTUAL VIEWING SPACE IS LIMITED TO A SET NUMBER OF VIEWERS, PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.

Temple Israel of Manchester Book Club

By Benay A. Birch

Another exciting live Temple Book Club event is scheduled for December 15th at Temple Israel Synagogue, 66 Salmon Street in Manchester, when local author and attorney Michael Davidow, will join us to discuss his latest book, *The Hunter of Talyashevka*. We will have the chance to listen and question Michael as we enjoy, in a relaxed setting, some kosher snacks in our social hall. Please join us at 7 PM for this exciting evening. Masks are required and your temperature will be checked at the door.

November 10th on Zoom, we discussed Richard Russo's book, *Chances Are...* It is the story of three male college friends who get together when they are 66 years old to reminisce about those college years and the crush they each had on the same girl, plus the mystery surrounding why she suddenly disappeared when they were

all together one weekend after college, never to be seen again. All enjoyed the book, giving it high ratings. Everyone was impressed by Mr. Russo's writing, and the viewpoints of the male characters. Recommendation: put it on your reading list!

Coming January 12th, we'll review *If All the Seas were Ink*, a memoir by Ilana Kurshan. Ms. Kurshan dedicated herself to learning and reading Torah every day for three years after making Aliyah, as well as experiencing a divorce, and a new marriage. Our own Rabbi Gary Atkins will be our moderator for this very interesting memoir.

As always, please feel free to join us, whether or not you have read our book selections. You'll enjoy learning about our books plus engage in some great conversations. Please contact Ken Cohn at newbegin04@yahoo.com for additional information or questions.

The Path of Life Comes to Life

By Steve Soreff, MD

Several years ago, the leadership of Etz Hayim Synagogue launched the Path of Life campaign. It had three goals. The first purpose was for each brick, large or small, to recognize, honor, or remember a person or event. Another objective was to beautify the synagogue's grounds. Finally, the third reason was to serve as a fundraiser for the synagogue itself.

In the intervening years, members of the Etz Hayim community have bought bricks. Funds were raised. A generous anonymous donor matched the amount of the bricks at the initiation of the purchase. The synagogue's board of directors suggested that the Path of Life should lead to a meditation bench, in honor of Rabbi Emeritus Louis Rieser. Al Sandler worked out the wording of the honoring plaque. Finally, by 2021, a critical number of bricks had been purchased, and an order was placed with a brick company in Missouri.

On June 7, 2021, the bricks were delivered to Etz Hayim. Around that time, the bench also arrived, with assembly required. The Path was close to becoming a reality.

Measurements were taken. The Path's route was determined. And finally, Steph Landau assembled the bench.

This fall, Michael Stein dug the actual path and graded it. Then, he placed the



The Path of Life leading to Rabbi Rieser Meditation Bench

bricks in the path. Next, he lined the path with other bricks, and built a patio. Finally, the bench was anchored to the patio.

There is a planned formal inauguration of the Path of Life, and a dedication of the bench, on Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 5:30 PM. This will go along with the first night of Hanukkah, and a candle lighting will be live in front of synagogue.

However, the Path of Life is not complete. People can still order a small brick to recognize, honor, or remember a person or an event, and that brick will replace one of the blank bricks in the Path. What a wonderful Hanukkah gift! A small brick costs \$720, which can be paid over four years. To order a brick, visit: <https://www.etzhayim.org/supportus>



BHC President David Goldstone leads the annual Chanukiat lighting.

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Celebrates

By Eileen Regen

Following Sukkot, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation ended another full and inspiring season, and then members and friends had a chance to celebrate the achievements of BHC member JoAnn Parker — who was inducted into the Northern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in October for her achievements as a billiards champion. Parker, known as the “Battling Beauty,” began her billiards career at the age of five, moved up to professional level during her high school years, and ultimately went on to become the New York State billiards champion for six consecutive years. Her life story includes a teaching career, marriage, and parenthood.

BHC members also observed the anniversary of Kristallnacht by lighting the synagogue. President David Goldstone sounded the shofar. Local members attended the ceremony.

Hanukkah will be celebrated in Bethlehem each night with the lighting of candles on the BHC menorah, situated on the Bethlehem Town Hall lawn.



JoAnn Parker, The Battling Beauty

Lighting will be at 5PM each Hanukkah night, except on December 3, when the lighting will be at 4PM, just before the weekly Kabbalat Shabbat service. To join us on Zoom, please register by contacting President David Goldstone davidpgoldstone51@gmail.com.

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In the Community

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club: Bringing Sports to the Masses

"Bringing Sports to the Masses" will be the topic discussed by Pat Sullivan on Sunday, December 12th, at 9:30 AM, live via Zoom, presented by the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club.

A 1976 graduate of Boston College, Pat Sullivan became the assistant general manager of the New England Patriots in 1979. Patrick was promoted to general manager in 1983, a role he held for seven years during which the Patriots made it to Super Bowl XX. In 1993, Pat acquired two mobile television production units and a small technical team, and Game Creek Video was born. Today, Game Creek Video designs, builds and operates television production facilities for wide list of clients including ESPN, FOX Sports, NBC Sports, Amazon, NBC Sports Boston, NESN, NBC Sports Mid-Atlantic, Madison Square Garden Network, YES Network, NFL Network, NHL Network and MLB Network.



Pat Sullivan

Game Creek also provides video production facilities for CNN, ABC News and NBC News and virtually all presidential debates, the State of the

Union, and the presidential inauguration.

As President of Game Creek Video, Pat is responsible for all strategic planning and corporate sales. A 2015 Inductee into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, Pat was named the New Hampshire High Tech Council's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016. Pat Sullivan and Lynne, his wife of 41 years, are the proud parents of three sons, and grandparents of 4 boys and a girl.

Pat's presentation will be followed by an open question and answer session.

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Pat Sullivan's presentation, which will start off with "Schmooze Time" from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM. Pat Sullivan's presentation is open to the public but advance registration is required. Please register in advance by emailing breakfast@snhjm.org to confirm your registration.

About The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club

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 likeminded men who wish to share their commitment and values with those in the greater Southern New Hampshire Jewish community. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is a nonprofit organization serving all 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, Paul Moverman, via email: president@snhjm.org or visit our website at <http://www.snhjm.org>. Membership dues have been temporarily waived due to the COVID pandemic.

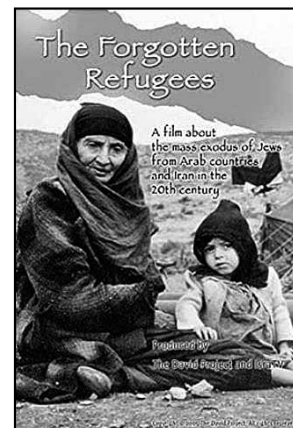


In honor of Veterans Day, as has been the tradition for years, a group of volunteers came together to place flags at the gravesites of over 130 veterans who are buried at Manchester's Hebrew Cemetery. The flag placers were: David Rosenzweig, Alan and Emily Kaplan, Mark Granoff, Mark Bilech, Jonathan Baron, Ed Schoen, Priscilla Malcom, George Bruno, Alan Rudnick, and Sol and Linda Rockenmacher.

Forgotten Refugees film to be shown at Etz Hayim Synagogue on January 13

By Stephen Soreff, MD

The Forgotten Refugees will be shown at Etz Hayim synagogue on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 7pm. In 1945, there were one million Jews living in the Middle East and North Africa. For over two millennia they lived under varying rulers as part of the diverse fabric of peoples native to the region. Yet, in 1948—with the establishment of the State of Israel, from Casablanca to Baghdad—Jews abandoned their ancestral homelands, often leaving behind their homes, communities and livelihoods, and they became refugees in Israel. This movie tells their compelling stories.



CDC guidelines will be followed, with masks required and six-foot distancing. In order to comply with the COVID Committee's rules, the audience will be limited to the first 36 folks who reply. If you wish to attend, email [Stephen Soreff, MD, at stephensoreff15@aol.com](mailto:stephensoreff15@aol.com).

This is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. This program is open to the public at no charge. Donations to the synagogue, to allow us to continue with these and other programs, are welcomed. Thanks to the Lappin Foundation for the use of this movie. For more information, please contact: [Stephen Soreff, MD, at stephensoreff15@aol.com](mailto:stephensoreff15@aol.com) or 603-895-6120.

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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Kids' Books for the Winter Holidays

Winter is beginning, and it's time to get cozy and settle in with a good book. Here are some wonderful holiday books that will provide good reading for the snowy days ahead. First, we'll begin with books for the youngest readers out there:

- Alan Silberberg has written a series of colorful, silly books for each of the Jewish holidays: *Meet the Latkes*, *Meet the Hamentashen*, and *Meet the Matzah*. Small children will enjoy the colorful pictures, as well as the funny things these holiday characters do.
- Two new Hanukkah board books are worth reading. First is *The Littlest Candle*, written for younger children by Rabbis Kerry and Jesse Olitzky, as well as *Angular Momentum on Hanukkah*, written by Ruth Spiro and illustrated by Irene Chan. This one is especially different, as it is teaching about torque, friction, and gravity, regarding when a young child spins the dreidel.
- Another book for the smallest kids to chew on is *B is for Bagel*. This book is written by Rachel Teichman and photographed by Rebecca Wright.

For our older children, these are books about friendship and respecting differences: beautifully illustrated and written stories that capture the true holiday spirit of being kind to others, which

transcends different religions and cultures. Many of these books are based on true people and events.

- *The Christmas Mitzvah*, written by Jeff Gottesfeld, recaptures the mitzvah of Al Rosen, who in Milwaukee in 1969 was the first person to take over a gentleman's job on Christmas Eve. Since then, he and his son continued this practice every year, until Al died at the age of 80. Now millions of people have followed in his footsteps, working the jobs of essential workers on Christmas so they can have the day off to celebrate.
- In *Red and Green and Blue and White*, author Lee Wind writes about an incident in Billings, Montana in 1993, where a Jewish family had a rock thrown through their window on Hanukkah. Their friends and neighbors stood up to the bullies and stood together.
- *Room For Rent*, written by Leah Goldberg and translated from Hebrew by Jessica Setbon, with simple, wonderful illustrations by Shmuel Katz, is another story worth reading. It's the tale of an apartment for rent and the other animals who live in the building. Each new tenant comes to look at the apartment, and finds something

wrong with a neighbor ... until the end, when a sweet new neighbor moves in and gets along with all the other homeowners. One of the messages of the book: "Do not judge others until you have stood in their shoes."

- *Dear Mr. Dickens* is based on the true story of a woman who confronted Charles Dickens about the antisemitic character portrayals in his books. Nancy Churnin tells the story of this young girl, Eliza, who wrote to Dickens explaining that though some of his non-Jewish characters were criminals, all of his Jewish characters were criminals. Dickens wrote back and said he wanted to be a friend to the Jews—and just like Scrooge, he became "better than his word. He did it all and infinitely more."
- *Recipe For Disaster* is the story of Hannah, daughter of a Jewish mother and a dad who was raised Catholic. The author, Aimee Lucido, grew up under similar circumstances to her protagonist, Hannah. In this story Hannah struggles with feelings about whether she is really Jewish, particularly when it comes to wanting a Bat Mitzvah. Also thrown in the story are cooking sessions with her Jewish

grandmother, baking rugelach.

- *Hansel and Greta*, by Jeanette Winter-son, is a new take on the original Hansel and Gretel story. In this version, their father is a woodsman who wants to save the trees. The evil witch character is their aunt, GreedyGuts. In the end, Hansel and Greta and their dad live happily ever after.
- *Linked*, a social justice story, is based on the Paper Clips Project. In 1998, eighth grade students in Tennessee collected six million paper clips to understand the enormity of the number of Jews who died in the Holocaust. In this story, they create a paper chain with 6 million links. Michael Amorosa, a character in the book, says, "A paper chain can be done when it hits a certain number of links. But tolerance is a project you always have to keep working at."
- Lastly, and just for fun, I want to highlight *Pinky Bloom and the Case of the Magical Menorah*, by Judy Press. In this mystery book, Pinky Bloom—Brooklyn's greatest kid detective—takes on the case of the missing Israeli coin during the eight days of Hanukkah. Judy Press has also written a Passover story, *Pinky Bloom and the Case of the Missing Kiddush Cup*.

Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Committee Member

Movie Review: 93Queen and TV Docu-Series Recap: Nuclear Family

If you are an HBO Max subscriber, there are a couple of documentaries currently available to stream. One is a documentary film called *93Queen*, which was previously screened at the 2019 NH Jewish Film Festival. The other is a three-part docuseries called *Nuclear Family*. Both center on strong Jewish women and highlight powerful stories.

Having not previously seen *93Queen*, I was intrigued by the premise after reading about the film's protagonist, Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, the first Hasidic woman elected to public office in the United States. A successful lawyer by trade who won a Civil Court judgeship in New York State in 2016, the documentary centers



around Freier's pioneering work in the Hasidic community, and how she created the first all-female volunteer EMT corps in New York City.

The film came recommended to me after I saw Freier interviewed in another piece not too long ago, at which time I was in awe of her spirit and tenacity, particularly as a woman in an ultra-religious environment where the role of the female is traditionally very limited. As Freier and other fellow Hasidic female leaders explain in *93Queen*, they come from a tradition where the woman's role is in the home, as the wife, mother, and homemaker. While Freier is certainly not the only example of an Orthodox woman who has defied that custom, she comes

across as more of a "go-getter" than some of the other ladies in the piece. A big part of this is because she has a family who supports her career and endeavors.

While the documentary does trace her biographical details, including that she earned her law degree at age 40, the focus is on how these women came together to form the volunteer EMT group. It is explained early on that the genesis of the group stems from women in the Hasidic community expressing their desire for a presence of female EMTs. Given that the other volunteer group in the Brooklyn area was composed of only men, Freier and other locals saw a need to respond to this request, thereby creating Ezras Nashim, which means "assisting women."

93Queen does a remarkable job of tracing these women in their attempt to create the group, as well as their devotion to their faith. It examines the obstacles they

face at the hands of non-supportive religious leaders, both men and women, while also diving into their own devotion to Judaism. What I found most intriguing were Judge Freier's own feelings toward being labeled a "feminist" despite continuing to partake in the traditional roles of the woman outside of her law career and volunteer service. It just goes to show you that people do not and should not need to "check off all the boxes" to fit neatly into certain categories.

Since the documentary's release in 2018, it's clear from some research that Ezras Nashim continues to do very well, and that it has succeeded in providing Orthodox women in medical crises the chance to have female EMTs assisting them. As the piece emphasizes, choice is important, which is what Judge Freier sought to bring to her community from the start.

Film Review continued on page 16

Manchester Community Theatre Players Presents: Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins

December 3rd & 4th at 7:00 PM,
and December 5th at 2:00 PM

The text of this play—written by Eric Kimmel and illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman—was first published in 1985 in *Cricket Magazine*, followed by an illustrated book in 1989. *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* has delighted children and adults ever since, and it has become a yearly read for Hanukkah in millions of households.

Hershel of Ostropol (Ukraine), traveling by foot on the first night of Hanukkah, arrives in a darkened village. He had expected to enjoy the festive lights, food, and joy of Hanukkah, but instead is told Hanukkah cannot be enjoyed because the local goblins don't like it, and they forbid its celebration. The village Rabbi tells him the only way to break the spell is for someone to spend eight nights in the old, deserted synagogue up on the hill, lighting the candles each night—and on the last night, the king of the goblins must light the candles himself. Hershel says, "I am not afraid," and sets off with just some hard-boiled eggs, a jar of pickles, and a box of Hanukkah candles to match wits with the goblins.

Please join us for this delightful adventure on December 3rd and 4th at 7:00 PM, and December 5th at 2:00 PM, as Hershel meets the goblins and tries to

bring Hanukkah back to the village. This play is appropriate for both children and adults, and will have you laughing as Hershel plays dreidel with one of the goblins, frightens a flying goblin away (actually flying on our stage), and meets the king of the goblins. You won't want to miss this award-winning story, and make it part of your family Hanukkah celebration.

Limited in-person seating, socially distanced, is at MCTP Theater, 698 Beech Street Manchester, NH, for those who present proof of Covid vaccination and remain masked. It can also be seen via live stream with your family at www.mctp.info. All tickets or questions can be made through www.mctp.info. Jointly sponsored by Temple Adath Yeshurun and the Jewish Federation of NH.



MANCHESTER
COMMUNITY THEATRE
PLAYERS



Film Review *continued from page 15*

Also available on HBO Max is the three-part docuseries *Nuclear Family*, which tells the incredible and inspiring story of a Jewish couple's journey into parenthood in the early 1980s, at a time when same-sex partnerships and parenting were not as accepted. Sandy Russo and Robin Young first met in the late 70s and quickly fell in love. Their courtship was fairly brief, as they both knew at that point that they wanted to live life out and proud. Russo had been married

to men twice previously, while Robin, who was several years Russo's junior, was not supported in her journey out of the closet by her family. The women defied many gender stereotypes and expectations right off the bat, and quickly took their relationship a step further when they decided to become parents.

At that time, very few same-sex couples had started raising families together. Russo and Robin were among the first who did so, through two different sperm donors. Russo carried their first daughter, Cade. Shortly after, Robin



if that matters). Ry Russo-Young, Russo and Robin's youngest daughter, directs the series and does a brilliant and exemplary job of involving her moms, as well as their closest confidantes and adversaries. She tries to take a fair approach and succeeds greatly, ultimately celebrating what Russo and Robin achieved in serving as pioneers for the LGBTQ+ community, who now have more visibility and opportunity in parenting than ever before.

While the series does little to mention Russo or Robin's religion, my own research after finishing it led me to a post that Ry made about her parents on Instagram a few years back, which reads, "[Here are my] two lesbian Jewish moms who were always out and proud and fought for their family. May we all stand up together and create a better world."

It's clear that Russo and Robin did just that, and though their story is quite different from Judge Freier's, they too have fought for what they believed in, and served as pioneering women in the Jewish community. What better way to honor all these ladies than by watching these fantastic documentaries on HBO Max? I can guarantee you will leave both thinking deeply, and with an eagerness to engage in further provocative and intriguing discussions.

carried their second daughter, Ry. Through the course of their early years, Cade and Ry did not think of their moms any differently than other kids at school. Eventually, however, Ry questioned who her father was, which put the ladies in a difficult situation as they had agreed to keep the donors out of the picture. That quickly changed and not long after, so did their lives as they knew it.

I'll say no more about the battles that were fought thereafter, as going into this piece blind makes it all the more fascinating. What ensues over the course of the three detail-packed and deeply introspective episodes is a fascinating exploration of what it means to be a family; what is traditional and what is not (and

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Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: We Care – A Night to Remember at the Colonial Theatre

October 23, 2021, Laconia, NH – Oh, what a night! Five O'clock Shadow did not disappoint the sold-out audience that came to the Colonial Theatre to experience “a cappella that rocks!”

The six-member vocal band sang a varied assortment of popular music from “Hip to Be Square,” to their own pandemic-themed version of “Stuck in the Middle with You” retitled “Stuck Quarantining with You,” and ending with a stirring encore of “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Their signature sound was performed with perfection – every note, every vocal intonation, each carefully rehearsed instrumental sound, rang out through the theatre to thunderous applause. This was just the second live performance for FOCS since the beginning of the pandemic. It was clear they were thrilled to be back on stage performing their music, sharing their stories, and engaging with the audience.

The show was opened by two Plymouth State University a cappella ensembles — Mixed Emotions, an all-female group, and Vocal Order, an all-male group. Both ensembles had the unique opportunity to study with members of Five O'clock Shadow earlier that day, learning new techniques and preparing for the evening's performance. After the groups' impressive appearances on stage,

FOCS member Dan Lennon congratulated the students and he explained to the audience that FOCS is dedicated to continuing education and outreach to young performing groups.

The We Care concert series allows local nonprofits and businesses the opportunity to come together to form mutually beneficial partnerships as well as bringing awareness to the public of their individual mission, services, and products. This We Care concert, the 18th since 2013, proved to be a record fundraiser: 100% of the net proceeds from ticket sales, contributions from the main event sponsors—Audi Nashua, Miracle Farms Landscaping, The Bank of New Hampshire, Pemi River Fuels, and Hanaford—as well as many local businesses and individual contributions amounted to a donation of \$24,000 to the Bridge House in Plymouth, NH.

Cathy Bentwood, executive director of the Bridge House, offered her thanks via email: “I love the ‘Little Temple that Could.’ Thank you all for exemplifying the best team effort I've ever experienced.”

Marybeth Bentwood, owner of Brand Elevation Communications and marketing coordinator for The Bridge House also offered her thanks, writing: “This event raised my appreciation for how in-



dividuals, who are committed to supporting and uplifting their community, can move mountains.”

And the beat goes on. Get ready to

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Singing Together Safely

By Rebecca and Alan Green

The Zimria choir at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua has been singing together since 2016. We were lucky to be able to hire locally renowned choral director Julie Oliver, who directs and inspires us to this day. We have sung at Passover programs, Israeli Festivals, Hanukkah parties, Fair Trade coffee houses, and at our annual June concerts. We have

also sung at High Holidays, Sisterhood Shabbat, and other special services.

In the spring of 2020, we stopped rehearsing together due to the Covid pandemic. We began getting together on “Zoomria” which was better than nothing, but not really very gratifying. We did get to say hello and to sing muted, although we each could only hear ourselves. We recorded some songs individually, which were laboriously mixed by Ju-

lie. We managed a livestreamed spring concert in June 2020, with some blended songs and some of our best recorded songs. Over the past winter, our members dropped off one by one. For those that remained on Zoomria, Julie provided much appreciated weekly voice lessons.

In April of 2021, following published research, we began rehearsing in our cars in the TBA parking lot, with individual mics, long cords, FM receivers with earbuds, and a sound system set up by sound engineer Dennis Schneider. We were safe, and we were singing together! When we first heard ourselves singing “Mi Sheberach” together through those earbuds, after a year, many of us were in tears. We progressed with the weather, eventually singing 12 feet apart outside of our cars—and then, as we all became fully vaccinated, we finally were able to hold our spring concert, outdoors, on a blistering 94-degree sunny day, with each of the 12 singers six feet apart.

This fall, we resumed outdoor rehears-

als when the weather permitted, or when the TBA tent was up in October. Currently, we are rehearsing indoors, masked, three feet apart, which is the current choral safety standard. Many singers who dropped out during the Zoomria have not returned, a situation which is reflected among choral groups everywhere across the globe. We continue to rehearse weekly. Performances for the winter will be primarily recorded.

We are inviting anyone who loves to sing, can read music, and is fully vaccinated, to come sing with us! No auditions needed! We rehearse at 5 PM on Sundays at TBA, spread out in our social hall, which has an advanced air filtration and replenishment system, and CO2 monitors. Rehearsals are limited—based on current standards—to one hour only.

We welcome new singers from surrounding areas. If you are interested in joining us, contact Becky Green at zimri-anashua@gmail.com, or 603-440-3445.

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Kristallnacht: A poem by Geoffrey Brahmer and Anne Corapi-Brahmer (deceased)

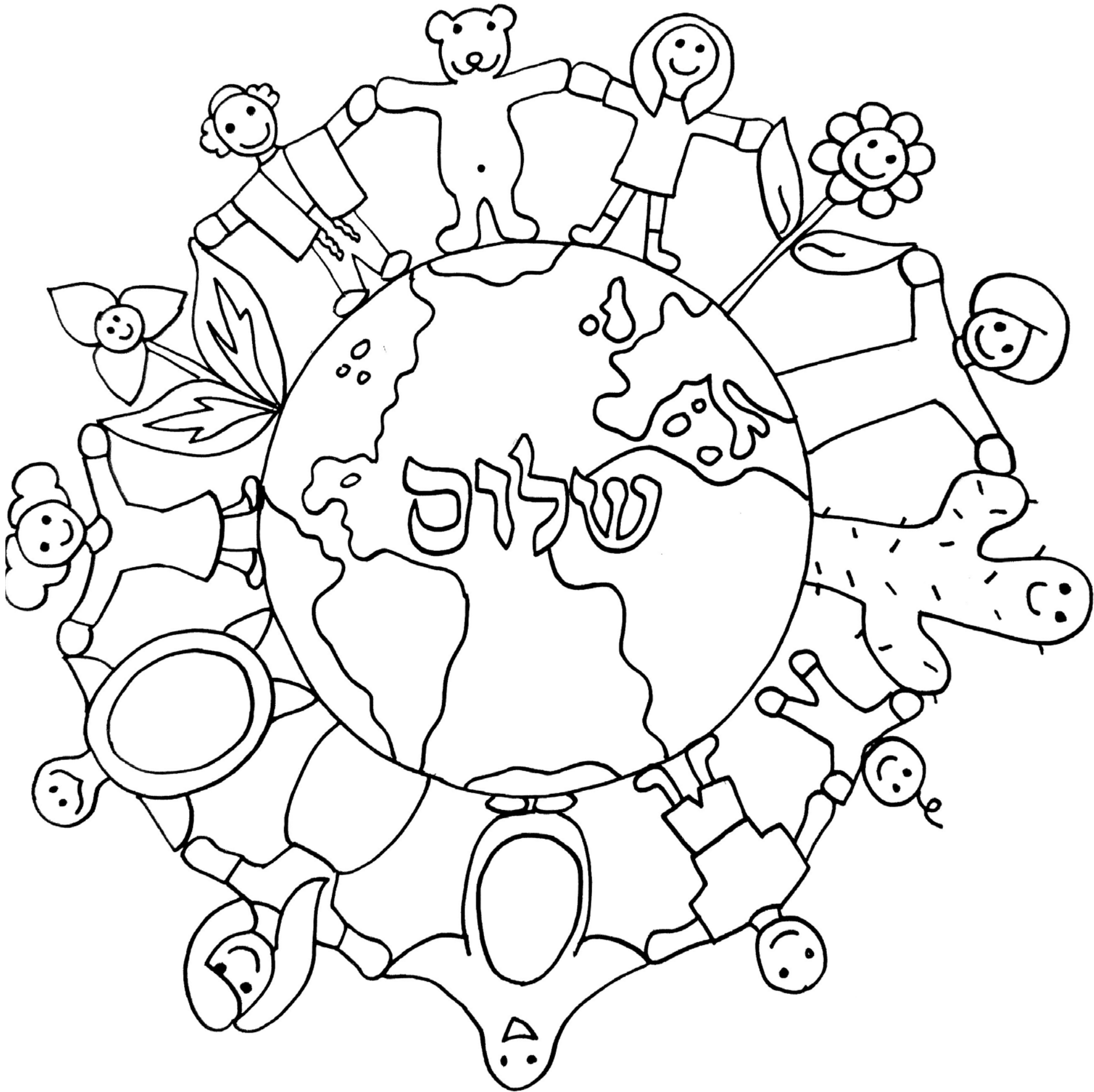
*Submitted by Bethlehem Hebrew
Congregation*

In love, prayers and remembrance for the named and unnamed victims of the Holocaust.

Looking back now, it’s hard to feel,
But then, it was impossible to see.
Who could believe it
(Even today):
The murders, beatings, arrests?
The loud knocks on doors, the suicides?

The broken glass and flames?
As Hitler’s Nazi thugs rampage though
Streets, synagogues and homes,
Jewish mothers and children hide in
closets,
Shivering under tables, beds and behind
doors.
Something was broken that day;
Life will never be the same,
As the world looked on,
It changed —
**BROKEN GLASS and BURNING
FLAMES!**

Kids' Corner Coloring Page



VERONICA

Veronica Ava Conley, ©2020

CROP Hunger Walk

This fall, once again, Nashua's faith-based communities gathered at Temple Beth Abraham and joined with communities around the country to raise awareness and funds to end hunger and poverty — locally, and around the world. This year's 3.4-mile CROP Hunger Walk, under the auspices of Church World Service, and supported by the Nashua Area Interfaith Council, was held on Sunday, October 24. The event was organized by Temple Beth Abraham's Becky Green, along with her leadership team from different faith communities, making up the largest CropHungerWalk in New England

With increasing food instability in our community and around the world, individuals and families need hunger relief now more than ever. The funds raised from this event directly support local organizations that provide food to people in need: Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Corpus Christi food pantry, St John Neumann food pantry, St James of Merrimack food pantry, and Share, Inc of Milford.

In 2020, due to COVID-19, the Nashua CROP walk was different, with individuals and small groups walking separately. This year, it was wonderful to see so many teams coming back together to participate in this year's walk. The sun was shining for once! With COVID-19 safety protocols in place, the entire event was held outside, from registration to the celebratory BBQ after the event. The Greater Nashua Interfaith Choir sang to-



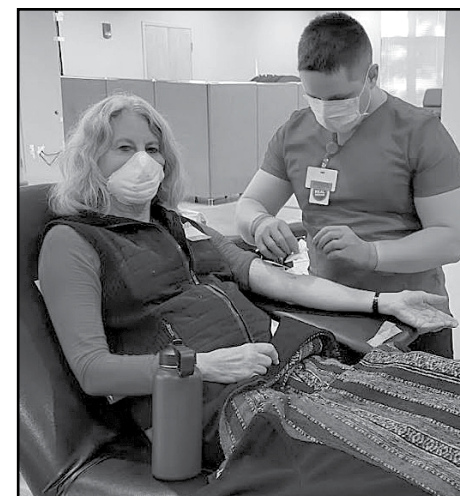
gether under the tent for only the second time in recent months. People danced and mingled and joined together to help clean up when the event was over.

With over 276 walkers and volunteers from 26 teams, the 2021 CROP Hunger Walk has raised \$55,798 so far. Thank you to the walkers, volunteers, and donors for making this day a success! Please look out for information for next year's CROP Hunger Walk and be part of helping us get one step closer to ending hunger once and for all. The website is still accepting donations; we could top \$60,000! Visit us at: <https://events.crop-hungerwalk.org/2021/event/nashuanh>



Temple Beth Abraham Blood Drive

Thanks to the support of all the donors and volunteers, the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Blood Drive on October 28th was a huge success. Temple Beth Abraham provided the use of their social hall, and Richard Bryant provided the tables and chairs requested by the American Red Cross. The Red Cross, of course, provided everything else—from phlebotomists to snacks and drinks. In addition to offering a blood drive opportunity to many members of TBA, other local residents found that the very minimal wait times proved this blood drive as a much better option than other sites in the area.



The Red Cross team worked in conjunction with SNHJMC members Don Gorelick, Sam Fain, and Stephen Greenberg, particularly in regard to registering donors and ensuring that all TBA Covid

protocols were followed. Ramon Maldonado of the American Red Cross reported that 28 units of blood were collected, positively impacting the lives of 84 hospital patients!

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Jewish Journeys

Visiting a Sister City of New Hampshire: Hof HaCarmel

By Helena and Richard England

Despite the ongoing global pandemic, we were able to travel to Israel this fall to visit family and friends. Our stay in Israel was also an opportunity to visit one of the Federation's two sister cities. Hof HaCarmel is actually a region of 25 communities along the Mediterranean coast, south of Haifa. The district of Hof HaCarmel includes eight kibbutzim, ten moshavim, the ancient port city of Caesarea, and an Arab village.

Because our train from Modi'in was delayed due to some network glitch in Tel Aviv, Inbal, our delightful Israeli host, guided us via text messages to our destination. She even phoned the train engineer to find out when we would arrive at an alternate station! Unfortunately, because our train had been delayed, we couldn't tour every site on our itinerary.

Our first stop was Kibbutz Ein Carmel, an agricultural community founded by Zionists in 1950. The kibbutz still produces crops such as bananas, but it has diversified to offer cafés and restaurants, a sculpture garden, and artists' workshops (in former chicken coops). Dagan Shkalowski created the impressive basalt sculptures that are both fanciful and fantastic. While adults stroll around the workshops and sculpture garden, children can chase the peacocks and enjoy nature.

We stopped briefly at a public safety complex to see an ambulance that the Jewish community of New Hampshire had donated to the district years ago, before visiting the Community Center of Hof HaCarmel. This modern facility includes a large performance venue that offers services to the entire community, from preschoolers to seniors. During this past summer and despite the pandemic, 65 percent of the district's children enrolled in cooking, dog training, graffiti art, scouting, and other programs. Jewish and Arab children alike participated in these youth programs. During our visit to the Community Center, we had an opportunity to meet several impressive



Sculpture at Kibbutz Ein Carmel.



Sculpture at Kibbutz Ein Carmel.



Tree at Thom's Garden with Messages about Environmental Stewardship



members of the staff who briefed us on the Center's programming.

Our next stop was Makura Farm, a family-owned organic farm located in the heart of an extinct volcano. It specializes in wine making, as well as the cultivation of numerous olive varieties, avocados, and citrus. The farm features a lovely wine tasting room and an outdoor café, where we had a leisurely conversation with Inbal and her friend Kathy (an Australian-born Israeli) about how New Hampshire Jews and Israelis can connect with one another.

The Rilov family of Makura Farm helped to create Bustan Thom (Thom's Garden), an environmental education center run by volunteers that serves at-risk youth, IDF recruits, and other groups. It teaches the key role of agriculture in Zionism, organic agricultural practices, and environmental protection. The center is dedicated to the memory of



(L-R) Yarden Keinan, Daniel Shterenberg, Inbal Shahaf-Gilad, Helena and Richard England at Community Center of Hof HaCarmel.

Thom Farkas, an Israeli fighter pilot who died during the 2006 Lebanese war while trying to suppress Hezbollah rocket fire aimed at northern Israeli communities.

Because time was short, we couldn't visit Hof HaCarmel's popular Mediterranean beaches or the Mount Carmel National Park (which is Israel's largest). We also didn't get to see the Tel Dor ar-

chaeological site. We hope to return to our sister city in the future, to see more of its sights and to learn more about the daily life of its people. The Federation's Israel Engagement and Education Committee plans to discuss how to develop meaningful person-to-person ties between New Hampshire's Jewish community and the Israelis of Hof HaCarmel.

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Jewish Journeys

Israel Experience: Beshert (Meant to Be)

Calvin Monfried

Outside the window of the Mitzvah Corps/NFTY in Israel bus, filled with 28 high school students, we began to see a small village clinging onto the sides of cliffs and glassy lakes with clear reflections. We were tossed around on the bus by all the twisty mountain roads, and an unnecessary excess of speed bumps. We arrived at this simplistic homestead that required eight beams to hold it up — and now, around fifty of us were about to walk in. We stepped off the bus and walked up the steep stairs on the side of the house that connected to an entry.

At the last step, I still could not see into the house. Then, I saw a portrait of an elderly man wearing a white cylinder headpiece, and a few folding chairs. A second later, my eyes were transfixed on a woman, and she was looking at me too. “Come on in,” she said. This welcome was less of a greeting and more of an order. Her composure was akin to a stern teacher I once had. When our eyes met, something shifted inside me. I was not expecting it, but I sensed that I had somehow been here before. I rapidly turned to my trip counselor after the interaction and asked, “Would it be weird if I asked her for a hug?” He rolled his eyes and pointed at a seat.

The woman stood tall in front of all of us and began her presentation, “I am a Druze woman, and I have been asked by your group to tell you a bit about what it means to be part of the Druze religion and community.” She described how one must be born into the bloodline of the Druze; therefore, no outsiders are welcomed to partake. She finally informed us that the fundamental belief in the Druze religion is based on reincarnation.

After she answered a few of the questions people had, she welcomed everyone to her balcony, where she had prepared dinner for us all. I looked at the food with astonishment: zaatar, and olive oil seasoned on the pita, rice fitly topped with sliced almonds, and hummus with a circular trench of fresh olive oil. The outlook from the balcony was breathtaking. All of it was unbelievable, and I knew I was destined to tell the Druze woman how I felt.

“Hi Miss, I just wanted to let you know that when I walked inside your home, I felt I needed to... hug you. Can I? I just felt connected to you and your faith.”

“My apologies, I am forbidden as a woman to physically touch you.”



“I underst—”

She shuffled away before I could finish. I bumbled over to my chair, sat down, slumped over, and nibbled on the delicious pita. The lighting from the golden sun was just right, so people were taking pictures with the landscape. I followed, but all I could think about was this unusual feeling, a soul connection. My brain began its rabbit hole of overthinking. “Am I reincarnated? I must be mad, she didn't feel the same way, and she didn't look like she cared much at all.”

We were standing there taking pictures as the Druze woman turned to me and asked if I would speak with her for a moment, “I must let you know something... I felt the same way, as you walked in.”

She smiled for the first time, tilted her head with a gaze of curiosity, turned around, and walked away. A tear ran down my cheek. I was home.

Perched on a balcony in a secluded village, in a city I have never been before, in the Jewish State of Israel, and I was finally home.

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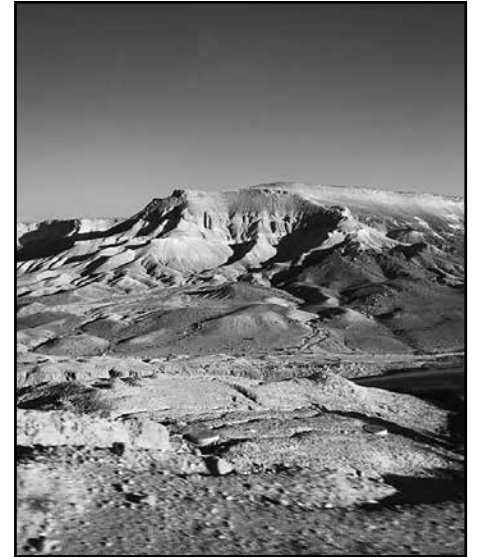
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Jewish Journeys



Israel Experience: TREK Israel

By Nadia Schein

My name is Nadia, and I attended the TREK Israel trip this summer. I had the opportunity to fly to Israel for three weeks, where I met an incredible group of other teenagers and some equally incredible staff.

Heading into the trip, I didn't know anyone, and when I got to the airport in New York, I was nervous and doubting my decision to go. Some of the others already knew each other from prior BBYO trips, or had even signed up together, which made me feel intimidated. However, when I met the first one of our counselors, she immediately made me feel like part of the group. I began making new friends, one at a time—and by the end of the trip, I found family. People on this trip came from all over the US. I was the only one from New Hampshire, so I already had something to talk about. When we got to Israel, we met the California group, which I immediately connected with.

There were many surprises. For one, I never thought of myself as someone who enjoyed hiking and camping in the wilderness, and when our trip leader announced that our first activity was a hike, I wasn't thrilled. But then, during the hike, our counselors set up an activity where we'd get to know each other: we were given questions to discuss one-on-one with each other, which really helped me get to know the people I'd be living with for the next 20 days. From there, every hike we went on had incredible views and terrain. Some hikes were harder than others, but everyone—no matter what their athletic ability—got through it. We did it as a team.

One night, towards the beginning of



the trip—back when we were all still getting to know each other—we camped out in the desert. Now, I was expecting tents and maybe mattresses, some sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, that sort of thing. Instead, we were all given the equivalent of a yoga mat and a sleeping bag... and that was it. At first, I was like, "What is this?" We had to sleep on rocks and sand, with no shelter over our heads.

It ended up being one of the best nights of my life. I had never done anything like that before. We made our own dinner, between mountains and desert, and we slept—literally—under the stars. The experience was extraordinary, and it brought all of us a lot closer.

Throughout the trip, we visited a lot of different places. We went to some shuks, which are like farmer's markets, but with way more people. They had food, restaurants, clothing, and jewelry. We hiked mountains, went to museums, visited sites you hear about back in Hebrew School, went to numerous bodies of water. One of the most special memories I had during my trip was the second time at the Western Wall. I am not a religious person—I only go to Temple on the High

Holidays—and I didn't know much about Israel's history before my trip. I also don't speak Hebrew. But something about my time at the Wall, during that trip, was an experience that I will never forget. One of our counselors, who was more religious, told us before we went that this was our time to talk about anything we wanted. G-d would be listening, with open ears, and we could ask for anything. She said she always started her conversation with, "Hey G-d, it's me again," and went from there. She also explained that no matter how religious we were, or what we did or didn't believe in, this was our time, and we could use it with Him however we wanted. She made me feel so comfortable about it. I had always thought about praying as this super strict, "this is how you do it" type of thing, but that just wasn't the case: You can decide how your interaction goes, and you can make it as casual you'd like.

So, I walked up to the Wall. I saw tons of other women praying, sitting, and just looking up at the amazing structure. I found a little spot, and I rested my forehead against the stones. I thought back to what my counselor had said, and I began praying. I learned that you didn't have to physically speak during prayer, and it made me more comfortable to just think about what I wanted to say. I talked about some of the rough times I'd had since my last visit to Israel, which had been two years before. I thought about all I had been through since my last time at that very wall, and what I'd survived. Suddenly, I just felt at home.

I still don't know if I believe in G-d or

some greater power in the world, but I remember distinctly how, at the Western Wall, it felt like someone was listening and hearing me. As I stood there, I don't know how much time went by before I realized that I was still there. I felt so safe and comfortable, like I could just stand there and lean my head against the wall forever. I don't even know how to describe that amazing feeling of warmth and guidance. I just knew I was home. Israel was my home. We were all connected there.

As I said my goodbyes to whoever was there listening to me, the air felt thicker, and the space around me felt special.

When we all got back to our meeting spot, where men and women could stand together, we tied these red pieces of string on our wrists with seven knots. I'm still wearing mine on my left hand, as I write this essay. It reminds me of the incredible three weeks I spent back home in Israel.

Now that everything is back to normal—going to school, living my life—I've come to realize that I will always belong in Israel. I've thought about making aliyah and moving there when I'm older... or at least going to college there. Everyone is connected in Israel, no matter where you're from or what you believe in, and I realized this after my trip. I had the best experiences there, and I can't wait for the next time I get to go back. Israel is my home, and it can be anyone's home if they experience it the way they need to and realize its significance. I recommend anyone and everyone go on TREK, because you'll come back as the best version of yourself.

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

Jewish Journeys

MOMentum Moms take Miami Beach!

By Jennifer Buck

If you have been following the story of our MOMentum group here in the Granite State, you know that we started back in May of 2020 (which feels so long ago!) as a group of eight mothers with a common goal: increasing the influence of Judaism in our families' daily lives by visiting Israel and sharing our knowledge and enthusiasm with others in our local Jewish community.

Fast forward to current day, and we are now a robust group of twelve moms, still eagerly awaiting the chance to experience our homeland together. This past October, we made the difficult decision to postpone our trip again, when it became apparent that not all of us would qualify for entry under the newer vaccine requirements in Israel. Feeling the weight of our disappointment and seeing an opportunity to utilize time we already planned to take off, our fearless leaders, Allyson & Tracy, had the brilliant idea of planning a mini trip during the weekend we would have been in Israel.

As it turned out, seven of our group members were able to participate and traveled from New England to the Miami area this past weekend, November 5th-8th. Upon arrival and after getting settled in our accommodations with our new "roomies," the first part of our trip consisted of sharing dinner at the iconic



Joe's Stone Crab restaurant in South Beach on Friday night. We all agreed that—between Joe's delicious cuisine and impeccable service—the establishment earned its reputation for excellence!

Saturday was a busy day of sightseeing, and we met up for a lunchtime at Abbale Telavivian Kitchen on the recommendation of Julia Preis. Wow! Seated outdoors in a lush cottage garden while snacking on warm challah, pita, and the best hummus we've ever tried, our group felt as if we

were transported to Tel Aviv! This newer lunch & dinner spot had fresh, mouthwatering dishes and fabulous service. It is a must-try if you're in the area. After lunch, half of our group participated in an electric cart tour of Miami Beach. Although the tour itself was lackluster, it included a stop at Florida's Holocaust Memorial. Viewing the Arm of Six Million monument together was a solemn, yet powerful experience.

Later that evening, we met up with our



JFNH friends, Bertha & Ken Litvack. Bertha and Ken treated us to a spectacular dinner at a lively Greek restaurant, Santorini's. Over food and wine, we shared stories and laughter. Then, while enjoying some dessert, the band surprised us by suddenly playing "Hava Nagila." We had a blast singing and dancing with our group and even our neighbors from the table next to us. Many thanks to Ken & Bertha for such an unforgettable time!

On Sunday morning, our group made our way to the Jewish Museum of Florida to participate in a walking tour of Miami Beach. After exploring inside the museum, we were greeted warmly by our tour guide, a dedicated volunteer named Howard. Howard, a true mensch, led us on an interesting and informative tour of the city. We learned the story of Joseph and Jennie Weiss, who were the first Jews to settle in the area from Hungary in 1913, and how they later opened what now is known as Joe's Stone Crab restaurant! Howard also taught us about how quickly the Jewish population grew, and how the museum—where we had started our tour—was once the first synagogue in the area, erected in 1929.

After completing our tour and stopping in the museum's gift shop, we returned to our hotel and relaxed by the pool and on the beach. For our last dinner together on Sunday evening, we headed to Espanola Way. There we enjoyed some local Mexican fare and chatted about the highlights of our time together thus far. Reflecting on the moments of our trip, we seemed to share a common theme of gratitude. We were thankful to be together and become a closer-knit group, for the opportunity to travel and enjoy this meaningful and fun experience, for the generosity of our wonderful JFNH donors who helped make this trip possible, and finally, for the opportunity to visit Israel with our whole group in the future.





Hadassah Conducts Trial on Healables: A Wearable Form of Pain Relief

By Michele Bank

Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem will conduct a trial of Healables, a portable “electroceutical” device that lessens pain and inflammation. The trial will be conducted on patients with diabetic peripheral neuropathy, a common and painful leg/foot/hand complication of diabetes.

The device delivers microcurrent electrotherapy to legs or arms, through a port snapped onto an e-textile sleeve with built-in electrodes. It can be used on the go and personalized for medical and sports/wellness uses. It is user-friendly, can be activated from a smartphone, and the intensity can be dialed up or down with the flick of a finger. The flexible, machine-washable sleeve is made in an Israeli factory that manufactures big-brand American sports apparel.

Moshe Lebowitz, the company’s CEO, stated, “We tried to make our solution as easy as taking a pill but without any side effects or potential for addiction. By docking with textiles, the treatment is simply like getting dressed.”

The wearables he saw on the market were mostly tracking health parameters rather than treating conditions. Lebowitz wanted a wearable that could treat the body with electrotherapy and—using data collected from those sessions—treat the mind with personalized behavioral health coaching.

Lebowitz finds his yeshiva background advantageous. “As a rabbi, I know there’s a body and a soul, and to treat the whole person you have to look at both,” says Lebowitz. “Even on a biological level, the effect of mental health on immunology is something people have really noticed recently with corona.”

“Talmud study is about connecting with God, but as a side effect it improves your mental capacity and ability to think creatively. People really respect that.” After all, he notes, “Startups become unicorns by solving problems differently.”

Healables is building two products on its technology platform: ElectroGear, a sports-and-wellness model for athletes, to be sold directly and through physical therapists and sports teams; and a medi-

cal model to be available by prescription, pending regulatory approval.

Hadassah has empowered women to effect change, fight against hate and anti-semitism, and advance health and well-

being for women, men and families, all while showing support for Israel. For additional information about Hadassah or to donate, please contact Michele Bank: michele.bank@gmail.com.

Israel: Did You Know?

By Richard England

Did you know that Israel is a bird-watcher’s paradise? Every autumn and spring, a mass migration passes through Israel, as a half-billion birds stop to rest while they make their way between Europe or Asia and Africa. The more than 400 species that pass through Israel include storks, cranes, eagles, owls, and pelicans. White storks stop for fresh water at the Hula Valley Nature Reserve in the Galilee. Other species land in salt-

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL



water ponds at Eilat or Atlit. The Israelites of several thousand years ago were certainly aware of these migrations: “Even the stork in the sky knows her seasons, and the turtledove, swift, and crane keep the time of their coming...” (Jeremiah 8:7).

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Jewish Grandparents Network Launches New Offerings and Website Amid Growing Awareness of the Integral Role Grandparents Play in Grandchildren's Lives

Submitted by Jason Edelstein

October 26, 2021 -- As awareness grows of the essential role grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren, the Jewish Grandparents Network (JGN) is expanding its offerings and engagement to support families who want to engage in, and even rely on, multi-generational Jewish experiences. JGN's redesigned website offers grandparents curated, timely, and varied resources to deepen their knowledge. It also grounds, in Jewish values and learning, the everyday activities they love to do with their grandkids. The centerpiece of JGN's expansion is "The Family Room," a unique virtual space where Judaism and Jewish life come alive through all kinds of activities and adventures.

"Our growth and new offerings reflect the desire of the many grandparents who want to bring Jewish meaning into their grandkids' lives," says David Raphael, Executive Director of the Jewish Grandparents Network. "Every grandparent knows the unique impact they can have on their family. The Jewish Grandparents Network gives them the confidence, ideas, and tools to foster even more special interactions with their loved ones. And by helping grandparents engage grandkids in Jewish experiences, family ties are strengthened, families have deep-

er Jewish connections, and we help to ensure a more vibrant Jewish future."

The new Jewish Grandparents Network initiatives are informed heavily by its National Study of Jewish Grandparents. Among many findings, the study shows both how integral many grandparents are in their grandkids' lives (75 percent of grandparents who live within an hour or less of their grandchildren provide daytime or overnight childcare of transportation services on a regular or as-needed basis), and the strong desire of Jewish grandparents to engage in Jewish activities with their grandkids (71% of grandparents agreed that "It is important to me to transmit Jewish values to my grandchildren; 70% also responded that "It is important to me to teach my grandchildren about Jewish heritage).

Building on the organization's first four years of learning, The Family Room is a colorful, interactive platform with "destinations" covering the Arts; Celebrations & Holidays; Cooking & Food; Family Stories; Gardening & the Earth; Health & Wellbeing; Play; and a Reading Room. Each destination has multiple one-of-a-kind experiences, with more coming on a rolling basis. The Arts space, for example, offers a dance/movement expert offering three 5-minute videos for grandparents to move creatively with their grandchildren—in person or long

distance. Family Stories offers templates and ideas to learn about and share family histories through video and audio recordings, photos, and creative portraits.

"Grandparents can infuse nearly any activity that they love doing with their grandkids with some form of Jewish learning," adds Terry Kaye, who is Director of Creative Partnerships at the Jewish Grandparents Network, following her 30-year career in Jewish education at Behrman House Publishers. "Gardening, yoga, cooking, dancing, Minecraft—all of these activities can be enriched with Jewish learning and values. The Family Room unlocks this potential and makes it easy for grandparents to create those loving and meaningful moments."

JGN brought on major content partners to fill The Family Room with high-quality, dynamic resources, including Tiffany Shlain (filmmaker and author), Hanoeh Piven (Israeli artist), Dr. Marshall Duke (professor and expert on the value of family stories), BrainSavers (cognitive fitness experts), the Association of Jewish Libraries, and more to offer high-quality and varied experiences for grandparents to engage in with their grandchildren. In addition to the Family Room portal, Family Room Live, a series of live virtual conversations with notable thought leaders, will provide insights and guidance accessible to anyone interested in grandparenting. On November 2, 2021, Dr. Lisa Miller, renowned psychologist and author will discuss how older and younger generations can find larger purpose and meaning in everyday life. Marshall Duke and Ron Wolfson will share the joys and value of sharing family stories in "Grandma, Grandpa, Tell Me a Story" on November 16.

Following the challenges presented during the height of the pandemic, the increase in two-parent working households, and the common occurrence of healthy, longer-living grandparents, Jewish engagement leaders see an unprecedented opportunity to cultivate and expand meaningful Jewish life.

"In the more than 30 years during which I have had the privilege of serving the Jewish communal world in professional positions, I have encountered very few start-up organizations with the potential for the scope and import of contributions I believe the Jewish Grandpar-

ents Network will ultimately make," says Chip Edelsberg, Former Executive Director of the Jim Joseph Foundation. "JGN is doing inspirational work supporting Jewish families to nourish Jewish values intergenerationally."

On both the individual and communal level, JGN is uniquely positioned for impact. In addition to The Family Room, the Jewish Grandparents Network plans to expand its reach and offerings with a new podcast, retreats designed especially for grandparents and grandkids, in person and virtual grandparent support groups, a learning series, and more. JGN also will expand its research and advocacy efforts to continue to make the case to Jewish communities that grandparents are essential partners in organizational and communal Jewish identity development, education, and engagement. In all of these efforts, JGN offers content and programs for grandparents whose grandchildren have physical or developmental differences, who are part of multi-faith or multi-racial families, or who have LG-BTQ+ family members.

"We recognize and embrace the changes in Jewish life and in the Jewish family; they present wonderful new opportunities for engagement," adds Lee M. Hender, President and Co-founder of JGN and grandmother of six. "Grandparents are a hidden treasure in plain sight. We are a living bridge from our past to our Jewish future. However we choose to connect with Judaism, we know that it can add joy and meaning to our families' lives and deepen the special relationship we have with our grandchildren. Supporting and enriching these connections is what we do at the Jewish Grandparents Network."

The Family Room was originally funded by a grant from the Marcus Foundation.

Founded in 2017, The Jewish Grandparents Network addresses the under-recognized role of grandparents and the complex dynamics of today's "new Jewish family." We believe that Jewish grandparents are essential assets for our communities, our families, and our future. The Jewish Grandparent Network seeks to develop and steward the spaces and partnerships that will advance the wonderful blessings that grandparents represent.

Help Wanted!

Do you live in Keene, Laconia, Bethlehem, Hanover, or another NH community and want to help produce the Jewish Reporter?

We are looking for people all over the state who are interested in writing about their local Jewish community.

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

SAVE THE DATE
Super Sunday

DEC. 12th

FBI Boston Launches Public Awareness Campaign to Encourage the Public to Report Hate Crimes

The Boston Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is announcing its participation in a robust nationwide effort to increase public awareness of hate crimes and encourage reporting to law enforcement.

A hate crime is defined as a violent criminal act against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity. Hate crimes are often underreported to both federal, state, and local law enforcement.

Nationwide, in 2020, the number of hate crimes in the United States rose to the highest level in more than a decade. Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 7,759 hate crime incidents to the FBI which is a 25% increase in the last five years. Here in the Boston Division's area of responsibility, which includes all of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, a total of 426 hate crime incidents were reported last year, compared to 427 incidents in 2019.

- 83 hate crime incidents were reported in Maine involving 98 victims.
- 310 hate crime incidents in Massachusetts were reported involving 408 victims.
- 19 hate crime incidents were reported in New Hampshire involving 25 victims.
- And in Rhode Island, 14 hate crime incidents were reported involving 16 victims.

"We know that some people are afraid to come forward because of a fear or distrust of law enforcement, fear due to their immigration status, or a fear of retribution from their attacker. We understand that, but please know that hate crimes are a huge priority for the FBI, and we are surging resources to address this problem," said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. "Our goal is to protect victims, help them get justice, stop violent offenders from hurting people, and deter people from committing these terrible crimes. With the launch of this public awareness campaign, we want to make everyone aware of our strategy to tackle this problem, and to proactively try and stop these crimes from happening in the first place. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community, and everyone deserves a voice."

The FBI Boston Division's strategy to combat hate crimes includes federal inves-

tigative activity, law enforcement partner coordination, community outreach, and public awareness:

Public Awareness Campaign

- The FBI is encouraging the reporting of all incidents of bias and hate by expanding public education and outreach. FBI Boston has launched a social media awareness campaign and is currently running advertisements on billboards, buses, gas stations, and radio streaming services to encourage the public to report hate crimes to the FBI. Members of the public can submit information to tips.fbi.gov in any language.

Increase Investigative Activity

- FBI Boston is actively enhancing its existing investigative resources to investigate federal hate crimes. The division has experienced, specialized FBI special agent hate crime coordinators who are training more special agents to conduct hate crime and civil rights investigations. These special agents also conduct outreach to community groups to spread awareness, build trust, and encourage additional reporting of hate crimes to the FBI.

Improve Law Enforcement Coordination

- FBI special agents are actively working with our local, state, and tribal law enforcement partners throughout Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, to offer assistance and training on federal hate crime statutes. FBI Boston is encouraging law enforcement partners to refer possible federal hate crime cases to the FBI. In many instances, federal investigations may run parallel to and in coordination with local law enforcement investigations of violations of state hate crime laws.
- The FBI works closely with state, local, and tribal authorities on investigations, even when federal charges are not brought. FBI resources, forensic expertise, and experience in identification and proof of hate-based motivations often provide an invaluable complement to local law enforcement hate crime cases. Many cases are also prosecuted under other state statutes such as murder, arson, assault, or vandalism.
- The FBI can investigate an incident jointly as both a hate crime and domestic terrorism investigation—the two are not mutually exclusive. Two years ago, the FBI established the Domestic Terrorism-

Hate Crimes Fusion Cell, which is comprised of subject matter experts in the criminal and counterterrorism programs. This cell helps ensure seamless information sharing and augments resources. When applicable, hate crime charges can be brought in a domestic terrorism investigation, such as the 2019 Poway Synagogue shooting in San Diego, California, the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the 2016 Somali Immigrant Bomb plot in Garden City, Kansas.

Increase Community Outreach

- FBI Boston has been rapidly increasing outreach efforts to minority associations, religious organizations, and community groups to promote cooperation and reduce civil rights abuses. Transparency and trust are fundamental to increase the reporting of hate crime incidents to law enforcement.

The FBI is the lead investigative agency for criminal violations of federal civil rights statutes. Hate crimes are the highest priority of the FBI's civil rights program because of the devastating impact they have on families and communities. The Bureau works to protect all victims of crimes, regardless of their country of national origin or immigration status. If you or someone you know are in immediate danger, please call 911. If you believe you've been the target or victim of a hate crime, or other violation of your civil rights, please contact the FBI by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI or submit a tip online at tips.fbi.gov. Tips can remain anonymous and can be made in an individual's native language. If you are a member of an impacted community and would like to engage with us in this critical work, our community outreach team can be contacted at bs_communityoutreach@fbi.gov.

OBITUARIES

Leatrice "Lea" Helene Levy

July 3, 1927 - October 22, 2021

Leatrice "Lea" Helene Levy of Bedford, NH, formerly a longtime resident of Manchester, NH, died October 22, 2021, at the age of 94, after a short period of declining health.

Leatrice was born on July 3, 1927, in Dorchester, MA. She was the elder daughter of Samuel and Esther (Glick) Mayers. She attended school in Dorchester but graduated from secretarial school in Boston and worked for several large department stores in Boston, prior to her marriage.

On Dec 31, 1950, Lea married the love of her life, Maurice K. Levy, and together they spent more than 45 happy years together, until his death in March 1996. She is survived by two children; Arlene Levy Fishbein (Leon Cornell) of Manchester, NH and Steven J Levy (Susan) of Keene, NH; and by her grandson, Ross William Fishbein (Jennifer) of Bedford, NH, with whom she shared a very special bond. In addition to her children and grandson, she is survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins, and sisters-in-law, as well as many friends. She is predeceased by her parents, and sister, Beverly Cohen.

Lea was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun, the TAY Sisterhood, Treasurer of the Seniors Forever Young Group, and the Bedford Women's Club. She was a lifetime member of Hadassah. Lea was a good Mah Jongg player and bowled in a League until 2015. She traveled extensively with her husband, visiting many countries and continents around the world. She was a terrific cook and baker, known for her signature strudel.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Maurice K. Levy Family Fund at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street Manchester, NH 03104, or to the charity of the donor's choice. Lambert Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

How to submit an obituary

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



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



JFNH Tributes

Received by November 10, 2021

Campaign

From Faith Canner in Memory of Arnold Canner

Film Festival

To Ross Fishbein and family in Memory of his grandmother Leatrice Levy from David and Allyson Guertin

Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

To Ross Fishbein in Memory of his grandmother Leatrice Levy from Norm and Andy Kushner
 To Arlene Fishbein in Memory of her mother Leatrice Levy from Norm and Andy Kushner
 To Mrs. Florita Sonnenklar in Memory of Arthur Sonnenklar from Norm and Andy Kushner
 To Mrs. Susan Arm Rosenbaum in Memory of Norman Arm from Norm and Andy Kushner
 To Joe Diamond for a speedy recovery from Norm and Andy Kushner

Momentum

In honor of Ken and Bertha Litvack from the Miami Momentum group – Thanks!

Simchas

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

When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

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JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

Your JFNH tribute card serves double duty by helping to support the vital programs serving the New Hampshire Jewish Community.

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

Amount of Contribution:

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- Annual Campaign
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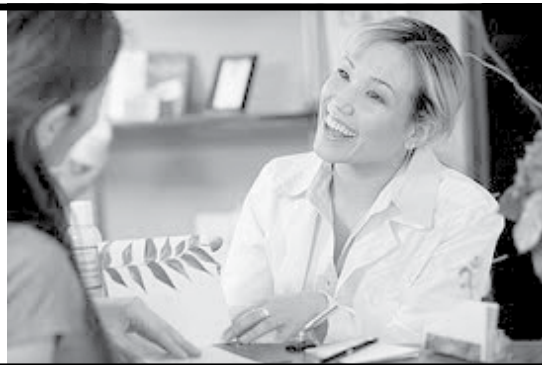
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