



FOOD & RESTAURANTS

Meet Ra'anán De-Has — New Hampshire's New Shaliach!

In August, Avia will set off on her next journey, and New Hampshire will welcome our newest Shaliach: Ra'anán De-Has. Read some fun facts about Ra'anán below, and be on the lookout for information on his first stop to a community near you — coming soon!

Q: Where in Israel do you live?

Ra'anán: I'm originally from Rehovot, a city 30 minutes south of Tel Aviv. For the past year, I've been living in Tel Aviv.

What will people find most surprising about you?

Ra'anán: I've been working since the age of 15 and have had some exotic jobs. From being a butcher's assistant to selling cosmetics in a Canadian mall, to working for LEGO in Denmark... some would say I'm a workaholic.

What is your favorite Israeli food?

Ra'anán: It's not necessari-

ly my favorite food, but the one thing I know I'm going to miss, while living in the U.S., is eating a big Israeli salad. Vegetables in Israel are very cheap, and on some lazy nights at home my roommates and I would just make a huge salad for dinner.

What is your favorite Israeli song? American song?

Ra'anán: My taste in music constantly changes depending on my mood. There



are days where all I want to listen to is classic rock songs and days where the newest pop songs are on repeat. If you're ever driving with me in a car, be prepared to sing along with me. I really like the Israeli band Ha'tikva 6 (Hope 6), it's a hip hop/reggae band and my favorite song of theirs is "BaOlam Shela" (In Her world).

What are you most excited to see/do/visit?

Ra'anán continued on page 4

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August 8, 2021
11AM

Join us for a Celebration of Our Shlichah Program

Featuring Artwork by Shlichah Avia Sagron
A benefit to support the JFNH Israeli Emissary Program

Enjoy Kosher Israeli and Mediterranean fare

Wish Avia well on her next journey

Meet our new Shaliach Ra'anán De-Has

Purchase a piece of Avia's beautiful artwork and bid on two original creations

Tickets: \$36/person & \$50/couple (adults only)

Receive an Israel/New Hampshire pin with an additional donation of \$18.00

Space is limited so reserve your tickets today (603)627-7679

The event hosted outside, in a private home in Stratham, NH Address will be provided with your RSVP

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Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

Dena Glasgow (Rabbinic Intern)
5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 886-1633
www.betenu.org
Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

DURHAM

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbi.ahavas.achim@gmail.com
secretary.ahavas.achim@gmail.com
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM
Monthly Shabbat morning services at 10 AM
Check the website for time variations

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelnh.org
Services: Fridays at 6 PM
Saturday at 9:30 AM
Minyans: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM. Call Stephen Singer 603-774-4048 for info.

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
4 Raymond Street, Nashua
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbi@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services: Friday services 8:00 p.m., Shabbat Alive! first Friday of the month 6:30 p.m., online Saturday service 10 am, evening services daily at 7:30 p.m. except Saturday 45 minutes after sunset.

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

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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.

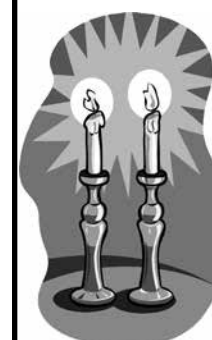
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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



July 2	8:11 PM
July 9	8:08 PM
July 16	8:04 PM
July 23	7:58 PM
July 30	7:51 PM

A Message from the JFNH Executive Director

Summer is finally here, and it seems that life is falling back into place. As excited as we are to begin actually sitting in restaurants and attending programs in person, I think we are all a little hesitant as well. Are we ready? Can we fall back into our old ways easily? I find that when I meet someone or walk into a restaurant, my first statement is “I’m fully vaccinated”—just saying it out loud makes me feel better. Should I wear a mask? Should I take my mask with me? I find myself looking around to see what others are doing before making my own decision. I don’t think we are out of the woods yet, and I don’t want to just jump into “normalcy” before we reach the finish line. We still need to be cognizant of the fact that there are individuals who have not vaccinated, and we have our children under 12 who are not yet approved. We need to take our time, think about who we are meeting, where we are meeting, and determine how safe the circumstances are. We will get there with a little more patience.

As it is, I think we are moving in the right direction. The sun is shining, and we can enjoy our summer months together in a much safer environment than there has been for the past year and a half.

As we wind down our fiscal year at the Federation, it is hard not to reflect on the recent violence that erupted in Israel. And unfortunately, once again, we saw a great deal of very one-sided reporting from the mainstream media. Everyone has their opinions and thoughts, but we rely on the media to help us figure out the facts, and unfortunately, recent coverage has demonstrated the importance of finding an array of sources, and not only relying on mainstream coverage. Following the military action in Israel, there has been a significant rise in antisemitic incidents and violence all over the world, much of it perpetuated by one-sided reporting. Before you make a decision and take a stand, check out some of these resources that were suggested by our Shaliach, Avia Sagron:

- The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, as they publish regular well-documented corrections of incorrect or biased reporting. (Go to www.camera.org)
- <https://www.ajc.org/news/4-myths-and-facts-about-the-violence-in-jerusalem>
- To understand better Sheikh Jarrah story:
- <https://www.jns.org/opinion/understanding-the-sheikh-jarrah-property-dispute>
- <https://unpacked.education/sheikh-jarrah-the-story-behind-the-story/> Changing topics for a moment. The

Elyse Hyman

Executive Director



New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival was terrific this year with the pivot to all virtual. The committee under the leadership of co-chairs, Pat Kalik and Ross Fishbein, deserve a huge round of applause. They all worked so hard to make it happen, and the films were wonderful. Thank you for your amazing support.

This issue of The Reporter focuses on food, recipes, and restaurants. Hopefully, you will enjoy trying new places to eat and new recipes to test. Please support our lo-

cal vendors. It has been such a difficult year and we can play a small part in helping our local restaurants and businesses stay in business.

And finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t let you know that the Federation is beginning to work on our next Annual Campaign. We will be inviting you to join us at our Annual Meeting which will be held in August. We hope you will consider supporting us with a personally meaningful gift. We are making a difference in the community. We created a strong social service program and assisted significantly more people in the past year. We have a wonderful PJ Library program and are thrilled to have 425 free books sent to families each month. Our Shlichot Program is thriving: soon, we will say so long to our beloved Avia, and welcome our new Shli-

cha, Ra’anana, in August. And we are beginning to plan programs which will focus on trainings against hate, racism, and antisemitism. We are proud of our collaboration with NH synagogues and look forward to many new collaborative programs next year. We have so much to do, and we need your help to make it happen.

As we begin to move on from COVID, I welcome your calls and visits. The office is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. And specifically, I am in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays all day. Allyson is in the office Monday – Thursday. Cheryl Gerrior is in on Monday and Tuesday. And Wendy Green is in every day. We are all available by phone during office hours.

Please be in touch if you would like to talk about our wonderful New Hampshire Jewish community.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

INVITES YOU
TO ZOOM INTO OUR

Annual Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 29th 11AM

Celebrate this year's successes

Hear what's to come for 2021/22

Join us on Zoom or watch Live on Facebook

Register to join us on Zoom
<https://bit.ly/2SA7lvy>



Thanks Friends

For Helping Make The 2021 NH Jewish Film Festival Possible.

We couldn't do it without you.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mark Abramson | Barbara Green | Luisa Paster |
| Barbara Adler | Louis Greenberg | Barrie Paster |
| Louise Allard | Richard Grossman | Beatrice Paul |
| Jerilyn Anderson | Sara Grunstein | David Penchansky |
| Anonymous | Sheryl and Denis Hammond | Karen Polansky |
| Barbara Bailey | Esther Haskvitz | Judith Posner |
| Michele Banks | Sheldon Hayer | Jill Post |
| Adrienne Baum and Keith Spiro | Ellen and William Herlicka | Lee Ann and Melissa Potter |
| Phyllis Benoit | Gail Herman | Heidi Pound |
| Bennett Berson | Melissa Herman and Michael Herron | David Raider |
| Fern Blood | Ann Holbrook | Judith Reeve |
| Shelley Blye | Joan Jacobs and Lawrence Drake | Eileen Resnick |
| Joseph Bravo | Nancy and Andrew Jaffe | Ellis and Virginia Rolett |
| Kathy Brodsky | Hollie Jaffe | Roseann Ronnan |
| Terry Buckner | Andrea Jaffe | David Rosenthal |
| Christine Bullen | Judith Jolton | Emma and Walter Rous |
| Rowena and Sanders Burstein | Ricki Kantrowitz | Reva Rovner |
| Marilyn Cavanaugh | Carol Kaplan | Robin and Lawrence Rubin |
| Dina Michael Chaitowitz | Michael Kaplan | Ellie and Alan Rudnick |
| Barbara Cohen | Emilie and Alan Kaplan | Beth and David Salzman |
| Ellen Cohen | Glicka Kaplan | Erin Sandler |
| Ellen Cohn | Edwin Kay | Andrea Savada |
| Linda Cohn-Rosenberg and Richard Rosenberg | Jocelyn Kaye | Brenda Schadick |
| Elsa Conrad | Stephanie Kendall | Nancie and Mark Severs |
| Howard Brett Cutler | Sheryl Rich Kern | Jack Shapiro |
| Peter Daley | Amy Kischner and Peter Thompson | Jane Sharstein |
| Rachel Dennis | Jeanette Kruger | Jeffrey Silbert |
| Patricia and Andrew Diengott | Andy and Norm Kushner | Karl Singer |
| Bruce Dorrer | Adine Latimore | Eliot Sirkin |
| Judith Dunn | Susan Lawless | Ricki Sirvint |
| Jeff Eichel | Benita Lebow | Helen Skeist |
| Alan Elliot | Marjorie Leventon | Renee Snow |
| Pamela and Luis Englander | Heidi and Donald Levi | Carol and Gary Sobelson |
| Marsha and Robert Feder | Jennifer Lewis | Bonnie Sontag |
| Albert Fine | Nadine Lipman | Ida Stanger |
| Judith Finn | Roz Lowen | Stephen Marx Hair Salon |
| Janice and Bill Fischel | Sally Lowen | Dena Stern |
| Barbara Fishman | Karen and Joe Lukeman | Jeffrey Stern |
| Stanley and Ellen Forman | Jay Madnick | Adele and Norman Strominger |
| Mandy and Barry Frank | Kate McMurray | Bernice Taube |
| Barbara and Ivor Freeman | Karen Melaas | Temple Beth Jacob |
| Marjorie Friedman | Scott Meyer | Nicole Therrien-Boll |
| Shari Gelber | JoAnn Meyers | Susan and Stephen Tober |
| Suzanne and Kenneth Gelinis | Evelyn Miller | Tina and Tom Tolin-Schepere |
| Linda Gerson | Christine Miller | Cheryl Weinstein |
| Ann Glater | Judith Mitchell | Phyllis Whitney |
| Ellen and Samuel Gold | Martha Mobley | Kenneth Wilner |
| Priscilla Gould | George Newman | Laura X |
| Linda Gould | Bruce Pacht | Ted Yegerman |
| Rebecca and Alan Green | Leslie Paisner | Rosa Zwaiman |

www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org 

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, July 14

Israeli Music with Shlicha Avia Sagron
7:00PM - 9PM Zoom
Join New Hampshire Shlicha Avia Sagron for the last

presentation of her Slichut. Avia will lead us on the Israeli musical path from 1948 until today and how it reflects the Israeli community.
To register visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAvC0moqTgoE9VidVtHXHyDM4IBXKi0_D

Saturday, July 24

PJ Library Tot Shabbat Hop

9:00AM - 11:00AM
PJ Library's jBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 (siblings Welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush.
Space is limited and registration required!
Outside at Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
Contact Allyson at allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org or 603-627-7679 with questions.
To register visit: <https://forms.gle/GVbQFYwZzPNqtGNfA>
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, PJ Library - New Hampshire, Temple Beth Abraham

Ra'anana *continued from page 1*

eat/explore/experience in New Hampshire?

Ra'anana: I'm looking forward to experiencing a real winter. It doesn't get really cold in Israel and I've always visited the U.S and Canada during the spring or summer. I'm also really excited to explore an area in the U.S I've never been to before: the whole Atlantic Northeast is new to me.

What do you most want people to know (or understand) about Israel?

Ra'anana: It's not a warzone. Sadly, many people around the world know Israel only from the news, and they come to think of it as an endangered warzone. That is far from the case. Although there are unfortunate incidents, in general, Israel is quite a safe place. Israelis are always on alert and security guards are placed at every public spot, so you don't need to worry about walking around the streets, although it's always better to have an eye out.

What do you feel you can teach New Hampshire Jews about Israel?

Ra'anana: Having been born and raised in Israel, I feel I have a good understanding on a variety of issues. I can teach you about what living in Israel is actually like, from politics to economics, to culture or sports. It is important to say that Israel is not just about who is arguing with whom.

What do you hope to learn from our community?

Ra'anana: Growing up as a secular Jew in Israel, I have never had to make an ef-

fort to be Jewish, it was all around me with official holidays and kosher food. I would like to learn how living as a Jewish person in a non-Jewish country will affect me, having to "decide" to be Jewish.

What parts of Israel do you most want to share with children?

Ra'anana: I would like to teach them to support Israel. I believe that long gone are the days where Jewish youth "blindly love" Israel, especially with the influence they get on social media. I want to show them all aspects of living here and educate them with the full picture in order for them to be able to advocate for it.

What will you miss most from home (People? Places? Things?)

Ra'anana: I am a very social person. I have different groups of friends: high school, army, and work. I enjoy socializing and catching up with everyone. We get together at least once a week just to catch up with each other or play a board game. In addition, every Friday night, I have dinner with my parents, my brother and sister. This connection will be missed.

What special items are you bringing with you that you can't leave behind in Israel?

Ra'anana: I'm a very minimalistic person, most of what I'm bringing with me are essentials. The one thing I'm bringing that has sentimental value is a scarf of the Israeli soccer team I'm a fan of, Maccabi Haifa. I've been a fan of them for as long as I can remember, inheriting this from my dad. This year the team won the Israeli championship after a 10-year drought.

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

Better Tell Mel

By David Goldstone

Let's say you know someone who is unable to pay the rent and is facing eviction or must choose between a roof over their head, food to eat, or medical care that they require. You may know someone who is the victim of abuse, or perhaps the victimizer. You may know someone who has succumbed to alcoholism or drug addiction. You may have a parent or loved one who cannot take of themselves due to the debilitating effects of their disease. You may know parents of children with emotional and physical disabilities that they alone can not manage, or friends or family members faced with incarceration or police matters that require legal aid.

You may know someone who is in this kind of trouble. It could be your best friend, your child, your parent... or you. How are you going to get the help you need for yourself, or those you care

about? Who can you turn to?

Here is the place to start: pick up the phone and call: 603-310-9941, and leave a message for Mel Spierer.

Mel Spierer MSW, has been helping people like yourselves for over 50 years in medical social work, clinical support, Elderly Outreach, and all areas of social work. He has been the Jewish Federation's consulting social worker since 1998. The service is designed to be short term, and his tasks are to hear your issues, help you to develop a plan, link you to community resources, and then provide follow up. All contacts are maintained privately and there is no charge for the service.

Tell Mel what the problem is. He is a good listener. He has been there. He can help. The call to Mel and the advice and aid he provides are completely confidential and free. Don't suffer in silence.

Take the first step. Call 603-310-9941. Tell Mel. He can help!



The Momentum moms got together for a Shavuot brunch and discussed the conflict in Israel with NH Shlicha Avia Sagron.

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Malabi!

When Allyson told me the theme of *The Reporter* this month, I was happy. And then I got excited. THEN I started to think about all the kinds of Israeli food ... and then I got hungry. So, I am going to make myself a delicious Israeli dish, and I will be right back!

After almost two years, you probably know that I love to talk about food. More than the fact that I appreciate it and love to eat and experience different kinds of food myself, I love the cultures and the stories that usually stand behind them. In my opinion, that is the reason Israeli food is so GOOD. It reflects the diversity and the multiculturalism that make Israel the wonderful place that it is today.

The question "What is Israeli food?" has so many answers. Most people think first about falafel and hummus, traditional Middle Eastern dishes that you can find so many different versions of. But it's much more than that. I think that Israeli food is your grandmother's



Avia Sagron

JFNH Shlichah

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL NH SHLICHA



food, Your "Savta," your roots. Israeli food can be Moroccan fish or gefiltefish, Harira or borscht, bourekas or kubeh, couscous or pttim, malabi or chocolate cake, challah or injera or fatoot, sambusak or khachapuri. It's endless! And that is the beauty.

Today, you can find a combination of cuisines and modern versions of traditional foods. Food is not only something that keeps your body go-



Malabi

ing—it's also a deep trigger for emotions, and heart. One bite of my parents cooking, and I feel at home again. I invite you to explore the Israeli cuisine and all the beautiful cultures, traditions, and stories that only a big family can create, together.

I'm going back home very soon, so always remember I would love to see you if you visit Israel, and it would be my pleasure to take you on a delicious food journey as well.

This time, to celebrate this issue's theme, I choose to make malabi. malabi (also known as muhallebi or muhallabi) is a Middle Eastern dessert. It is very similar to a milk pudding and served with rosewater/orange blossom flavors, as well as with pistachios, peanuts, or other nuts. The malabi is served cold, so it is a perfect dessert for hot summer days, and it takes 10 minutes to make!

One of my favorite places in Jaffa is called the "Malabia," an outdoor stand with tables that are always packed with people, and which has amazing malabi!

Here is a recipe if you want to try it at home:

Ingredients:

- 1 liter of milk (32 oz, 1 quart)
- 8 tbsp (85 g) of cornstarch
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) of rosewater (usually can

be found in Hannaford, next to the Kosher and Middle East section)

- 250 ml of heavy cream
- ½ cup of sugar

For topping:

- 6 oz of raspberries
- 6 oz of blackberries
- 1 lemon
- 1 orange
- ½ cup of sugar
- Pistachio\nuts\ ground coconut

Directions:

1. In a small bowl, mix well: 1 cup of milk, cornstarch, and rosewater.
2. In a medium cooking pot, boil the rest of the milk and the heavy cream, add the sugar. When it's warm, add the mix of the cornstarch inside and mix all the time with a whisk until it's getting thick.
3. Pour the mix into personal dishes (cup\small glass bowls)
4. Leave it out until it gets to room temperature.
5. Cover it with plastic wrap and put it in the fridge for at least 4-5 hours or until it stabilizes.

Topping syrup:

1. Grind the raspberries in a blender
2. Put it in a small cooking pot
3. Squeeze lemon and orange juice inside
4. Add sugar
5. Mix all the ingredients together until it boils (the longer it boils, the thicker it gets).

After the malabi stabilizes, pour syrup on top of it, and add coconut and pistachio.

Enjoy!

Trees have been planted in the Holy Land

View of Jerusalem

כִּי תָבוֹא אֶל הָאָרֶץ וְנִטְעַתָּם (ויקרא י"ב)

"When you shall come to the land you shall plant trees." – Leviticus 19:23

A Circle Of Five Trees Has Been Planted
In Memory Of

Those Who Died In The Mt. Meron Tragedy
Our Hearts Are Heavy With Sadness Over This Tragedy
With Our Deepest Sympathy
The Jewish Federation Of New Hampshire



The PJ Library new jBaby group met for their first Playgroup in May.


Return Us to... Normal?

As more and more people become vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus, and institutions of Jewish life begin to ease and eliminate restrictions for participation in onsite activities, we hear lots of talk about returning to “normal.” In our mind’s eye we picture a sanctuary full of worshippers standing shoulder-to-shoulder as the Torah scrolls are removed from the *aron kodesh* (holy ark) on Yom Kippur, a meeting hall abuzz with chatter as old friends shake hands and exchange hugs, a classroom packed with giggling preschool children, a gala honoring an esteemed member of the community replete with three-course dinner and Klezmer band. Indeed, as the pall of the coronavirus lifts, the words of Lamentations 5:21 resonate strongly: *Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha v'nashuva. Chadesh yameinu k'kedem.* Return us to You, Eternal One, and we shall return! Renew our days as the days of old.

As much as we may yearn for a return to normal, the hard truth is that we will never return to the pre-Covid “days of old,” except maybe in the spiritual sense, which was probably what the prophet Jeremiah, the author of these words from Lamentations, intended. At best, we can expect a “new normal” in how we function, how we set our priorities, how we relate with one another, how we cope with future trauma.

Traumatic events change us. Covid-19 has changed us. Not only has our mental health been altered, but we’ve learned and experienced things that will inform

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Daniel Aronson
Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene, NH

our future. We’ll continue to use technology to connect with people over vast distances and to include the frail and sick who cannot easily join us in our physical places of worship. Masks will become familiar attire during flu season. We’ll approach one another with new sensitivities. In other words, normal going forward will be different from the normal we’ve known.

Jeremiah, who penned Lamentations in the wake of the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE, surely didn’t imagine that his community would one day

emerge from the devastation and dislocation it had experienced and look just the same as it had before the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem. Nor could the rabbis of the first century CE have read Jeremiah’s words literally as they mourned the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 CE. A spiritual routine to the Eternal, yes. But the Temples, when and if rebuilt, would not look the same. Indeed, Judaism itself would change forever. Much of that change—the loss of life, the separation from our sacred institutions, the removal from our homeland—would come with a heavy heart. But some of that change, we now know, would actually be good -- the creation of home rituals, the democratization of leadership, new opportunities for learning.

And so it will be as we emerge from the pandemic. We will mourn those we lost, we will mourn our sense of safety. But we

also will embrace new approaches to being together and, if we will it, respond to our loss by being more compassionate, patient, and careful with one another. Life will not return to normal as we’ve known it, but to a new kind of normal.

This month we observe Tisha B’Av. Many of us will sit on the hard floors of our synagogues and read the words of Lamentations by the dim glow of candles. We will re-experience millennia-old losses and lament that we have not returned to those days of old when our ancestors brought sacrifices to the Temple in Jerusalem and all the Jewish people dwelled in the Land of Israel. But as the day wanes and we grow weary from hours of fasting, let us also begin to celebrate that, despite all that has befallen us as people and despite a virus that has taken millions of lives and disrupted our very ways of being, we are still here. Together. Changed. And, one day, normal.

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What Did Your Child Hear On The School Bus Today?

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz,
JFNH Board of Directors member

Tom Paxton's *What Did You Learn In School Today, Dear Little Boy Of Mine?* popularized by the legendary American folklorist and activist Pete Seeger, is a catchy but satirical song about some of the falsehoods children may learn in school—for example, that “Washington never told a lie,” and that “soldiers seldom die.” I hear Seeger's rich voice singing the lyrics as I contemplate writing about the importance of having the difficult conversation with your children about antisemitism.

The reason that I am having this internal dialogue is the result of what I learned during the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) recent webinar *How to Talk To Your Children About Antisemitism* and Board Vice-Chairperson Ken Litvack's request that I write an article about antisemitism for this newsletter.

The webinar featured Susan Walden, ADL Antisemitism Educator; Dr. Lynne Goldstein, School Child Psychologist and ADL board member; Marji-Lipshez-Shapiro, ADL Connecticut Deputy Director; and a Connecticut high school senior who confronted antisemitism in high school and created a Jewish affinity group as a result.

Ms. Shapiro told us that for many years, when the ADL put on programs at local synagogues for parents and students, parents would express their belief that antisemitism was not an issue—that is, until their children interjected that it was. Ms. Shapiro conducted an informal survey of hundreds of high school students and discovered that, on average, they stopped talking to their parents about their experiences with antisemi-

tism and other bullying in 2nd grade. The experiences that were left unexamined with parents include individual ones that occur in school or online—for example, antisemitic comments, jokes, and micro-aggressions; school and community incidents, such as swastika and other graffiti and vandalism that impact the students even though the incidents did not happen to them directly; and national and international events that the students hear or read about in the news, like the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Ms. Shapiro explained that although young people often view these incidents as part of the world they live in and do not define the incidents as real threats, many are also deeply impacted by them in ways we may not appreciate fully. The high school students on the panel commented that without proactive parental guidance and support, students subjected to antisemitism may come to believe that what they hear in school and read about online is true. And then, they may want to reject their Jewish identity.

Ms. Walden related that the ADL is now hearing from much younger students about incidents 7th and 8th graders experienced several years ago. In one of her 5th grade religious school classes two years ago, a student told her about a “joke” she had heard at school: “Why are Jews like pizza,” the joke teller asked, and then answer, “Because they both belong in the oven.” Ms. Walden concludes that we have to prepare our children early on for what they are going to hear in school.

Parents may be concerned that a discussion about antisemitism may scare younger children. Dr. Goldstein emphasized the importance of talking with children in a calm and age-appropriate way about incidents that occur in school. For

very young children, details about the Holocaust are unnecessary. Parents can simply say, for example, that a swastika is a hateful symbol directed toward Jewish people and that any hateful symbol toward any group hurts all of us. But without parental guidance, our children may not understand the uncomfortable feelings they may experience when confronted with antisemitism, may feel vulnerable, unsafe, or scared, and may not know how to react. Dr. Goldstein also emphasized the importance of simultaneously embracing our Jewish identity and modeling Jewish pride in a positive way.

The lesson for parents of young children, tweens, and teens is that we need to prepare them for what appears to be the inevitable encounter with antisemitism. For younger children, we want to let them know that we are living in a time when angry words and actions are directed at many individuals, including Jews, and that such behavior is not acceptable. For tweens and teens, we particularly want to talk about strategies for dealing with antisemitism. Tweens and teens in particular need to know that they are not powerless and that they can take action, inspire their peers to take action, and make a positive difference in their schools and communities.

Antisemitism is happening in New Hampshire. While working on the Holo-

caust and Genocide Education bill, and participating in ADL's Words to Action programs, we heard from NH students about their experiences: young students on school buses hearing that someone cannot be friends with them because they are Jewish, middle and high schoolers being told that they should “go back to the ovens,” and that “Hitler was right,” and worse – much worse.

So why am I hearing Seeger sing *What Did You Learn in School Today, Dear Little Boy of Mine?* It is because I know that sometimes what our children learn at school—maybe just from their peers—is not accurate and is not healthy for them. It is important that we be involved in the conversation about antisemitism in a safe, supportive, and positive way, and that we do so proactively, so that our children are not exposed to antisemitism without preparation and the tools necessary to understand and cope with it.

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire hopes to offer a similar *How to Talk To Your Children About Antisemitism* program, and the ADL's Words to Action program, this coming school year. These programs will provide you with tips for talking with your children about antisemitism and will provide students with strategies for dealing with antisemitic incidents. We hope you and your family will participate.

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Behind the Scenes at The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival

Summer in the Lakes Region is a time of family, friends, fun, and food, with the emphasis on food. The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival has been one of the premiere events of the summer season, offering homemade traditional Jewish foods that families in the Lakes Region and beyond have enjoyed for 24 years.

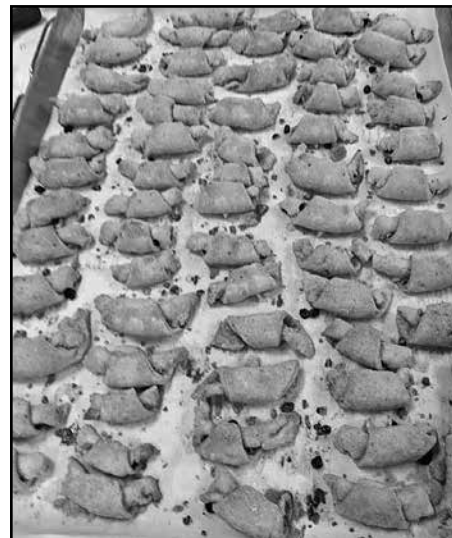
The festival began in 1997, the year after our own temple member, Irene Gordon, had the idea to enhance the annual rummage sale with a little nosh. Irene set up a side table with knockwurst and drinks. The next year, Irene was joined by other temple members and the festival grew into a celebration of the Jewish foods which come from the recipes which are handed down, generation to generation. Many of the recipes are included in the TBI cookbook (copies available on the website). Irene turned over the reins of the festival in 2012 but she is still the matzah ball soup queen.

This year, TBI introduced our own “Bubbie” to the Lakes Region. Her stories of the old country and tongue-in-cheek descriptions of the recipes and cooking process were printed in four installments in the Laconia Daily Sun and are still available on the TBI website. As much fun as “Bubbie’s Kitchen Adventures” are to read, the real story behind the scenes in the TBI kitchen is an unfolding drama worthy of its own reality TV show. Each recipe is executed with precise proportions and exact processes in the small temple kitchen. Teams of congregation members, women and men, enjoy the camaraderie that naturally results when people come



together with a purpose, for a cause. While the blintzes are frying or the strudels are baking, there are stories shared and world problems solved. Mahjong also helps pass the time as the aromas from the hot oven fill the adjacent social hall as they wait for the timer to ring. Take out one batch and put in the next. After the baking, cooking, or frying is done and the foods are cool enough, they must be packed, labeled, and carefully stored in the many freezers which are located in closets, the basement, a wall here and a nook over there. The location of each food, which freezer it is in, and the precise number of every item, is all strategically noted and managed. When the time comes to pick the orders for curbside, drive through delivery, there is no question where to find the matzah ball soup, the brisket, or the rugelach.

But before any cooking can begin, there is shopping to be done. Cooking for a crowd takes on a new meaning when the grocery list includes 250 pounds of raw brisket. The knishes and latkes require 80 pounds of russet potatoes, at least 20 pounds each of carrots, celery, and onions. To make 60 noodle kugels requires 45 bags of egg noodles, 120 eggs, 30 pints of sour cream, 60 cups of whole milk, and 60 cups of frosted flakes. Then there are the blintzes, one of the most



Rugelach

popular items from the festival. A special order is placed for 60 pounds of farmer’s cheese at a local grocery store, one of the crucial ingredients needed to make 1200 blintzes. This is just a small sample of the quantity of ingredients required to create the foods that make the New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival what it is today.

So it goes, year after year, for 24 years now. Even a pandemic couldn’t stop the Jewish Food Festival when it became a “takeout” event with curbside pickup on a given day and an appointed time. No one had to go without their annual dose of homemade Jewish delicacies. In fact, the online order version of the festival worked so well, it was continued for 2021, with astounding success.

On Tuesday, June 1st, the Jewish Food Festival was opened for online orders on the Temple B’nai Israel website. As the orders started piling up, the emails and texts were bouncing between food festival committee members who were astounded by the immediate and overwhelming numbers of orders placed on



Strudel making

just the first day. The success of this year’s Jewish Food Festival has been over the top.

Later this month, the final step of the online order process will begin when the customers arrive at Temple B’nai Israel, on the appointed day and time for curbside pickup. Then the work for next year begins. The committee will review the orders, the process, and most importantly the feedback from the patrons. Food Festival committee chair, Stu Needleman says, “It’s always a work in progress. We look for ways to improve, streamline, and make the experience the best it can be for the customer and our members who volunteer to organize, shop, cook, pack and freeze and finally, to hand out the completed orders to the customer.”

Next year, 2022, TBI will be celebrating the 25th silver anniversary of the New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival. Look for a special celebration, a nostalgic look back through the years and a few surprises to commemorate this special milestone.



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www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

In the Community



Sue Niederman reads names of veterans buried in the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery.



Rabbi Jeremy reads a prayer at the Memorial Day Service.

WE REMEMBER: Memorial Day 2021

The traditional Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Memorial Day Service was once again held this year, on May 30, 2021. After having to have a fully virtual service last year, we were actually once again able to be at the cemetery, and also to Zoom the service to those who could not attend.

Five days before the service, American flags were placed at the graves of the 136 veterans who are buried in our Temple Israel-Temple Adath Yeshurun Community Cemetery. David Rosenzweig organized the flag-placing crew, which consisted of Jonathan Baron, Barry and Barbara Scotch, Nancy Frankel, Bob Katchen and Mel Spierer. With electronic setup having been done by David Rosenzweig, Alan Kaplan, Bob Katchen and Cliff Lopate, Sol Rockenmacher welcomed the attendees—both on-siters, and Zoomers. Eagle Scout Ryan Rosen-

berg, flanked by his parents Missy and Cary holding US flags, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Sol then introduced our speaker, Ted Yegerman, who Zoomed into the service. Ted, a veteran of World War II who had the moving experience of being at Dachau just a few days after its liberation, shared his feelings of his memories of his military experiences and friendships which have impacted and stayed with him throughout the years.

Mel Spierer opened the next segment by introducing the speakers, Mike Litvin, Sue Niederman and Michael Sydney, who read the names of the 136 veterans buried in the cemetery. Mel then asked attendees, both at the cemetery and on Zoom, to recite the names of those close to them who have perished in service to our beloved country.

Rabbis Beth Davidson and Jeremy

Szczepanski then led us in a prayer service, “A Service of Thanks and Memorial.” The program concluded with a poignant playing of “Taps.” In summa-

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



Listening to the Memorial Day Service at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery.

Introduction to the Mount Washington Valley Chavurah

Despite the isolation imposed by COVID precautions, the Mount Washington Valley Jewish Community (Chavurah) is active and thriving.

During last year's summer/fall seasons, members continued to be responsible for trash pickups for our two adopted roadways in the Valley and will resume this spring. We have continued to support two students, one from MSAD72 and one from SAU9, for the weekend backpack programs, and have

pledged our support for two of the Valley's food programs, Meals on Wheels and the Vaughn Food Pantry. Unfortunately, this year we were not able to offer an in-person community Passover seder, but hope to be able to be together again next year in person.

If you have a need for life cycle event observances, a Jewish community in the Valley, or access to Jewish services, please contact us either at www.mwvjcc.org or 603-694-3058.

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An Israeli Breakfast: Shakshuka, Eggplant and Tzatziki, Israeli Salad with White Cabbage, Tahini Sauce, and Bread

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

There are two spices that are a must-have for these recipes and about which you may be unfamiliar: Sumac and Zahtar/Za'atar. You can find these in New Hampshire, but not necessarily at the supermarket that happens to be in your town. If your Market Basket or Shaw's doesn't carry them, check out Whole Foods or a local Indian grocery.

Shakshuka

- 2 tablespoons olive or grapeseed oil
- 2 tablespoons Harissa, if you like spice
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 large red or orange peppers, cut into ¼ inch pieces
- 1 sweet onion, chopped
- 4 gloves garlic, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 5 large, very ripe fresh or canned tomatoes chopped
- 4 large eggs, plus 4 egg yolks
- Salt
- Optional: spinach, zucchini



Instructions:

- Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat and add the Harissa, tomato paste, peppers, onion, garlic, cumin, and ¾ Teaspoon salt. Stir and cook over medium heat for about 8 minutes, until peppers and onions are softened. Add the tomatoes, bring to a gentle simmer, and cook for another 10 minutes until you have a thick sauce. At this point, if you are so inclined, you might add some chopped zucchini or a little bit of fresh spinach (stems removed), or both!
- Make 8 dips in the sauce. Gently break the eggs and carefully pour each into its own dip. Do the same with the yolks. Use a fork to swirl the egg whites a little bit, taking care not to break the yolks. Simmer gently until egg whites are set but yolks are still running. You can cover the pan with a lid to speed up the process. Remove from heat and serve.

Israeli Salad with White Cabbage

- 1-2 firm tomatoes cut into cubes
- 1-2 firm seedless cucumbers, or baby cucumbers, peeled and cut into cubes
- ½ White cabbage
- 1/2 Cup of roughly chopped fresh mint
- Fresh lemon juice
- Olive oil
- Kosher salt
- Sumac
- Optional add-ins might be: (1) a bit of cumin, OR (2) 1-2 sliced radishes, cut into strips, and pomegranate seeds.

Instructions:

- Slice the cabbage and kneed it with a VERY SMALL amount of course salt until softened. Even if you like salt, use no more than a very small amount, because otherwise your salad will be unpleasantly salty.
- Mix the cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, and mint.
- Whisk lemon juice, olive oil, and Sumac to taste, and toss in salad to combine.

Eggplant and Tzatziki

- 2 medium size eggplants
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- A cup Greek yogurt (I use non-fat Fagé)
- 1 large seedless, skinned chopped cucumber, or multiple baby cucumbers; peel the cucumber(s) and remove the seeds, then chop the cucumber into small pieces
- 1 tablespoon of chopped chives
- 2 crushed garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- A pinch of pepper
- ¼ Teaspoon of sumac



Instructions for Eggplant:

- Slice the eggplant in half, lengthwise, so that you have two long halves each with a purple eggplant shell.
- Gently cross (with a knife) the flesh of the eggplant lengthwise and widthwise to create a pattern of squares but do not cut into the purple eggplant shell.
- Spread the eggplant with olive oil, getting into the grooves. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
- Put in oven for 35 minutes at 350 degrees and remove when soft and brown.

Instructions for Tzatziki:

- If you have time, drain the yogurt for a few hours or overnight, using at least two layers of cheese cloth.
- Likewise, if you have time, drain the cucumber (an hour will do).
- When ready, mix the ingredients together, taste, and adjust seasoning. Remember that the flavor of garlic gets stronger over time: don't be tempted to add more the first time around.

Tahini Sauce

Some people like this on just about everything, including the eggplant.

- 2/3 cup light Tahini paste
- ½ cup cold water
- 2 Tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 medium glove garlic, crushed

Instructions:

Before starting, thoroughly stir the Tahini in the jar or tub in which it came, scraping the bottom with a spoon, because the oil tends to separate from the solids. Put all the ingredients and a pinch of salt into a bowl. Mix well and add a little more water if needed to get a consistency that is smooth and thin enough to drizzle. Add a couple drops of water if needed.

Bread

This meal could use some delicious bread! If you want to use pita, try this: open up the pitas and cut them so that one pita makes two round circles. Spread the outside of the pita halves with good olive or grapeseed oil; sprinkle with Zahtar and a little salt; place pita on a cooking sheet with the oiled side up, and heat in oven (just a minute or two should do).



Cilantro Snap Pea Slaw

By Ashley Barajas

This is by far one of my favorite slaws I have ever encountered. It's definitely a crowd pleaser for those that do not like traditional coleslaw. Feel free to substitute with parsley for those who don't like cilantro, but I find that even people inclined to dislike cilantro have been a fan of this slaw.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups snap peas sliced thinly lengthwise or diagonally
- 2 cups of broccoli stems & carrots julienned (you can find this in the grocery store)

Or

- 1 cup shredded red cabbage
- 1 cup shredded green cabbage

(I sometimes do a combo of the broccolilcarrot slaw with whichever cabbage I have at home)

- 1 cup or more (to taste) of finely chopped cilantro
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- Juice of ½ a lemon or more to taste
- 1/3 cup mayo
- Salt and pepper

Instructions:

- In a small bowl combine the cilantro, garlic, mayo. Start with ¼ tsp of salt to season the dressing and add more slowly to your liking.
- In a larger bowl combine the snap peas and either the broccoli/carrot slaw or the shredded cabbage or a combination of both. Add dressing to the slaw mixture and toss until the dressing is evenly dispersed. This is best served after the salad has had at least 15 minutes to sit in the fridge. You can also make the salad a day ahead of time.

Bread Machine (Assisted) Challah

By Lessa Brill

Yields 1 large or 2 medium loaves.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup warm water
- 2 tsp salt
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs beaten (reserve ~1 tbsp to mix with water for brushing loaves)
- 4 cups bread flour (may replace 1-1 ½ cups with whole wheat)
- 2 tsp (or one packet) rapid rise yeast

Instructions:

1. Place all ingredients (except reserved egg) into the bread pan, beginning with water and ending with yeast.
2. Set machine to dough/pasta cycle (if dough is too wet or dry, add flour or water 1 Tbsp at a time till a nice ball is formed).
3. When cycle finishes, remove dough to rest on a lightly floured surface for 10 minutes
4. Divide dough into 3 (or 4 or 6) equal parts. Roll each into a long strip, tapered at the ends. For a 3-strand braid. Pinch the ends together at the top and begin to braid—right strand to center, then left to center. Repeat till end and pinch together. Tuck pinched ends under at each end. Note: for expert instruction on braiding go to Toriavey.com.)
5. Place braided loaf on a greased baking sheet (or on a piece of parchment paper). Cover with a damp cloth or plastic and place in a warm place to rise till doubled.
6. Add a spoonful of cold water to reserved egg and brush the loaf. Poppy or sesame seed can then be sprinkled over loaf if desired.
7. Bake in 350-degree oven for 25-35 minutes. When done, it should be golden and sound hollow when tapped. Note: after about 15 minutes, some people brush more egg on the lighter areas that have been exposed with expansion.

Hamantaschen

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix:

- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup oil
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup orange juice

Sift together and add:

- 4 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt

1. Refrigerate for at least 20 minutes.
2. Roll out dough on lightly floured board to a thickness of 1/4 inch. Use a 3-inch cookie cutter and cut into rounds.
3. Using a spoon, fill each round with filling. Draw three sides together by folding two sides toward the center to form the top and the remaining dough toward the center to meet the other edge. Brush with egg wash.
4. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes.

Tzimmes Souffle

By Beverly Markowitz

Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 5 large eggs (separated)
- 1 (20 oz) can of crushed pineapple with heavy syrup
- ¾ cup matzo meal
- 2 cups finely grated carrots (about 5-6 large carrots)
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar

Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 350 Fahrenheit.
- Spray 9x9-in pan with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.
- Lightly beat the egg yolks in a small bowl, and set aside.
- In a large bowl, beat the egg whites until stiff. Using a spatula, fold in the carrots, sugar, and matzo meal. Fold in the egg yolks, orange juice, lemon juice, oil, and pineapple (with syrup).
- Pour into the prepared baking dish. Bake 40-45 minutes, or until top is golden. Scoop or spoon out.

TAY Brotherhood Hosts Morning Zoom Program with Professor Susannah Heschel

By Sol Rockenmacher,
Co-President of TAY Brotherhood

On the night of January 28, Linda and I watched the JFNH Film Festival showing of *Shared Legacies*, the often-forgotten story of the coalition and friendship between the Jewish and African American communities during the Civil Rights Movement. Professor Susannah Heschel had a prominent role on the discussion panel. We learned that Professor Heschel is the Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College and Chair of the Dartmouth Jewish Studies Program. She is the daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who was so prominent in the Civil Rights Movement, and who was featured in the film.

Linda and I were so impressed with her discussions that we thought it was very important for us to learn about the Dartmouth Program, which has been in

existence for 21 years: Susannah has been Chair of the Program for 20 of those years. We asked her to tell us about the program, and she Zoomed in with us on that Sunday morning, April 25.

Susannah has an extremely impressive CV, with numerous publications and awards, which can be seen on the Dartmouth College Jewish Studies Program website. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish and Protestant thought during the 19th and 20th centuries, including the history of biblical scholarship, as well as Jewish scholarship on Islam, and on the history of antisemitism.

She has been a visiting professor at the Universities of Frankfurt and Cape Town as well as Princeton and has had honorary doctorates from universities in the United States, Canada, and Germany and will be receiving a fifth honorary degree this coming November from the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. She is a Guggenheim Fellow

and has received numerous grants, including from the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Foundation.

As I listened to Professor Heschel, I thought of our local Manchester Jewish connections to her, and to the program on Jewish Studies. I thought of our recent TAY Shabbat and Yom Ha'atzmaut Services during which Rabbi Davidson quoted her father from his books *The Sabbath* and *Israel: An Echo of Eternity*. And I thought of some of our Manchester born-and-bred Dartmouth Jewish connections. They include the late James Freedman, President of the College from 1987-1998; Dr. Sam Katz, who worked with Dr. John Enders at Boston Children's Hospital to develop the vaccine against Measles and then went on to become Chairman of Pediatrics at Duke University; and the late Dr. David Stahl, who wrote a wonderful history of the Jewish community in Manchester.

Susannah chronicled the history of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth, with its evolution influenced by her father's vis-

it to Fred Berthold of the Tucker Foundation in Hanover back in 1951. Marshall Meyers was a student at the College at the time and the visit by Rabbi Heschel possibly was a stimulus to him to enter what became a very noteworthy career in the rabbinate. Jewish scholars who have been on the Dartmouth faculty throughout the years include Jacob Neusner, Steven Katz, Kenneth Stein, Arthur Hertzberg, Ehud Benor and Mark Kaplan.

One example of the growth of the Dartmouth Jewish Studies program is the increase in numbers of Dartmouth sophomores taking the course in Jewish History, from 17 in 2013 to 350 (half of the Class) in 2019. Seeing Professor Heschel's passionate challenge in teaching about Judaism, along with her enthusiasm and dedication, very much mirrors her father's image.

Thank you, Susannah Heschel, for a wonderful presentation about a very important program, which you lead so well. And it is clear that the apple doesn't fall from the tree.



Professor
Susannah Heschel



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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption

American Baby—which has the subtitle *A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption*—was thoroughly researched and written by Gabrielle Glaser. The book is an in-depth look at the creation and development of the American adoption system.

Glaser has set down the history of how adoption services were built around the embarrassment of young women who became pregnant in the 1950s and 60s at a time in our country when unwed motherhood was damaging to a family's reputation. Taking advantage of the soldiers returning from World War II, coming home to marry and start a family, and the number of young wives who could not conceive, adoption services took advantage of the young girls who could not keep their babies.

In *American Baby*, Glaser follows the story of 16-year-old Margaret Erle, who grew up in a strict Jewish family where discussions of sex education and childbirth were taboo. Her parents were Holocaust survivors who had big dreams of success for their daughter. She fell in love with her high school sweetheart, George, who was 17 at the time she became pregnant. Both sets of parents were scandalized.

Margaret was taken to Lakeview, a maternity hospital on Staten Island, NY, owned by the Louise Wise Agency, which in return for a fee would keep the young woman fed and sheltered until she gave birth. There, she would be sequestered so no one would ever know about her indiscretion.

After she had delivered her son, Margaret was forced to sign papers giving him up for adoption. Though she and George kept explaining that they wanted to get married and keep their child, their parents were all unsupportive.

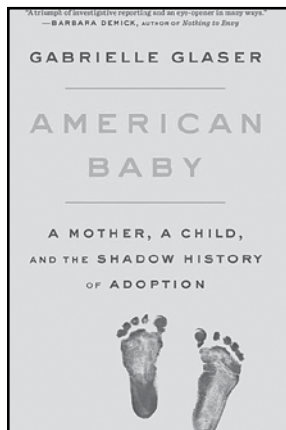
They had no choice in the end, and Margaret gave up her rights to her own son to the Louise Wise Adoption Agency. The agency kept all the records of these transactions sealed. Margaret never could find out what happened to her son and the Rosenbergs—the baby's adopted family—never knew the truth about their child's past, or any family health issues that might affect his health.

In the book, Glaser finds both Margaret Erle Katz and eventually her son, who goes by the name David Rosenberg, so many years later. She tells the story of how Margaret searched for her son for years. The book explores the story of David Rosenberg's life, and the obstacles of a closed, harsh adoption system.

This is a fascinating look at a system that was cold and unfeeling toward the women who were giving up their children, and the children who were pawns in the business of babies. Luckily, over time, the rules were challenged and now there are much better practices in place.

If you are adopted, or an adoptive parent, or are looking for a child you put up for adoption, this is an informative, heartfelt story. For all of us, it is an incredible tale of a family separated and reconnected.

Gabrielle Glaser is a *New York Times* bestselling author and journalist whose work on mental health, medicine, and culture has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Self* and many other publications. She has appeared on many national radio and television programs, including NPR's *Fresh Air*, *All Things Considered*, WNYC's *On the Media*, and *The Brian Lehrer Show*, NBC's *Nightly News*, and ABC's *World News Tonight*.



Thank You, from the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

By Zach Camenker,
NH JFF Committee Member

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's unique virtual film festival and accompanying post-film discussions. We wish to give a special thank you to all our sponsors, donors, friends, and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. The staff and leadership at the Jewish Federation and the Film Festival volunteer committee were indispensable in making the 13th annual festival possible and successful, especially during the pandemic.

Our impressive lineup of films included full-length and short films in the drama, comedy, and documentary genres, representing eight countries and telling stories across multiple generations. Additionally, we were able to shine a light on the themes of adversity, grief, relationships, guilt, love, hate, and injustice, just to name a few.

We look forward to returning to in-person programming for our 14th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, to be held next year from March 31, 2022 to April 10, 2021, across the state at multiple performing arts venues. We are also planning to offer a virtual option for some of our films.



New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival: JoAnn Meyers and Pat Kalik preparing the Opening Gifts to be distributed.

In the meantime, we wish our steadfast supporters a wonderful summer filled with family, friends, relaxation, and good health. Also, if you find yourself nostalgic for our festival, stay tuned for continuing movie reviews and highlights of the best Jewish-themed films and coming attractions through monthly articles in *The NH Jewish Reporter*.

See you in person at the movies next year!

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Blend.Ar Initiative: Social Change through Intensive Arabic education

By Ethan Kahn

The intersection of Jews and the Arabic language has a long, deep, and bittersweet history. Hundreds of thousands of Middle Eastern and North African Jews spoke the language natively by the mid-20th century, when large numbers faced persecution in their native countries and almost all immigrated to Israel. Today, only a small number of native speakers remain, and the primary association of Jews and Arabic in popular imagination—in both the United States and Israel—is one of opposition, situated on either end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

However, I have had the privilege this year of interning at an innovative organization at the frontlines of a movement to change this reality: Blend.Ar (Blend Arabic) is a recently established social entrepreneurship initiative promoting social cohesion between Israeli Jews and Arabs through innovative Arabic language and cultural educational programming. Through classroom studies, immersion, and social initiatives taken in partnership between Arabic students and Arabic native speakers, Blend.Ar fosters meaningful and sustainable connections between diverse Arab and Jewish communities.

I am the nephew of Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett (of Temple Beth Abraham) and thus have had the privilege of participating in Jewish life in New Hampshire many times. I am also a Jewish-American student at Princeton University, where I major in Near Eastern Studies and study Arabic and Hebrew; however, this year I decided to take a gap year and participate in the Yahel Social Change Fellowship, a nine-month service learning program which connected me to Blend.Ar. Over the course of my time in Israel, I have been exposed to many of the challenging realities that define relations between Jews and Arab-Palestinians in Israel, including a dearth of close relationships across ethnicity and a linguistic imbalance where only a small fraction of Israeli Jews can speak the native language of their Arab neighbors.

This is precisely why Blend.Ar's pioneering work, which incorporates immersion and intensive cultural studies, is so necessary. Blend.Ar's flagship program is a unique one-month Arabic immersion course, taking place in Arab villages in Israel, for Jewish participants (secular and religious) to immerse in Arab society, language, and culture. Courses include group living, intensive Arabic language and cul-



tural studies, personal language tutoring, volunteer work, and social entrepreneurship in the village (in collaboration with Arab residents and students). Many of Blend.Ar's programs take place in the village of Abu Ghosh, which most Jewish Israelis only know as the site of good hummus restaurants—they come for lunch and then leave immediately after. Blend.Ar students, in contrast, worked to establish Abu Ghosh's first ever Youth Center, building sustainable connections across differences, and making social change. Other students in Abu Ghosh have worked on projects ranging from support for businesses affected by COVID-19 to service work in a shelter for Arab youth experiencing homelessness.

Blend.Ar also developed a unique model promoting social cohesion between workers within organizations (including universities, municipalities and NGOs) through Arabic language and culture courses. In this course, Arab employees within each organization serve as language tutors, teaching their language and allowing their colleagues to better understand their cultural background. This promotes cultural competency within organizations and greater equality of opportunity for their Arab workers. The large Israeli nonprofit Aluma, for example, implemented many organizational changes following their Blend.Ar program, including greater recognition of Muslim holidays and the creation of Arabic-language materials for Arab children who hadn't yet learned Hebrew.

The importance of this work of building bridges of linguistic and cultural understanding should be clear to us as American Jews — our own society suffers from polarization and division, and in the US, we have only just begun to grapple with the reality of systemic racism. Mutual understanding, pluralism, coexistence, and equity are values that we should seek to promote in every society. At Blend.Ar, I get to witness this every day, as religious and secular people, left-wingers and right-wingers, and Ash-



kenazim and Mizrahim come together to connect with and more deeply understand their Arab brothers and sisters.

If you are interested in supporting the work of Blend.Ar, or even participating in one of our newly developed Arabic courses for English-speakers, I highly

encourage you to check out our website (blendarabic.com) or reach out to CEO Chen Kupperman (chen.ku.blend.ar@gmail.com). We are also excited to announce the launch of a crowdfunding project — anyone interested in learning more can fill out a short form.



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'Booms you feel in your core'— Portsmouth man's account of missiles from Gaza

By Ari Alexenberg

NOTE: This op-ed was originally published by Seacoast Online on May 28, 2021, and it is reprinted here with the author's permission.

On May 11th, my wife, Julie, and I arrived in Israel for a quick visit to see my elderly parents. It had been over a year since we saw them last. We were also excited to see Talia, our daughter, who lives in Tel Aviv, as well as my siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Because of the pandemic, we needed to quarantine and decided to stay at Talia's and her partner's apartment until our release. That evening, sirens wailed.

We were unsure what was going on. Talia, seasoned in dealing with incoming rockets, gently raised Julie from her seat, trying not to alarm her, and quickly we gathered in the building's staircase with the neighbors. I looked at Julie, I could see the fear on her face and pain in her eyes. In the staircase, dogs barked, babies cried, and I wrapped my arms around my wife and daughter in a weak attempt to shield them.

With each explosion overhead, the building trembled. We consulted with the neighbors. Where was the best place in the staircase to hide? Not the first or the last floor. Or was the first floor the best? But there was a window on the first floor and that was bad. A neighbor nervously laughed at the possibility of our old building collapsing if our street was hit.

The sirens continued to wail that night. The explosions felt like they were on the roof. They were loud and shook the windows and doors. Each time we hurried into the old staircase, knocked on neighbor's doors to wake them, and called to people on the street that ran for cover into our building.

The most difficult moment for me came a couple of nights later at my parents' apartment, about 10 miles away from Tel Aviv. We could hear the cry of sirens in the distance. From the balcony, we saw rockets streaking through the night sky heading to Tel Aviv. Then, distant thunderous booms that you feel in your core and vibrate outwards through your skin. Instant nausea permeated my body as I wondered, was I witnessing my daughter's death.

Over 4,000 rockets were launched over the next 11 days at Israeli population centers aimed to kill and terrorize civilians. They were launched by Hamas, an Iran-backed Islamist genocidal terrorist orga-

nization that rules over the 2 million Palestinians living in Gaza. Hamas was democratically elected in 2006 with no elections since. To understand their goals and values, simply refer to their charter. Here are two quotes from their founding document: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it" and "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him." Yes, you read that correctly.

Hamas launches their rockets next to and from schools and hospitals. They entrench themselves in densely populated areas. They build tunnels to kill and kidnap civilians and to hide and store weapons. Hamas recruits child soldiers, freedom of expression is non-existent and LGBTQ folks in Gaza are persecuted. Further, while Hamas uses enormous amounts of cement to build their tunnels, there are no bomb shelters for the Palestinians they govern.

At the end of this 11-day war, Ismael Haniya, former Hamas prime minister and current chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau, made his terror group's goals clear. He said, "This battle has destroyed the project of 'coexistence' with the Israeli occupation, of the project 'normalization' with Israel."

In contrast, Israel is a democracy. Albeit, not perfect but neither are we, nor is any democracy in the world. All citizens of Israel, Arab or Jew, have equal rights under the law. There are Arab supreme court judges, parliament members, leading journalists, diplomats, doctors, beauty queens, music sensations and top scientists. Israel is the USA's closest ally and shares our values of freedom and equality.

Hamas represents the antithesis of American goals and values and are of the same ilk as the Islamist terrorist groups that we have been combating since 9/11. Islamic Jihad and Hamas purposely operate and fire rockets at Israeli civilians while embedded within the Gazan civilian population. In other words, they use human shields to fire indiscriminately at civilians. This is a double war crime.

Any country, being bombarded by thousands of rockets by a terrorist organization, is obligated to respond. Any country would try to stop rockets from harming their civilians. Think about it, try to imagine what it would be like. Hiding in your home while a neighboring state bombs

your city. The bombs are aimed at you, your neighbors, your children, and your parents. What would you demand your government do? Israel's government acted to protect its citizens. They did what they could to end the rocket fire, destroy Hamas tunnels, weapons factories, communications apparatus, and other infrastructure targets. And they did so while doing their best to avoid civilian casualties.

Israel gives warning before targeting an area with civilians. They also often call off bombing missions if they suspect civilians might be nearby. Yes, there are casualties in war. Innocent people die, children. It is horrible, unimaginable, unbearable, it is tragic and painful beyond words. Every day that I was under Hamas rocket fire, I would turn to Julie and say, "Can you imagine the Palestinian families who just want to live in peace? They are also hiding from bombs." It is devastating. A quote from Golda Meir expresses my feelings well, "We can forgive them for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children."

I often hear the word "proportionality" or "fair fight" regarding the "only" 12 Israelis that were killed and approximately 240 Palestinians. Rarely mentioned is that most of the 240 people were terrorists. For the great majority of Israelis, hearing the "proportionality" or "fair fight" complaint is perplexing and even offensive. Should Israel stop destroying the tunnels and weapons depots? Let Hamas grow stronger and further terrorize Israelis when they feel like it? Should they retire the Iron Dome and let more Israeli civilians die? Just to be clear, if Hamas had Israel's firepower, Israelis would be dying in the many thousands and the country would be annihilated.

How would you feel if another country suggested that America fighting the Taliban, Al Qaeda or ISIS is not a fair fight? Just look at the numbers. Many more Isis fighters are dying than Americans. Moral clarity is in peril here. The United States, The European Union, Canada, Japan, and Australia, to name just a few, identify Hamas as a terrorist organization. Blame for civilian deaths, on both sides, must be placed where it belongs, on Hamas.

One of the most disturbing results from this ugly war is the misinformation saturating social media. The Israeli Palestinian conflict is complicated. Anyone who says otherwise, has little compassion or understanding of its layered complexities. The dangers of the meme universe and sound bite media emerged in full force. Opinions

and comments abounded based in erroneous facts and incomplete or context-less information. Using social media's strength, the often-libelous falsehoods spread like wildfire and took on a life of its own. This effects reality in profound ways.

Unfortunately, anti-Zionism is often equated with antisemitism and this war exposed the degree to which antisemitism is rife in America and around the world. On Twitter, the term "Hitler was right" was tweeted out 17,000 times in one week. The hashtag #covid1948 (Israel was established in 1948) was shared 175 times per minute for over four hours. Jews were assaulted in Los Angeles and New York City. In London, a convoy of cars drove down the streets draped in Palestinian flags yelling "F--- the Jews, rape their daughters." The list goes on and on from all around the world. You can view the growing list on the ADL website.

If you are wondering how this all got started, here are a few of the factors. It is a quick study on the multiple contributing elements and how reducing the dynamics at play to a simple sound bite is misleading. Mahmoud Abbas was elected to be president of the Palestinian Authority in 2005. It was supposed to be a four-year term. Abbas is still in power and there have been no elections since. He announced that there will be elections this year, but he was losing badly in the polls to Hamas. So, he decided to cancel the elections. Hamas, of course did not like this. Additionally, Mansour Abbas, leader of the Israeli political party United Arab List, was in talks to become part of a governing coalition in the Knesset (Israel's parliament). This was big news, a religious Arab party joining a Jewish majority coalition. This was another blow for Hamas, who sees this cooperation as counter to its core ideology of rejecting and wanting to eliminate Israel. As they saw their relevance waning and undermined, they decided to create a pretext for attacking Israel.

Hamas started a social media campaign to incite violence because four homes in an East Jerusalem neighborhood called Sheikh Jarrah were scheduled for a court hearing to determine the fate of its non-rent paying residents. It is a dispute that has been in the Israeli courts for decades. Jews proved they owned the property, the courts refused to evict the Arab families living in the homes, but required them to pay rent. They stopped paying rent, so the courts

Booms continued on page 19

Let's Be Clear About Antisemitism

By Richard England

In light of recent events, it is becoming clear that antisemitism is on the rise in the United States. In order to understand the upsurge in antisemitic acts, it is crucial to understand that ideas can enable and even encourage hateful actions. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) understands this connection between ideas and actions and has tried to clarify the various forms that Jew hatred can take.

At their 2016 meeting in Bucharest, Romania, the 31 nations of the IHRA adopted this working definition:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their

property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

This brief definition is a useful beginning, but it is the examples offered by IHRA that help to clarify what antisemites believe. It turns out that there are many forms of Jew hatred and those forms have evolved through history. Some ideas date back at least to the Middle Ages: the allegations that "the Jews" killed Christ and used Christian blood for baking matzah, for example. In modern times, Jew hatred has often been fueled by false claims that "the Jews" control the banks, the media, and the government. The Nazis added the falsehood that Jews constituted an inferior racial group.

In recent decades, still newer forms of antisemitism have sprouted like poisonous weeds. These contemporary forms often involve false claims about Israel. It

is alleged, for example, that the State of Israel doesn't deserve to exist. In fact, Israel is a revival of the Jewish homeland after two thousand years of exile. Jews have returned to the Land of Israel from countries as diverse as Morocco, Yemen, Poland, and Ethiopia. Of course, accusations of antisemitism should be made with great care. Some criticisms of Israeli policies are offered in good faith and should not be immediately dismissed. However, as the IHRA working definition points out, criticism of Israel crosses the line when a harsh *double standard* is applied to Israeli conduct that is not applied to any other nation. When Israel responds to a barrage of four thousand rockets launched at its cities by bombing military targets in Gaza, it is not committing "genocide" or "ethnic cleansing." When Israel builds a security fence to prevent suicide bombings in Tel Aviv, it is

not creating a "prison" for Palestinians.

The IHRA definition of antisemitism is a useful tool that has been widely endorsed. The governments of three dozen nations have adopted it. The U.S. Department of State has endorsed it. In 2019, the Jewish Federations of North America welcomed its adoption by the U.S. government. In January 2020, the State of Maine adopted the IHRA definition in a joint legislative resolution. At the same time, Governor Sununu endorsed this understanding of antisemitism in a State House proclamation.

The time has come to identify antisemitic thinking in all its forms and to expose all its sources. What these expressions of Jew hatred have in common is that they tell lies about the Jewish people. If we fail to oppose the lies about Jews that encourage antisemitic acts, our community will become less and less secure.

Booms *continued from page 18*

were going to decide how to proceed. There is more, but that is it in a nutshell.

As Palestinian activist, Bassem Eid, wrote "This has nothing to do with Sheikh Jarrah." His article further explains, "It's about Hamas seeing a chance to seize the narrative and increase its own influence and control over Palestinians in Jerusalem." Hamas also stirred violence by claiming the Al-Aqsa mosque was under siege. In reality, Israeli police entered the temple mount compound to quell violent riots. There were reports that rocks and other weapons were being stored in the mosque sanctuary to be used against Jews celebrating Jerusalem Day by the Western

Wall below. This is not a new tactic for agitating and riling local Muslim Arabs. On Aug. 24, 1929, an Arab mob murdered 69 Jews in Hebron. The reason was a false rumor the Jews were laying siege to the Al-Aqsa mosque.

In this context, well-meaning activists around the world unwittingly became pawns in Hamas' campaign to bolster their relevance. They elevated a local rent dispute into an international crisis. Hamas' pretext for war, became a credible reason to indiscriminately launch rockets at Israeli civilians. In a moral fog, they did Hamas' work for them.

The bottom line is, if you care about human rights and are interested in a resolution to the Palestinian Israeli conflict, first

and foremost condemn Palestinian terrorism. Israelis want peace and have demonstrated their willingness to compromise in the past, but they need to feel secure. Thankfully, most western democracies supported Israel defending itself, but not the media and public opinion. This is exactly what Hamas was counting on. They attack Israel, Israel responds, and media and public sentiment around the world hands Israel a harsh rebuke. Rallies emerge around the world condemning Israel and Jews with rarely a mention of Hamas being a terrorist organization, responsible for bringing destruction and misery to the people of Gaza. Those who condemn Israeli self-defense from their comfortable and secure thrones of woke-

ness should contemplate what they would do in Israel's situation.

President Biden said it clearly, "Let's get something straight here, until the region says unequivocally, they acknowledge the right of Israel to exist as an independent Jewish state, there will be no peace."

Ari Alexenberg has been a resident of Portsmouth, New Hampshire for 30 years. He lives there with his wife and dog, where they raised their two children. He was formerly the director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New Hampshire and the director of the Israel Action Center of the Jewish Community Relations Council in Boston. The views expressed are those of the writer.

Jewish Journeys

Connecting to Israel as an English Language Tutor

By Stephen Soreff, MD

I tutor an Israeli high schooler, to improve his skills in learning, reading, and speaking English. I have done so since midwinter 2021. This article has several goals. They are in the following order: To explain the program, to tell the steps needed to participate in it, and to reflect on my experiences in it. However, before I begin, I want to thank Helena England, *The Reporter*, and the Israel Education and Engagement Committee for introducing the program to me.

What is the program? It is called Israel

Connect (<http://www.israelconnect.today/>). It explains itself this way:

"Israel Connect pairs volunteer mentors in North America with students across Israel to improve their English proficiency, increase their access to higher education and put them on the path to economic mobility. Once a week, from the comfort of their homes, Israel Connect mentors lead one-on-one video meetings focused on English conversation, reading comprehension and vocabulary development. Through our immersive online approach, mentors give students the skills — and the confidence — to prepare for Israel's university entrance exams, which focus heav-



ily on English proficiency, setting them up for future success. Israel Connect mentors aren't required to have a teaching or education background. We provide the training and curriculum, and our mentors share their pas-

sion for empowering young people in Israel. Since our founding in 2013, Israel Connect mentors have made a difference in the lives of more than 1,500 students — and counting."

Israel Connect appealed to me for a number of reasons. As a retired psychiatrist and college professor, I like the opportunity to teach. And because I am retired, I had the time to commit to it—but also, with the pandemic, I had even more time available for it. What really got me was the critical and pivotal role of an Israeli student's English skills and comprehension in obtaining admission to higher education: a

Tutor continued on page 20



Hadassah: Opening Our Hearts, and Working Together to Save Lives

By Michele Bank

As always, Hadassah builds bridges to peace with medicine. The Jerusalem Post reported that Hadassah Medical Organization released a video response to the violence between Israel and Gaza, as well as rioting in mixed Arab-Jewish cities in Israel. HMO highlighted examples of Jewish-Arab cooperation and camaraderie in its two hospitals, Hadassah Ein Kerem and Hadassah Mount Scopus. The video highlighted cooperation and friendship between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, working at the hospital.

Throughout the video, HMO workers held signs written in Hebrew or Arabic, emphasizing cooperation with positive messages. Clips showed an Arab hospital worker taking the blood of a patient

along with a Jewish ultra-Orthodox volunteer, a Muslim woman who manages the endo-chemistry lab and her Jewish staff member and the collaboration between each of the very diverse teams of Jewish, Christian and Arab intensive care nurses, X-ray technicians and the kitchen staff.

The participants noted in the video, "Out of our motto at Hadassah, to cooperate for the patients, to be an island of sanity within the tumultuous country, we have encouraged joint work and cooperation in fighting for the lives of patients. I hope that everywhere in Israel and around the world they learn from Hadassah." Staff members sang about their commitment to opening their hearts and working together to save lives, "Together All the Way. Together, There Is No Other

Way." You can view this video on YouTube by entering the song title.

Another example of Hadassah building bridges to peace was when HMO sent a delegation to Argentina to provide critical knowledge and experience to frontline medical professionals in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Robert Dorfman, president of Hadassah International, stated, "The Israelis delegation's visit also provides an opportunity to broaden the lines of communication and cooperation that go beyond the challenges of COVID-19 and may result in a wide-range of areas in which lifesaving procedures and research can be shared for the betterment of humankind." Leading the delegation was Prof. Yoram Weiss, president of Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, and Hadassah International Executive

Director Jorge Diener. Argentinian Ambassador to Israel Sergio Urribarri accompanied the team along with skilled COVID-19 medical personnel from HMO. Rhoda Smolow, national president of Hadassah, said, "Hadassah's medical care is not constrained by geographic boundaries. With COVID-19 spiraling out of control in Argentina and the country's healthcare system in crisis, Hadassah has a moral obligation to step in. We are extremely proud of the HMO delegation, an all-star team of leading doctors, specialists in COVID-19 and a nurse from the COVID-19 ICU, who have volunteered to travel across the world. They will provide critical expertise to Argentina as it struggles to manage the onslaught of COVID-19 cases and stave off the worst effects of this terrifying disease."

July 2021: A Message from the Ambassador

By Ambassador Meron Reuben,
Consulate General of Israel to
New England

This past spring has been quite a difficult one for both Israel and the Jewish communities in the United States. The 11-day conflict in May with Hamas, and the unfortunate spillover that brought about a rash of antisemitic acts around this great country, hit us all hard.

This was fast followed by a new eight party coalition government

formed in Jerusalem in June. Naftali Bennett was sworn in as Israel's new Prime Minister with a razor thin vote of confidence in the Knesset.



Ambassador
Meron Reuben

Our new Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, quickly put down the building blocks for our relations with the Jewish Community (of the USA) when he said: "The Jewish people are more than allies, they are family. Jews from all streams, Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox, are our family, and family is always the most important relationship and the one that needs to be worked on..."

When focusing on the relationship with the new Biden administration, Lapid went on the say: "The management of the relationship with the Democratic Party in the United States was careless [...] and the outgoing government took a terrible gamble [...] to focus exclusively on the Republican Party and abandon Israel's bipartisan standing [...] We need to change the way we work with [the Democrats]."

The new Foreign Minister also said what we all know is true, and I'm paraphrasing, that Israel has a strong story and that facts are on our side. We are without a doubt a vibrant, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-racial, peace-

seeking democracy fighting for its life against the darkest forces of terror in the world. Like any other nation, we have every right to defend ourselves when attacked. And Hamas, who bombarded our civilian population with more than 4,350 missiles, needed to know that we wouldn't hesitate to respond with force to any continued rocket fire or terror attack. The terror organizations in the Gaza strip were the only ones responsible for the death of innocent civilians.

"It is not weakness to admit that our hearts break for every child who dies in conflict," he said. "Children don't need to die in the wars of adults."

Tutor *continued from page 19*

higher education is key, and I could play a part in helping a student do well on it, which was neat. Also, the opportunity to be part of Israel was very important. Israel is central to my life. I grew up with a blue tin Jewish National Fund box in my house. I went to Israel in 1960, then attended the dedication to the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. I honeymooned there in 1969. My daughter is married to an Israeli, and lives and works in Tel Aviv. Plus, I had the computer Zoom capability.

I said, "Okay, I want in." I applied by submitting a brief letter of intent. Having been accepted on that step, next it required a telephone interview with the program head, Sarah Cordon. The phone session was long, informative, and useful. I passed that phase, but there was yet another step. It required a criminal background check. I passed that. Finally, I had to sign a Rule of Conduct contract.

Then, I could meet with my student.

One particular appeal for me was that there were students available right then: I had previously assumed it would be done in the academic year, starting in September. However, right in the winter, there were students ready and waiting. I also like that tutoring could be done during the day. I meet my student on Tuesdays at 12:30pm ET, for 45 minutes.

I want to tell you about student, but I cannot. The Code of Conduct document I signed makes me very protective of him and his identity. All I can say is that he is a 10th grade student. Thus, here are my reflections on working with him weekly.

First, I want to give my utter appreciation for the weekly Tour of Israel guide. It removed my concerns about what to teach, and how to prepare for each class. It consists of six pictures and a short paragraph, with words for the student to read, all of which are devoted to a theme. The one shown here is about the Dead Sea.

Second: I gained an appreciation of how difficult it is to learn and speak English, as my student struggled to pronounce English words. Many words like area, innovative, and annually proved to be challenging. We had fun working on the word desert, e.g., Negev and dessert. We had the word Anzac in one session. I had to opportunity show him it was a combination of Australian and New Zealand.

Third, we had the opportunity to share life and teaching experiences. For example, we both celebrate Passover and Shabbat. We could talk about Passover, going to Masada, and praying three times a day and be connected. One Tour of Israel lesson was called the Negev. One of its section talks about Abraham going to Beer-sheba. This allowed me to share with him that every year on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. I read the Torah portion describing that event. Furthermore, the teaching goes both ways. I help him to master English. He assists me to better

my Hebrew. Currently, he has taught me to count six in Hebrew.

Fourth, through the lessons, I felt more connected to Israel in many ways. The academic calendar we use is linked to the Jewish holidays. Hence, in following the assignment dates and vacation weekly, felt I was living at least one day a week where I was on Israeli time. Also, the weekly Tour of Israel guide provides me with neat and historic places to visit in Israel as well as offering the backstory on each location. Meanwhile, there is a scheduling person in Israel ready to assist both the student and myself if there are appointment issues. One time I thought the student was late, and I called her: she was able to work with both of us to get us connected to the right time. Through Zoom, and by telephone, I was connected to Israel.

My tutoring sessions ended in mid-May 2021, as that is the end of the Israeli school year. I plan to work with another student next fall, and I am very glad to have participated in Israel Connect.

David Bohm Elected as JCPA's New Board Chair

New York, NY— David Bohm has been elected JCPA Board Chair for the term, June 2021 – June 2023, and will serve as the 29th leader of the organization since its founding in 1944. He leads JCPA as it seeks to expand its role as a vital resource to Jewish communities across the United States in forging alliances with other ethnic, cultural and religious groups working for civil rights and racial justice and combatting hate. Bohm will guide the organization as society faces challenges of increased polarization and racial disparities inside and outside of the Jewish community and a changing landscape in the Middle East.



David Bohm

“I am honored to have the confidence of the Board and JCPA's numerous stakeholders as we move this great organization into a new era,” said David Bohm.

“The work of the community relations field is recognized as the antidote to fighting antisemitism and hate, and our aim is to ensure that the local Jewish community relations councils and JCPA, its national hub, is resourced, informed, and plays a significant role on the national landscape to meet today's current challenges. In the post-pandemic period, networks of Jewish organizations are coming together to leverage resources and support to the Jewish community. We believe JCPA's network can be a model and help set a path forward.”

David is a leader in national and local Jewish organizations. Driven by his passion for Tikkun Olam (repair of the world), he has been involved with JCPA since 1992. He has held leadership positions at JCPA, including Chair of JCPA's

Policy Advisory Committee and Delegates Assembly, Chair of the Task Force on Jewish Security and Bill of Rights, and JCPA Board of Directors Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. He has held Board and other leadership positions with a number of Jewish and secular non-profit organizations in his native St. Louis, including past Chair of the St. Louis JCRC and various positions with the St. Louis Jewish Federation. He is also a past member of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet.

Bohm has drafted several bills that have been enacted as state statute in Missouri; most recently helping to draft a suicide prevention and awareness bill requiring all school districts in Missouri to adopt a suicide prevention and education plan. He received JCPA's Tikkun Olam Award in 2020.

David is an attorney and principal at Danna McKittrick, P.C., where he is a member of the firm's Executive Committee.

“David is the right man for this job at this moment, and we are grateful to be working with him,” said Melanie Roth Gorelick, JCPA's Senior Vice President. “David's commitment to the community relations field has been exemplary. He remains passionate in his beliefs that the Jewish community can find common ground to ensure that America lives up its ideals of equal rights and freedom for all its citizens. He is a policy expert and has a strong knowledge base on Israel and efforts for co-existence. We look forward to his leadership to steer us during this time period.”

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), a network of 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 16 national Jewish organizations, advocates for a just and pluralistic America, Israel's quest for peace and security, and global human rights.

What Would You Bring? New online exhibit focuses on the objects refugees bring with them—and how those things connect us all.

London, UK, June 14, 2021 - Bullied at school for being Jewish, Hedi Argent's best friend was her doll Susi. When 8-year-old Argent and her family managed to get visas from Austria to England in 1938 just six weeks before the Anschluss when the borders closed, Susi was too large to fit in the suitcase they packed to flee. Instead, she took Little Susi, the doll belonging to her doll. Little Susi has remained a friend to Argent throughout her life in England.

Aurora Zindler grew up in Odessa, Russia and her father died fighting fascists in Ukraine in 1942. By the late 1970s, antisemitism in the USSR made life so unbearable that the family fled. They made their way to New York City with a suitcase containing teacups, which were precious heirlooms that still remind her of home.

Their stories, which will be released in a new Reboot project, What Would You Bring? on World Refugee Day June 20, illustrate that no matter where they traveled from or to, or when they do so – individuals take the same type of items – often teacups, trinkets and teddy bears – when they flee. As a growing number of people worldwide are displaced by fear of persecution, conflict, violence, or human-rights violations, the stories, told in beautiful animated short films and illustrated essays by artists, including Christopher Noxon, Rebecca Odes, Jacqueline Nicholls, Stivens Luyo and Sophie Herxheimer, help connect us to the experience of refugees.

The project was created and produced by UK-based Reboot network member and creative consultant Juliet Simmons and co-produced by Reboot with Noam Dromi.

To invite others to share their stories, illustrator Lisa Brown created an empty suitcase for users to fill with images, photographs and words which describe what their families brought with them – and to allow each of us to imagine what we might bring with us if we were forced to leave our home and resettle in a new place.

Brown has shared her personal family story in a unique illustration which is featured in the exhibit. The project is inviting other artists and the public to share their family stories and will periodically showcase them on the website and across Reboot's social media channels.

“My grandfather died before I was born so I couldn't ask him what he brought with him when he travelled from Vienna to the UK in the 1930s as a refugee. Instead, I began to research what refugees had brought from different countries at different times,” Simmons said. “I began to see that no matter where people travelled from or to or when they did so, the objects that reminded them of home were similar. The project shows that the objects we care about are objects that connect us – and that we may all have more in common than we initially thought we did.”

The first phase of the project tells the stories of six Jewish refugees who fled from various countries throughout recent history. In subsequent phases, What

Would You Bring? will explore the narratives of an expansive cross section of refugee stories from different communities across the globe.

Phase One features three animated shorts and three illustrated essays. Stories include:

- When the Nazis forced his family out of their home and into the Budapest Ghetto, 7-year-old John Hadju took his teddy bear with him. John's beloved teddy bear accompanied him as he survived Nazi occupation, lived through the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, escaped to Austria and made a new life for himself in London. His story is brought to life by filmmakers Christopher Noxon and Rebecca Odes, with Stivens Luyo.
- In 1978, 5-year-old Avishai Mekonen was awoken in the middle of the night and told that his family was leaving its home in Ethiopia for Jerusalem. Avishai grabbed a blanket, and before they left his grandfather blessed him with the words of an Amharic prayer. Avishai's journey was filled with terror and his blanket was stolen from him in a Sudanese refugee camp – but whatever he endured, the words of his grandfather's prayer made him feel safe, which they continue to do to this day during his life in New York. His story is illustrated by Sophie Herxheimer.
- When the Shah was overthrown due to the Islamic Revolution in 1979 Violet Sassooni was forced to flee Iran with her young children and little else. Now

living in Los Angeles, she always longed to be reunited with her family's silver – and miraculously that happened. Her story is illustrated by Sophie Herxheimer.

- As she fled the Nazi invasion of Ukraine in 1942 wearing the only dress that she owned, Olga Gershenson's grandmother stopped in a crowded marketplace by the train station to buy a painting of cucumbers on a crate by a struggling artist. The painting hung in Gershenson's childhood home in the USSR until the 1990s, when her parents left the country during a period of social and political turmoil. Today, it hangs proudly in her New York apartment, while a recreation of the image hangs in her mother's home in Tel Aviv. Her story is illustrated by Sophie Herxheimer.

Every family has a story. What are the objects that tell yours? Share and find out more at whatwouldyoubring.com and on social with [#whatwouldyoubring](https://twitter.com/whatwouldyoubring). Follow us on [@rebootjewish](https://www.instagram.com/rebootjewish) and on [facebook @rebooters](https://www.facebook.com/rebooters).

About Reboot:

Reboot is an arts and culture non-profit that reimagines and reinforces Jewish thought and traditions. As a premier R&D platform for the Jewish world, we catalyze our Reboot Network of preeminent creators, artists, entrepreneurs and activists to produce experiences and products that evolve the Jewish conversation and transform society. Find out more at rebooters.net.

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.

JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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Annual Campaign

Annual Campaign

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's 2020-2021 Fundraising Campaign was a huge success, surpassing all expectations. The Campaign Committee, chaired by Ken Litvack and co-chaired by Tracy Richmond and Judith Jolton, along with Harry Shepler and Pat Kalik, spent a great deal of time making this year unique and successful, and in doing so helped raise more than

our goal of \$240,000, bringing in \$351,398.

This year, our Super Sunday telethon was like none other, because of COVID, the event was presented virtually via Zoom, featuring not only fundraising but entertainment, as well—including musical presentations, cooking and painting demonstrations, Israeli wine expertise, and even instructions on how

to make an egg cream.

The funds raised will go towards our Shlichah program, the PJ Library, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, Momentum and Seniors Forever Young, which gives senior citizens the opportunity to attend Jewish programming. Federation funds will also provide programming grants to our local temples, as well as helping support religious schools,

camp scholarships, community programs, and *The NH Jewish Reporter*.

Special thanks go out to Pat Kalik and Jay Madnick, who chaired Super Sunday, as well as the entire Federation staff. The biggest thanks, though, goes out to those of you who gave—many for the first time. Because of you, we look forward to a very successful year, and we are already setting our sights on the next campaign year.



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