

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

Published by the
Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 41, Number 8

May-June 2021

Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz 5781



CELEBRATE ISRAEL & A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

JFNH Announces Next Shaliach to Arrive in August

Each Shlichim brings their own strengths to this important role, but the one thing they all have in common is an incredible love for their home of Israel, and a desire to share it with us here in New Hampshire.

The Shlichut program offered by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire reaches the entire state, and creates a personal connection with each of our smaller communities, regardless of age or affiliation. Our Shlichim has a unique mission that is different than most shlicut programs in the world: they have the responsibility to



Ra'anan De-has

touch not just a small demographic area, but an entire state. So many of you have made lifelong connections with our past shlichot, and in doing so, made stronger connections to Israel.

After a thorough search, and many strong candidates, we know that Ra'anan De-Has will be the perfect fit for New Hampshire. Like every Shlichah before him, Ra'anan brings his own unique strengths, interests, and points of view about Israel. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire looks forward to sharing more information about him with you in the coming months.

A Passing of the Torch Begins

“Shlichut,” in Hebrew, has different meanings. One of them is, “an act of great significance, originating in inner faith and not in expectation of personal gain.” Another is “anyone who moves information, a package, goods, etc. from place to place.”

I wrote the words above last month—and this time, I will talk about the difference between female and male shlichut, because for the first time, the New Hampshire Jewish Community is welcoming a male *Sha-Li-Ach!*

Just a reminder: Female = Sh-li-cha, Male = Sha-Li-Ach.

Only a few months from now, I will end my time as your Shlichah—don't worry, I will write much more about it soon—but I am leaving you in good hands. I'm ex-

Avia Sagron

JFNH Shlichah



SPOTLIGHT
ON ISRAEL NH SHLICHAH



cited to announce our new Shaliach, Ra'anan De-has, who will arrive in August. I'm sure you will welcome him in the same warm way you welcomed me.



JFNH Reestablishes Sister City Connection with Hof HaCarmel, and Welcomes New Connection with Halutza

By JFNH

The notion of “Sister Cities” was conceived after World War II: these relationships were intended to foster friendship and understanding among different cultures.

In 2005, that was exactly what the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire did, when we began a wonderful Sister City relationship with the Hof HaCarmel region of Israel. This relationship lasted for several years, and included wonderful visits, programming and so much more. It created a strong, Jewish unity between faraway places, and lifelong friendships were created. Over a decade later, JFNH still believes in the importance

of the NH/Israel connection: there are so many wonderful sides of Israel we want NH to experience. That's why, over the past year, our Israel Education and Engagement Committee has worked hard to reestablish past relationships, and to create new ones.

So, in this issue, we are excited to introduce our TWO Sister Cities to the New Hampshire Jewish community – Hof HaCarmel, once again, as well as our new relationship with Halutza. Both communities are very different, and each one has their own unique characteristics to share with us, which you can read about in this issue. We are looking forward to building connections and learning from each other.

Read more about the Sister Cities Connection on pages 6-8

The Halutza story, and the Inspiring Reason Why it is Our Sister City

By Stephen Soreff, MD

The following article is based on my Zoom interview with Yedidya Harush, and my research about Halutza. I will start with Yedidya's story. I do so because it is not only inspiring, but it also explains why Halutza is one of JFNH's sister cities.

Yedidya's story begins on August 14, 2005, when he and the Harush family were moved out of their recently renovated home in Gaza. This was part of the Israeli disengagement policy. It called, at the time, “land for peace.” With a sense of disbelief, he left his home, his neighborhood and his community of 17 years, having been born there. However, Yedidya credits his faith—in Hebrew the word is *emu-*

Halutza continued on page 6

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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
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Bedford, NH 03110
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CONGREGATIONS

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

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(603) 886-1633
www.betenu.org
Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM

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BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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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

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67 Broadway, Concord
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www.tbjconcord.org
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Services: Friday night - 7 PM
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Rabbi Peter Levy
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
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www.etzhayim.org
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Services: Fridays 7:15 PM
Please check the website for the Shabbat Morning schedule

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Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services and Dinner
Shabbat morning services
Call for times

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

Volume 41, Number 8

MAY-JUNE 2021

Iyar-Sivan-Tammuz 5781

Published by the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

273 South River Rd. Unit #5
Bedford, NH 03110
Tel: (603) 627-7679

Editor: Nicholas Conley
Layout and Design: Tim Gregory

Advertising Sales:
603-627-7679
info@jewishnh.org

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

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

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



May 7	7:36 PM
May 14	7:44 PM
May 21	7:51 PM
May 28	7:57 PM
June 4	8:03 PM
June 11	8:07 PM
June 18	8:10 PM
June 25	8:11 PM

What Israel Means to Me

The first time I visited Israel, I was 13 years old. I was fortunate to have traveled for six months with my parents and younger brother—we were traveling around the world, but that is another story for another day—and we spent one month of our trip in Israel. This journey started by joining a Federation-led mission: an adult intense travel trip, with my brother and I as the only kids.

It was fascinating. I learned so much, and I have to say, I was hooked. We travelled to all the regular destinations: Masada, Yad Vashem, so different from what it is today, the Old City in Jerusalem, the Arab market to negotiate whatever we wanted to purchase, we planted a tree for JNF, and experienced what a kibbutz was all about. What an introduction to my home away from home.

Three years later, I was one of the first teens outside of Miami to join the Alexander Muss High School in Israel group.

Elyse Hyman

Executive Director



It wasn't called Alexander Muss yet—that's how long ago I was a student. We lived in the most dingy, horrible conditions, and of course, only saw how great it was. And that trip solidified my love for the country. I was completely smitten with Israel. I was sure I was going to make Aliyah. But being 16, my parents were still in charge, and they decided I needed to graduate from high school before that happened.

I went back for my junior year at Tel Aviv University, and again was ready to stay—but wanted to finish college. Something always stood in my way. And

then I went to graduate school and started working. The great news was that I worked in the Jewish community and part of my job was to take missions to Israel.

I have visited Israel many, many times, and each experience seems to be one of the best times. It isn't what I do or who I go with, but simply being in Israel, listening to Hebrew, and just having that feeling of comfort.

I do have to say that my favorite times are when I accompany friends and family on their first trip, watching their reaction to seeing the Wall, or walking around on top of Masada, or even floating in the Dead Sea. I take them to my favorite restaurants: in Jerusalem, the top of my list is the Sea Dolphin. Before you even order, there are no less than 10 small plates of different salads and dips, and the pita is wonderful, so different than the pita we eat here. And my favorite tour is a food

tour through the Levinsky Market, part of the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv. It is an older section, with stalls filled with aromas of different spices, coffees and smoothies, hummus, and knickknacks. A couple hours with a guide walking through the market is not to be missed. I could go on and on. And the experience is different each time I visit.

Once this pandemic is behind us, and it is safe to travel again, I would so enjoy creating an amazing adventure with you, fellow members of the New Hampshire community, watching you journey through the country and learning to love it as much as I do.

Also, in the spirit of this issue, I want to take this opportunity to wish all our graduates, whether from preschool or graduate school, a hearty Mazel Tov. It certainly wasn't an easy year for such an important milestone. You are all rock stars in my book.

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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.

Thursday, May 6

Temple Israel Schmooze and Booze

7:30PM - 9PM, Zoom

Cost \$150.00

Help Support Temple Israel Manchester! This virtual event will feature professional mixologist Cody Goldstein of Muddling Memories. Purchase will include a mixology box shipped to your home with everything needed to make delicious mocktails (or cocktails, if you desire).

To register visit: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehr6o6p1e200e852&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Monday, May 17

Shavuot Service with Yizkor

10AM - 11:30AM, Zoom

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman will lead a Shavuot Service with Yizkor. Temple Israel Portsmouth. Please register on the website calendar to receive the zoom link. <http://www.templeisraelnh.org>

Sunday, May 16

Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Zoom Program - The Manchester Wall of Fame

10:00AM - 12:00PM, Zoom

Topic: The Manchester Wall of Fame Presented by John Clayton Director of The Manchester Historical Society.

Zoom contact information - 968 736 1024: 15203104.

Sunday, May 16

Etz Hayim Hosts Shavuot Teach-In

7:00PM - 8:15PM, Zoom

Etz Hayim will have three leaders teaching and furthering Jewish practice. The night will include a segment lead by Steve Soreff on Jewish history in NH. Jay Madnick will show how to put together a power point presentation specifically used in leading a synagogue service. Rabbi Peter Levy will be teaching about Jewish customs and practices. For those who would like to participate you may contact office@stzhayim.org for a zoom link.

Thursday, May 19

Seniors Forever Young - Shavuot Luncheon

12PM - 2PM, Chabad of NH - 1234 River Road, Manchester

Cost: \$12/person

Seniors Forever4 Young invites you to join them for a Shavuot Dairy Luncheon including blintzes and cheesecake! Make your own floral wreath activity after lunch.

Masks are required when not eating and space is limited so social distancing can be enforced. To register call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679

Wednesday, May 19 - June 10

2021 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

Jewish journeys begin at the 2021 NH Jewish Film Festival! In season 13 we are exceedingly proud to present a premier line up of 11 truly outstanding and diverse films throughout the state in a virtual format that will excite, enlighten and provoke you, our audience. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com.

Sunday, May 23

Shavua Tov Story Time

8:30AM - 9AM, Zoom

Start your week (and your Sunday morning) with an interactive Story Time. This 20 minute Zoom program is designed for families with children ages 2-5.

All registered families will receive a craft mailed to their home the week of the program. As a family make your craft ahead of time and we will use the finished product as part of our program.

Preregistration is required and the Zoom link will be provided. Email allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org Shavua Tov Story Time is a new program through the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Early Education Initiative.

Wednesday May 26

Etz Hayim Synagogue Blood Drive

2PM - 7PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
For more information office@etzhayim.org

Sunday, June 13

Shavua Tov Story Time

8:30AM - 9AM, Zoom

Start your week (and your Sunday morning) with an interactive Story Time. This 20 minute Zoom program is designed for families with children ages 2-5.

All registered families will receive a craft mailed to their home the week of the program. As a family, make your craft ahead of time and we will use the finished product as part of our program.

Preregistration is required and the zoom link will be provided. Email allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org

Sunday, June 13 - Sunday July 11

New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival

ONLINE Ordering

Temple B'nai Israel invites the community to enjoy the homemade delicacies of The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival.

Order online June 13 - July 11. Pick up orders from Temple B'nai Israel 210 Court Street Laconia, NH. Menu and more information at www.tbinh.org.

from the Bimah

Focus on Your Purpose

Last week was, of course, Holocaust Remembrance Day. As such, before our weekly Sinai Scholars class with our students, I shared some ideas I had learned at my time studying at Yad Vashem's educators center last winter, right before Covid began. I shared different theological responses to the Shoah. One of the questions asked is "Was the Shoah a new evil or an old evil?" and if this is an old evil, then our response has a precedent, and all we need to do is look to history and see how the Jewish community has responded throughout the ages to communal tragedies. There are many approaches to this question and each of us finds comfort or inspiration in different ideas.

I want to bring your attention to this week's Torah portion, Shemini. It tells the story of the inaugural week of the Tabernacles in the desert, and the celebration surrounding it. In the middle of this celebration, Aaron the High Priest's two sons bring an unwarranted sacrifice and they are Divinely punished and die. The Torah says Aaron was silent, and to his two "surviving sons," Moshe tells them that the show must go on and the mourning will be done by the people, but not by them. The fact they are called the surviving sons is a powerful lesson! Moshe is saying: "You two survived and for a reason and a purpose, now, go fulfill it."

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Moshe Gray
Chabad at Dartmouth

The Lubavitcher Rebbe of blessed memory, himself a survivor of the Shoah, had a response to the Churban (European destruction). He began to replace and rebuild what was lost in Europe here in America, and eventually all over the world. They burned down our synagogues: he built new ones. They destroyed our yeshivot and schools: he built new ones. In the early 1970s, there was an idea to leave an empty seat at the Seder for the loss of the six million: the Rebbe's response was to fill it with someone who wouldn't otherwise attend a Seder, thereby turning a negative into a positive.

The Rebbe focused on purpose, and the purpose of those left after the destruction. Every day, we focus on rebuilding and adding in Torah, Mitzvot, and good deeds. As we enter a time of a "new normal," let's take a lesson from what Moshe told Aarons two remaining sons: you have a job to do, go get it done.



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Middle East Education in Our Schools: What's Going on in Our Schools? How Can We Improve Middle East Education?

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

What is your child's or grandchild's school teaching them about Israel?

A group of concerned members of the NH Jewish community are working on ways to promote factual source material on Israel, Judaism, and the Middle East in our schools.

The group decided to meet after discovering that one school gave students problematic material, obtained from an opinion media site, as part of a lesson on the conflict in the Middle East.

We have developed a list of objective resources that you can provide to your student's schools. We hope to have this list available on the Federation website soon.

We also need your help in monitoring the information presented to our children and grandchildren on this topic. If you encounter material that you think is factually incorrect or possibly antisemitic, or if you are unsure, please contact Dina Michael Chaitowitz at dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com. And, please let us know about those schools that you feel are doing a good job teaching this subject matter.

Mazel Tov, Class of 2021!

The past year hasn't been a normal year, to say the least. And while the pandemic has uprooted so much of the way we live, work, and move through the world, it's fair to say that one of the most visibly impacted groups in all of society, on a near-daily basis, has been the student population. The inability to hold classes as they normally would be held has reverberated through every level of the New Hampshire community – and the community at large – from the students having to learn new, virtual educational processes, to teachers and staff having to juggle continually fluctuating guidelines, to parents having to balance changing job conditions with changing school conditions for their children. Throughout it all,

though, everyone has worked hard to ensure that students get the education they deserve, as best as possible.

It hasn't been easy, for anyone involved. However, the class of 2021 has gotten through it with astonishing strength, perseverance, and a commitment to the future. That's why the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire wants to congratulate this class – and the teachers, parents, administrators, boards, and education staff that made it all possible – on their hard work in reaching this pivotal moment. Graduation is always an immense accomplishment, but this year, it is an even bigger, brighter achievement than usual.

Mazel tov, and may you take this strength into your next achievements, as well.



“Congratulations to all of the students and graduates who persevered through the unprecedented challenges of the past year, and thank you to all of the dedicated educators and staff without whom our students' successes would not have been possible.”

- Senator Maggie Hassan



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

Sister Cities



Yedidya Harush and his family

Halutza continued from page 1

na—for guiding him forward, and ultimately leading to Halutza.

In talking about this, he stopped to compare his life—and that of Halutza—to the life of a tree. He noted that for trees to not only survive, but also produce good fruit and blossom, they have to have experienced a crisis. He added that trees, which appear to be dead in the winter, later blossom in the spring.

After Gaza, his basketball skills made it possible for him to attend two years of high school in New Jersey. Upon graduation, he chose service in Israeli Defense Forces over going to college. He became an IDF parachute commander. Later, he faced another decision: between going to law school, or joining the folks from Gaza who had established Halutza. Again, he followed his heart and his faith. He wanted to contribute to Israel and do something important.

His faith, *emuna*, personifies the spirit of Halutza.

With enthusiasm, Yedidya continued to describe Halutza today. In 2005, when the Jews left Gaza and began to settle Halutza, the area was a vast desert full of huge sand dunes. Now, young pioneers live there, and grow enormous amounts of fruits and vegetables. He notes that Halutza itself covers about 15 square miles, and encompasses three separate communities: Shlomit,



One of the growing fields of Halutza



Naveh, and Bnei-Netzarim. The total population of pioneers is 2,500. It produces 80 different species of fruits and vegetables. It also has a huge egg production. Soon, it will be home to the largest dairy farm in the entire Middle East. Additionally, it will have Israel's largest solar farm, that will generate 55 megawatts of electricity. He

predicts the future population will grow to 15,000. Also of interest: Halutza is near the ancient ruins of Halutza. This was the half-way point for the Nabateans incense and perfume trade route, between Petra and the ports in Gaza.

One example of a product they've created is Halutza Olive Oil. From its web-



site: "It started some 50 years ago, with the heroic conquering of the arid terrain of the Negev Desert, and turning it into a flourishing garden, despite the absolute lack of fresh water. In time, a large subterranean reservoir of brackish water was discovered. The reservoir allowed for the plantation, on virgin soil, of Halutza olive orchards. The saltwater is the orchard's only source of irrigation. We believe that the Halutza orchards, in excess of 150,000 trees, are the largest of their kind in the world. The tough climate of the Negev Heights demands around the clock intensive care of the orchard. The Olive trees respond in an exceptional manner to this loving treatment, and bare larger, juicier and tastier fruit, earlier than expected. The Halutza Olive Oil olives are plump and intact."

I asked Yedidya, "What is so special about Halutza, and for what reason should I visit it?" and he proudly relied, "What makes Halutza so special is its spirit." He talked about how Halutza folks had mutual commitments to each other. He added that the secret ingredient of Halutza is "simple happiness." He continued to say that "money cannot buy happiness," and that true happiness comes from an "inner calm." And people there, he says, are uplifted by the spirit of doing something important and significant for Israel.

Halutza continued on page 7



Children in Halutza



Sister Cities

Halutza *continued from page 6*

In closing, Yedidya said he is married, and they have three children, ages 8, 6 and 1 ½. He continued by noting how important the American and worldwide connection to Halutza is for them. American friendships are cherished. The Jewish National Fund's involvement with Halutza has been as a very strong and vital friendship.

I admit, I was inspired by talking with Yedidya Harush, and deeply felt Halutza's "spirit" in our conversation.

Thank you Yedidya—and go Halutza! After talking to him, I now want to connect with more people from this very special place.



Newly paved street with lights



Deciding what to name the streets in their new community.

Hof HaCarmel — Q&A with Asif Izak, Head of Council

For someone who might've never been to Israel, what can you say about the region of Hof HaCarmel, as far as location, topography, climate, and so on?

Hof HaCarmel is a regional council, which is similar to a county. The population is approximately 35,000, spreading over about 47,000 acres, and it contains 27 settlements. We have Moshavs, Kibbutzs, an artist village, an Arab village, a religious youth village, as well as 2 bigger towns (Atlit and Caesarea), so the area is very diverse. Hof HaCarmel's literal meaning in Hebrew is "The shore of the Carmel," and the regional council covers a long and narrow piece of land. Along the coast line, just south of Haifa, and all the way to Caesarea. Hof HaCarmel also has about 40 km of coastline, including some of the most beautiful beaches in Israel: Atlit, Ha Bonim, Dor Tantara and Caesarea. To the East are the Carmel Mountains with their vast pine forests. Due to the area's beautiful scenery and comfortable climate, Hof HaCarmel is best known for tourism—plenty of places to see and things to do!—and agriculture. 75 percent of the bananas sold in Israel, for instance, are from Hof HaCarmel. Alongside some of the most beautiful landscapes in Israel, you can also find in Hof HaCarmel plenty of family activities: horseback riding in the Carmel forests; artist-class for all ages; wineries and vineyards to visit and enjoy great local wines and beers; great hiking trails, biking, sea activities, and more.

Historically speaking, how did your region develop?

Most of our 27 settlements were established between 1938 and 1950. On July 2, 1951, the Hof HaCarmel regional council was born. In the early years of the state of Israel, people living in small Moshavs or Kibbutzs created Regional Councils, to serve as municipali-



Asif Izak, Head of Council

ties for several settlements combined. Each settlement, of course, has its own management and elected leadership, but the Regional Council is in charge of the things that are operated on a regional basis: roads, education—we have 2 regional high-schools—as well as sanitation, licensing and so on. Every five years, all of Hof HaCarmel's residents (over 17) vote for the Head of Council. Since it was established in 1951, Hof HaCarmel has come a long way! In the past, farming and agriculture were the main and nearly only source of income for the people here, but in the past 30 years or so, the region has developed into a touristic hotspot, and home for some of Israel's most successful industrial companies, such as Plasson (Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael).

What is the demographic makeup like?

Hof HaCarmel is really a microcosm of the cultural mosaic which is Israeli society: we have Kibbutzs that are still com-



munal, and very successful, as well as Moshavs, that are more "privatized." We have about 5,000 people living in Caesarea, which is a small town, with different characteristics than the people of the Kibbutz or Moshav. Another 10,000 live in Atlit, which has grown rapidly throughout the years. We have a Haredi youth village, an artist village, and an Arab village: we all live and work together. We are a community of communities, and this is the real magic of Hof HaCarmel.

Can you tell us about the villages and/or towns in your region, and their local form of government?

All regional councils in Israel operate in the same way, called the "Dual-Layered" municipality, because municipality here has two layers: the first one is the "local committee." Each settlement has its own local committee, which is elected only by the people living in that settlement – kibbutz, moshav, village. This committee is independent, funded by the taxes paid by the residents of the settle-

ment, and in charge of handling all aspects of life that are interior and take place inside the kibbutz, or moshav: security, landscaping, culture, informal education activities, etc. The Regional Council also deals with security, education and so on, but on a regional level. It trains the local security guards in all the settlements; it provides school buses for the children in all 27 settlements; it operates the regional Cultural Hall, which hosts theater shows, musical concerts, and movies. Each settlement elects its representative(s) to the General Assembly of the region, depending on its size (1 representative per 1,100 population). The General Assembly meets once a month to discuss all major issues of the region. We broadcast these meetings live on our Facebook page, so that everyone can partake in the discussion.

What are your schools like?

We have 11 elementary schools across Hof HaCarmel, located in different settlements.

Hof HaCarmel continued on page 8

Sister Cities

Hof HaCarmel *continued from page 7*

lements in the region, and each of them have very distinct, unique characteristics. For example, we have schools that really focus on the connection between the child and the natural environment around it, taking advantage of the amazing natural assets we have here in Hof HaCarmel. Another school is dedicated to promoting a more "democratic" way of learning, in which the child is given many more choices that affect what they study, where they study, and how. The kids in that school learn in groups according to their abilities and their fields of interest, and not necessarily their age. We also have two great high schools, and I am always happy to see that alongside having good percentage of graduates with great BAGRUT [final exam] averages, they are also leading in social contribution, volunteering for meaningful military service, and so on. We are very proud of that. We believe that every teenager has the right to grow up receiving the tools they need to fulfill their potential and make their own dreams come true.

What are the economic engines in your area?

Tourism, industry, and agriculture. Hof HaCarmel is one of Israel's most toured places, mainly because it contains all the best Israel has to offer: beautiful natural beaches, mountain-top evergreen forests, with panoramic countryside views, and plenty of activities for all ages, all in one region. Industry is based mainly on factories in kibbutz: some of them are of the most successful companies in Israel. And of course, agriculture. We are very proud to be one of the main regions responsible for producing fresh fruit and vegetables in Israel. Driving through Hof HaCarmel, you will see massive banana plantations, vegetables like peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, and many more, which are sold all over the world.

What are the things you love about your region the most?

This is a difficult choice. I was born here, I grew up here, my family is here. I love everything about this place! But if I have to choose, I think the best thing in Hof HaCarmel is this rare combination between people and nature. Over a relatively small piece of land, you get to see it all – seashore, mountain top, huge forests, vast valleys – but you also get to meet so many different, unique, and extraordinary people.



What gives you great pride in your community?

I'm very proud of our agriculture, and our education system. As someone who grew up doing water sports (surfing, sailing), like so many of us here in Hof HaCarmel, I'm super-proud of our youth and adults who keep on leading and winning in all major competitions all around the world. But I think our strength as a community shows at times of crisis. The latest example I can think of occurred just a month ago, when 100s of tons of oil were spilled from a ship onto the Israel shoreline. All our beaches were severely affected, and we had to organize very quickly, and very efficiently, to deal with this enormous ecological crisis. The people of Hof HaCarmel reacted immediately. Thousands arrived at the beaches, wearing gloves and carrying rakes, to volunteer. It was amazing, and we all did a great job in removing 420 tons of oil and tar from Hof HaCarmel's beaches. This kind of event shows the quality I am the most proud of in our community—the shared responsibility for our common good.

What challenges have you met in the past, and what do you see as your future challenges?

I was elected as Head of Council in October 2018. Since then, Hof HaCarmel has known quite a few challenges, and was also affected by national and international concerns. On a regional level, the winter of 2019 brought heavy precipitation which affected many farmers, and damaged infrastructure. We also dealt with quite a few environmental issues, such as the oil spill I mentioned. On a national level, the country has experienced political instability for two years now, and no national budget has been passed. This makes operating our large-scale projects, which are dependent on national funds, very challenging. We need to manage Hof HaCarmel with care, so that we can deal properly with situations that are sometime unpredictable, like Cov-



id-19, which is still affecting all of our lives. In the future, I believe we have to keep on doing everything in our power to best balance our efforts to keep Hof HaCarmel growing – creating places for trade, for business, that will energize the local economy. It is our duty and privilege to preserve the natural environment and the natural resources we have – environmental awareness, sustainable energy, sustainable planning.

What would you show a visitor to Hof HaCarmel?

I think it really depends on who you are, and what you are interested in. If you like history, I'd start at Caesarea, one of the oldest settlements in Israel, with a unique old city and beautiful port, with great restaurants and cafés. I would also suggest a hike at Me'arot Stream, which is an UNESCO World Heritage site, and a visit to the Mizgaga museum in Kibbutz Nahsholim, to see some local archeology and glass-work. If you're more of a wine and food person, I'd recommend a visit to Amphorae vineyard and winery: take a tour, buy yourself some local wine, cheese and bread, and have a picnic at the garden. You can also visit one of the many food trucks along Hof HaCarmel, that offer a variety of foods, from smoked meats to light salads and coffees. I think my best advice would be to contact our tourism foundation, Carmelim. You can find them on Facebook, or website <https://www.carmelim.org.il/eng>, or contact them directly at carmelim@hcarmel.org.il. They are the masters of finding just the right plan for everyone!

What favorite cultural or holiday events do you partake in?

Since Hof HaCarmel is a region of farming and agriculture, I think one of the best holidays to visit here is Shavuot, that usually takes place at the middle or end of May. In the Jewish tradition, Shavuot marks the beginning of the season in agriculture, when the first fruits and vegetables are ripe. It celebrates the abundance of produce in "the land of milk and honey," and praises the workers, the farmers, and the connection to the land. All over Hof HaCarmel, you can see beautiful celebrations: everyone is wearing white, dancing to traditional Israeli music, showing all the best, first produce of the season, playing games, and having a lot of fun. It's a communal holiday, and it suits the Hof HaCarmel community just perfectly. We also have the Hof HaCarmel hike, at the end of March, which is usually the very beginning of spring here in Israel. So many flowers—and so many colors—all around! It's a must-see.

What gives you the most joy, living in your community?

As the Head of Regional Council, I get to see dreams come true – and that is a huge joy. Hof HaCarmel has such great diversity of people, with so many different strengths, abilities, and talents – all living together in one place. This creates a community that can really create, bring to life many projects, and inspire progress. I really enjoy seeing how a vision, a dream, or an idea, turns into a reality of our lives here in Hof HaCarmel.

In the Community

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Presents: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Smoked Fish, and More

"Everything you always wanted to know about Smoked Fish, and more," will be the topic discussed by Adam Caslow, Co-CEO of Acme Smoked Fish on Sunday, May 16th, at 9:30 AM, LIVE via ZOOM presented by the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club.

Adam Caslow is a fourth-generation owner-operator and co-CEO of Acme Smoked Fish. Adam received a B.S. from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration in 2005 and went on to work within the food and beverage department of The Little Nell Hotel in Aspen, CO. In 2007, Adam moved to Pompano Beach, FL to facilitate Acme's acquisition of Great American Smoked, and form Acme Smoked Fish of Florida, LLC. In 2008, Adam led an implementation of a new ERP system for Acme, to enhance Acme's traceability program and yield monitoring. As he says, "One of my favorite parts of the job is speaking with our Fish Friday customers and hearing how our products are a part of family celebrations all over the world." Away from the smokehouse, Adam enjoys all outdoor athletic pursuits, traveling abroad, and exploring great New York City restaurants.



Adam Caslow

Adam will join us to discuss the various smoked fish(s) that our community loves, including smoked salmon, kippered salmon, sable, whitefish and trout. Learn about the difference between hot smoking and cold smoking. Learn about assorted varieties such as Lox vs Nova, Gravlox, Scottish, Irish, Pastrami, Pep-

pered and more! We might even learn a little about herring! Adam will also discuss how Acme has evolved since beginning from the back of Harry Brownstein's horse drawn wagon in 1906 to becoming one of the largest fish smoking companies in the United States. You'll also learn about Acme's Fish Friday, something you won't want to miss!

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

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Adam Caslow's presentation, which will start off with "Schmooze Time" from 9:00 am to 9:30 AM. This presentation is open to the public but advance registration is required. Please contact Don Gorelick at president@snhjmc.org to confirm your registration.



About the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club was founded in 1982 and conducts monthly Zoom meetings during the pandemic. The Club's mission is based on building a brotherhood of likeminded

men who wish to share their commitment and values to those in the greater NH Jewish community. The SNHJMC has provided quality programming such as our bi-annual town hall-style political event and our annual children's breakfast, which this year featured a science exhibit designed to both educate and entertain young minds. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is a nonprofit organization serving all of southern NH's Jewish communities, regardless of synagogue membership for over thirty years. If you or someone you know would like to join our Men's Club please contact our President, Don Gorelick, via email: president@snhjmc.org or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>. Membership Dues have been waived this year due to the COVID pandemic.

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Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival

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June 13 to July 11, 2021
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The 2021 TBI New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival continues with its 2020 virtual format, but with a greatly expanded menu and some additional surprises.

Most items are sold frozen in multi-packs with instructions for heating at home. The menu selections include the homemade traditional Jewish style foods that everyone craves but are hard to find in this part of New Hampshire. The brisket is slow-cooked in savory gravy. Evan's Deli of Marblehead, MA supplies the corned beef, pastrami, and tongue. The matzah ball soup is made from a rich homemade chicken broth



and topped with fluffy matzo balls and carrots, just like bubbe used to make. The TBI kitchen "mavens" (experts) create amazing extra-large potato latkes, nearly a quarter pound each. The blintzes are lightly fried filled with a mixture of farmers and cream cheese. The knishes are real New York style made of flaky dough filled with beef or potato. One of the most requested items is an 8" square pan of noodle kugel, the ultimate comfort food. Medium-width noodles are baked in a sweet cream custard, topped with cinnamon-frosted flake crumbs. If chopped chicken liver or chopped herring is what you have been craving for the last year, wait no more, as these items will be available, freshly prepared and refrigerated. The



bakery section offers rugelach, strudel, hamantaschen, and challahs.

The excitement this year is the offering of a custom deli sandwich "Picnic Pack" made up of fresh, ready-to-eat items. The pack includes one pullman style (rectangular shape) loaf of When Pigs Fly Jewish style rye bread. Your choice of 3 deli meats in 1/2 lb. packages (mix and Match- 1.5 lbs. in total) -

Corned beef, Tongue, or Black Pastrami (Boston style). Six crispy green half sour pickles fresh from the barrel, two pints of freshly prepared homemade coleslaw, one container of handmade deli style horseradish mustard and 1 lb. of home baked rugelach for dessert. Picnic Packs are a great way to take the Jewish Food Festival from "dining under the tent" on temple grounds to dining at the park, the beach, on the boat or at home.

Place orders for your favorite foods on the TBI website, tbinh.org, between June 13 to July 11. Orders will be prepared and ready for pick up, at the temple, beginning Sunday, August 8. Visit the Temple B'nai Israel website, tbinh.org, for more details and information about the 2021 New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival's exciting menu.

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Etz Hayim Presents: Instilling Jewish Pride in the Next Generation

By Stephen Soreff, MD

Amy Dattner Levy will present a talk entitled "Instilling Jewish Pride in the Next Generation" on May 16, 2021, Sunday, at 10am via Zoom. As she says, "If we cannot instill Jewish pride in our next generation, then there will be no one left to carry on our tradition and face our future challenges." She will discuss some of the ways to



Amy Dattner Levy

help you instill Jewish Pride for your family. These include knowledge—presented in ways to make that fun—as well as brotherhood/sisterhood, and ways to inspire courage to be a Jew. She adds, "As we know, it is not always easy or convenient for young folks to be and feel different."

This program is part Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. To get the Zoom link for this talk, please email office@etzhayim.org. More information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Etz Hayim Presents: The Emerging Next Normal

By Stephen Soreff, MD

Wayne Kurtzman will present a talk entitled "The Emerging Next Normal" on Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 10am via Zoom. Kurtzman is a market intelligence analyst, an adjunct educator, and the Research Director of IDC. In this program, he will discuss how technology adoption and culture changed



Wayne Kurtzman

during the COVID-19 pandemic. He says the presentation "will help you make sense of the emerging future of work, what is changing, and what comes next for work, play and education." He will close with "how you can chart your own path."

This program is part Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. To get the zoom link for this talk, please email office@etzhayim.org. More information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

A Winter Jewish Experience in Bethlehem

Submitted by Eileen Regen

Although Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's centennial celebration has been postponed, we are still celebrating the life and spirit of the congregation as we meet for Shabbat services, Jewish studies, and congregation events. Reminiscing is always part of our schmooze time. This month, we share some memories of BHC Board Member Gail Robinson.

The following was originally printed in our 90th anniversary celebration book, *Jewish Light of the White Mountains*.

The Winter Jewish Experience in Bethlehem

By Gail Robinson

My brother Gary and I come from a skiing family. My father, Jud, learned to ski while a student at Brown University



Evelyne and Jud Robinson met on the ski slopes of North Country, married soon after, and following that, came to Bethlehem to ski every winter.

in the late-30s, and my mother, Evelyne, learned to ski as a child in Austria. Can-

non Mountain was one of three ski areas (Cranmore Mountain, NH and Mount Mansfield, VT) in New England favored by both Ivy Leaguers and European refugees. Ivy Leaguers loved the tramway, narrow trails, and tough skiing conditions, while the Europeans loved the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Mittersill. In fact, my parents' first date was a weekend at Cranmore, where my father proposed, and my mother accepted. They were married three weeks later, so that they could spend their honeymoon skiing at Mont Tremblant. We continued to ski at all three areas for the next decade before settling in on Cannon Mountain. And herein begins our story of Bethlehem.

My parents were looking for a cheap furnished apartment to rent for the winter season. It turned out that Beth-

lehem had lots of rooms and apartments available in the winter. One such place was Stonecrest. We rented an apartment on the first floor of the former garage. My fondest memory of our apartment was the interior design. Not only did every room have different wallpaper, but each wall in every room had different flowered wallpaper. I swore that when I owned a house, the walls would only be painted.

We actually didn't know any Jews in Bethlehem. Sure, we saw the glatt kosher signs as we entered the town, but all those hotels were closed in the winter. The Jews we met were all skiers or friends we invited up to visit. It wasn't until my parents built their ski chalet in 1970, and we spent a summer here, that we discovered Bethlehem Jews and Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation.

Nashua's Temple Beth Abraham Celebrates Pride Month: Pride Shabbat June 4 & 5

Submitted by the Temple Beth Abraham Tzedek Committee

This year, Temple Beth Abraham (TBA) will celebrate a Pride Shabbat on June 4 and 5, as an expression of support and love for LGBTQ Jewish lives and voices, and in recognition of a commitment to build and cultivate a *shul* (synagogue) that is welcoming to everyone. All are invited to join the celebration via Zoom.

Links can be found at www.tbanashua.org.

- Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday June 4 at 6:30 pm. Special Shabbat evening service will include additional texts, *tehillim* (psalms), and *niggunim* (melodies) written and composed by LGBTQ folks alongside the traditional *Siddur* (prayerbook). The traditional service will also take place, at 8:00 pm.
- Lunch & Learn, Saturday June 5 at 12:15 pm, after morning services. Mimi Lemay, mother of a transgender child, and an advocate for transgender people, will speak about her journey in raising her family and the work she does to support and advance transgender civil rights. A Q&A discussion will follow and all are welcome to submit questions for Mimi in advance to tzedek@tbanashua.org.

The Tent of Sarah and Abraham

"I think it's so important that we celebrate Pride in our *shuls* and especially in

our sanctuaries, visibly, from the *bima* (platform upon which the Torah is read) places which haven't always been welcoming to LGBTQ folk," Liz Eckley, co-chair of the TBA Tzedek Committee, says of the events. She goes on to say, "LGBTQ Jews are part of our larger Jewish story. We Jews are a rich and diverse community and all *B'tzelem Elohim* (made in the image of God). The *beit* (house of worship) is big enough for all of us and Pride Month is a time to call that out specifically, but more importantly, the tent of Sarah and Abraham is always open for all to come and be together. I believe that's what it means to live up to the name on our building a true house of Abraham and Sarah. I hope this first celebration of Pride Shabbat is a beginning, a starting point, for building and cultivating a place where all can feel welcome and included."

Carol Kaplan, a member of the TBA Tzedek Committee, led by Marsha Feder and Liz Eckley, was the motivating force behind the invitation to Mimi Lemay to share her story with us, "I feel it is important that we, as Jews, be accepting of diversity. I want all people to feel happy, fulfilled and accepted."

Judy Carr, another active member of the Committee relates that "Being an ally to the LGBTQ community is important to me for many reasons: for my friends who feel afraid walking down the street holding hands the way straight couples

do; for my transgender friends that have to fight for acceptance and often fear for their very existence; for my friends and family that identify as nonbinary and have to explain over and over that pronouns matter. It is important for me to show my support; it's not enough to just talk about it. That means **being** inclusive, not just saying inclusivity is good. My hope is for a Pride Shabbat that focuses on inclusivity, acceptance, introspection and love."

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett reflects, "When I came to Beth Abraham, almost 13 years ago, the first allies I met were parents of LGBTQ children, often young adult children. They challenged me to help our Jewish community live up to a vision of *Klal Yisrael* (the whole of Israel), to cherish truly every single person. I had the opportunity that year to begin teaching Torah texts related to LGBTQ lives, and to advocate publicly for marriage equality and transgender rights bills in our legislature. I was very proud to add a Jewish voice to the public debates. This first Pride Shabbat is an initiative that bubbled up from within our congregation, and challenges me to be a better teacher and ally, within our Jewish community and in the wider community."

Seacoast Outright

Seacoast Outright, TBA's *tzedakah* partner for Pride Month, is celebrating its 28th year supporting lesbian, gay, bi-

sexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth and their allies in the New Hampshire Seacoast area and beyond. Their youth group meetings allow LGBTQ youth the freedom to explore issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity in a safe place, supervised by experienced adult facilitators. They also host and coordinate events to raise visibility and create safe spaces and positive collaborations between youth and the community at large. Their largest annual event, Portsmouth PRIDE, is traditionally held toward the end of June, with a March and Rally. Due to the pandemic however, these will be postponed and celebrated during Coming Out Day later in October. Alternative and safer events are being planned for June. We encourage you to visit <https://www.seacoastoutright.org/> for more information and to donate to their incredible work.

A Mother's Journey

Mimi Lemay's son, Jacob, came out as transgender when he was just two and a half years old. "My initial reaction was a non-reaction," said Lemay. "The first time he said he was a boy didn't register for me because I just thought it was 'play-acting.' The word 'transgender' was mostly unfamiliar to me and I certainly didn't associate it with someone as young as my child. Now I know better."

Pride continued on page 12



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In the Community

Pride continued from page 11

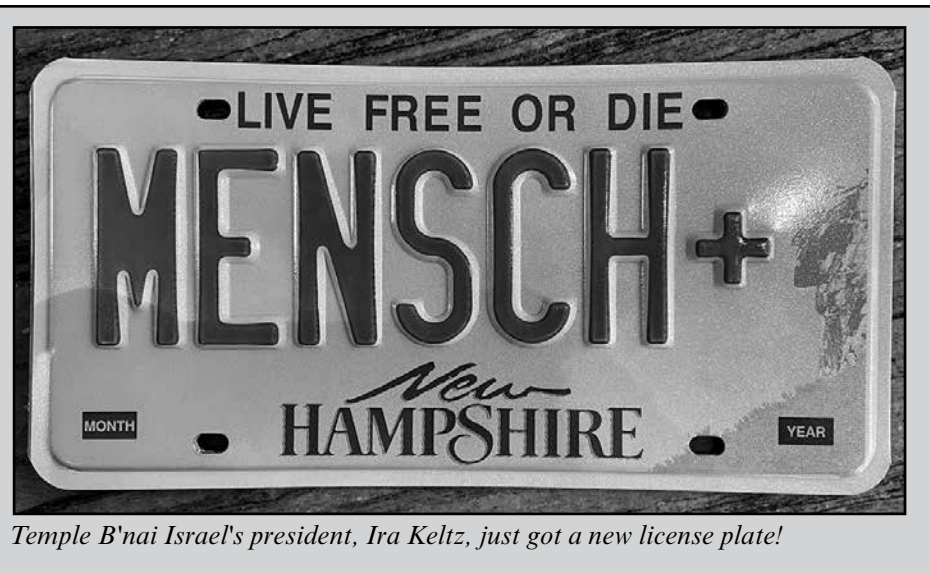
“In her 2019 memoir, *What We Will Become: A Mother, a Son and a Journey of Transformation*, Lemay writes about raising a transgender child. But the book isn’t just about Jacob’s journey: it’s also about her own. Raised in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish family, Lemay left the community to forge her own path. It’s a powerful and moving story and a must-read for parents of all stripes.” (Emily Burak, *Kveller.com*, November 11, 2019)

If you are interested in registering for the Lunch & Learn program with Mimi Lemay, please email us at tzedek@tbanashua.org. Our Shabbat services are always open to the public via our website at: www.tbanashua.org. You can also like and follow our Facebook page, @TempleBethAbraham to receive daily posts in the month of June about LGBTQ Jewish lives, history and Torah and to keep up

with all temple programming.

TBA Tzedek Committee

Temple Beth Abraham’s Tzedek Committee provides opportunities for learning, dialogue, and action on social justice issues, through a Jewish lens, in order to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Our commitment to the work of *tzedek* (justice) is covenantal and rooted in a Torah of *b’tzelem elohim* that we are all made in the image of God and *chesed* (compassion for each other). Our new monthly E-Newsletter, *In Pursuit*, was developed to spread awareness of events, activities and information on social justice issues in the community, regionally and around the country. We hope this will inspire other organizations and individuals to explore these issues as well. For more information, or to subscribe to *In Pursuit*, please contact us at tzedek@tbanashua.org.



Temple B'nai Israel's president, Ira Keltz, just got a new license plate!

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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

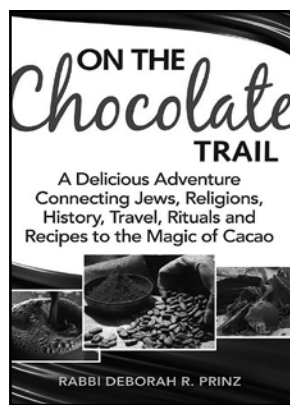
Deborah R. Prinz's 'On the Chocolate Trail: A Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao'

This is a very interesting non-fiction book about a food that almost everyone loves. Your tastebuds will tingle as you examine the history of the cacao plant.

The author takes on a journey through the history of chocolate from a Jewish perspective, along with other religious observances, and shows where there are overlaps.

This is a fascinating book that has been sitting on my bookshelf for a long time. Now, after reading it, I realize that I waited way too long to pick it up. So glad I finally took the time to pull it out, and read through the story of the cacao plant, and this delicious treat I love to nibble.

In the book, we explore the growing of the cacao plant, and its place in religious history. The author is a rabbi, who—along with her husband—travels around the world on the trail of chocolate's history and its religious connections. This delicious adventure connects religions, history, travel, rituals, and rec-



ipes to the magic of cacao, and includes a list of chocolate museums/ festivals around the world, plus tips for buying chocolate. It brings together stories about Jews, Quakers, Catholics, Mayans, and Aztecs in the world of chocolate.

The book also has some delicious recipes at the beginning of each chapter—simple recipes that represent different cultures. There is a Mexican chocolate drink and a Basque Chocolate Cake and even a Citrus Salad with Chocolate Nibs, created by her husband.

There are so many interesting tidbits of information throughout this book. One of the historical facts, for instance, is an old custom of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of sweets, that rewards children with gold-covered chocolate coins for a festival associated with his birthday in December. There are some other interesting religious connections, including the bishop of Chiapas, Mexico, who was poisoned because he prohibited local women from drinking chocolate

during Mass. Although Quakers do not observe Easter, it was a Quaker-owned chocolate company—Fry's—that claimed to have created the first chocolate Easter egg in the United Kingdom.

Some people—including French (Bayonne) chocolate makers—believe that Jews brought chocolate making to France. Another fun fact: in 1896, Leo Hirshfield started a small candy company in New York City, after having learned the candy business in Austria. His special taffy-esque formula of chocolate Tootsie Rolls, named after his daughter, avoided the cost of actual chocolate by using cocoa powder instead. He individually wrapped them, separating the candies, and made them easily portable, even in the summer. Then there is the story of the Aski-Noshie Bar, created by founder Shawn Askinosie, whose father converted from Judaism to Christianity, but gave his candy bar a Yiddish name, from nosh, to bite or snack. Also, there's mention of a Kosher for Passover chocolate that donates all the proceeds to rescuing dogs.

Numerous mouthwatering stories about chocolate, and the history of how it started becoming a nectar of deca-

dence—as well as a common, everyday treat. There are so many other delectable, tasty, cocoa nibs in this book.

Rabbi Deborah R. Prinz lectures about chocolate and religions around the world. A regular contributor to *The Huffington Post*, *The Daily Forward*, and elsewhere on the topic of chocolate, she has presented in five countries at chocolate festivals, libraries, museums, culinary events, and congregations. She co-curates Jews on the Chocolate Trail, a traveling exhibit created for the Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum of Temple Emanu-El, New York City, which will start up again after the pandemic ends. Also, she created the blog On the Chocolate Trail (visit www.onthechocolatetrail.org). Prinz received a Starkoff Fellowship and a Director's Fellowship from the American Jewish Archives, as well as a Gilder Lehrman Fellowship from the Rockefeller Library to research *On the Chocolate Trail*.

Rabbi Prinz is married to Rabbi Mark Hurvitz and is the proud mother of Avigail & Sarah and Noam & Rachel. She is also the amazed grandmother of Amiel, Pele, Ziv, Lior, and Yonah.

Miriam: A New Musical

By Manchester Community Theatre Players

MIRIAM is a Broadway style musical written by two NH playwrights: Dr. Alan D. Kaplan and Dr. Tom Anastasi (both recently Grand Prize winners at Hollywood's Golden State Film Festival for the MCTP film *Surviving Evil: The Holocaust Through the Story of Stephan A. Levy*). All the music in *Miriam* was written by Debbie Friedman, an icon in ritual music, based largely on biblical liturgy and stories. There are 21 songs in the play, some of which Debbie never recorded. Work on the show began in 2002 during a NFTY summer trip to Israel while sailing on the Exodus from Crete to Israel (Debbie as the song leader and Alan as the medical director). Debbie remarked that no musicals had ever been written about old testament biblical women.

Alan suggested combining songs she had written about these women with a script that would tell the story of one of the most famous: Miriam, the older sister of Moses and Aaron.

Miriam is one of the seven named prophets of Israel. Scripture describes her alongside of Moses and Aaron as delivering the Jewish people from exile in Egypt. Miriam is the first woman to bear the label "Prophet." She is the archetype of the female prophetic tradition even as Moses heads the male. Miriam's gift from God to find water made possible the 40-year survival of the Jewish people during their wanderings in the desert on their way to the Holy Land.

The play covers the time period from when Miriam helps Moses find his place in the Egyptian Pharaoh's court through the Exodus from Egypt, receiving the 613 Commandments at Mt. Saini, and finally

her death without ever reaching the Holy Land. We see her humanity, her frustrated love, her struggles dealing with her brothers and with God. Debbie wrote a great deal of music, so we had the good fortune to choose from soulful ballads, upbeat dance songs and songs with just fun lyrics. The show is very upbeat with multiple styles of dance (original choreography by Bruce Williams - NYC Ballet) and ends with a mix of some of Debbie's best known and frequently sung songs. The music has been arranged for multiple voices and full orchestra by Or Oren (*The Debbie Friedman Suite*) and musically directed by Judy Hayward (winner of multiple NH Theatre Awards). The cast is a mix of professional and community theater performers. Playing Miriam is NH native Arielle Kaplan, who knew and sang with Debbie and is a frequent performer of her music. Playing

Miriam's mother Yocheved is accomplished actor Kerry Schneider. Steve Short, MCTP Company Manager, also provides sound design. Whether you are affiliated with a local synagogue or not, you will have heard most of the songs in this wonderful musical. *Miriam* had been scheduled to be performed last March, but was postponed due to the pandemic.

Show Dates are Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, May 23 at 2 pm. The performances will be online, streamed live onstage from the MCTP Theater at the North End Montessori School, 698 Beech Street, Manchester, NH 03104 (formerly the JFNH building). Due to CDC guidelines, there will be a limited number of in-house seats available. Proof of fully vaccinated status will be required for admission. Tickets are available through the Manchester Community Theatre Players website (www.mctp.info).

Post-Film Discussions for Virtual Festival/Push for Passes

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF
Committee Member and Screener

This year, our beloved audience of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is fortunate to have the opportunity to engage in five post-film discussions among our line-up of 11 films. While the 2021 virtual series kicks off with *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, which will feature an opening night surprise to be announced soon, our first post-film discussion will be for the Israeli documentary *Double Income, Kids* on Sunday, May 23 at 3 PM.

I will be moderating that discussion, which will feature the film's director, Hendrik Schäfer, an East Berlin born filmmaker who has studied documentary directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg, Germany since 2011. *Double Income, Kids* is his diploma film among his filmography, which includes three other titles.

The 2019 film tells the story of Motty and Alon, a couple into whose lives we get a close glimpse over the course of a year of preparation for their impending fatherhood. Closely following their adventures, as well as Israeli society and the 'baby boom' among mainstream LGBTQ+ couples, *Double Income, Kids* leaves the audience with many compelling thoughts about adoption, fatherhood, and surrogacy. It is our hope that Motty and Alon will both be able to join us as well to discuss their story.

A week later, we will get the chance to host Udi Nir, one of the directors of the 2019 Israeli documentary *Golda*, which chronicles television interviews with Israel's first and only female Prime Minister,

Golda Meir. Interviewed not long before her 1978 passing, Meir speaks freely in this archival footage, making a case for her time in office from 1969 to 1974. Famously hailed as "Queen of the Jewish people,"

the conservative Meir who has been hailed as a feminist pioneer around the world was anything but revered in her homeland. This documentary beautifully traces her turbulent tenure and unexpected rise to power.

Udi Nir, our special guest for the 3 PM discussion on Sunday, May 30, is a writer, director, and producer. His first feature documentary was the 2016 feature *#Uploading_Holocaust* which, according to the Internet Movie Database (IMDb), is composed entirely of YouTube clips. He studied at the School of Playwriting in Tel Aviv and has worked in theatre, as well as for Amnesty International and other human rights organizations. We are thrilled that he, one of the film's three directors, will be able to join us.

Just two days later, on Tuesday, June 1 at 7 PM, we are fortunate to host a post-film discussion on the 2019 documentary *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack* featuring both the eponymous soon-to-be nonagenarian artist and the film's director, Deborah Shaffer.

The film focuses on trailblazing artist Audrey Flack whose long career evolved from abstract expressionism in the 50s to photorealism in the 70s with a variety of other forms in between. Controversial at times for her rebelliousness and



Udi Nir, director of *Golda*

ardent feminism, the piece follows Flack as she continues her artistry in new forms. It also shines a light on the struggles she has faced as the mother of a child with autism.

Flack, whose work has gained international recognition and been featured in museums around the world, will turn 90 just two days before our discussion.

Director Deborah Shaffer, whose career spans nearly five decades, began her film work by making social documentaries for Newsreel. Since then, she has co-founded Pandora Films, one of the first companies for women's films, which has produced several shorts. Often focusing on human rights issues in Latin America, her films have screened at Sundance and Tribeca, as well as at numerous festivals. Winner of two Emmys and Executive Producer of the Oscar-nominated short *Asylum*, Shaffer won an Academy Award for the 1985 documentary short subject *Witness To War: Dr. Charlie Clements*, a film that she directed about a Vietnam War pilot who became a doctor serving behind enemy lines after his own experiences in that war.

Our penultimate discussion will be on Sunday, June 6th at 3 PM regarding the 2020 Israeli documentary *A Lullaby for the Valley*, which features artist Eli Shamir, who paints with a view of the Jezreel Valley from his studio's balcony. A celebrated oil painter whose works are treasured worldwide, the genesis of this documentary came from director Ben Shani's encounter with one of Shamir's works.

Inspired to document the artist at work, Shani and Shamir filmed this inspirational piece over the course of 10 years, during which time both of their lives transformed significantly. Shamir was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease six years into the filmmaking, which became a central focus of Shani's as he followed how Shamir coped with the illness all the while not letting go of his creative energy.

Ben Shani will be our special guest for the June 6 Zoom discussion, representing his film and Shamir's story. A celebrated documentarian and television journalist, Shani has over 15 titles to his name, including the award-winning 2018 documentary series *The Kirschenbaum Diaries*. A graduate of Tel Aviv University's Faculty of Cinema and Television and

Faculty of Political Science, he won the 2005 Sokolov Prize for Electronic Journalism and the 2019 Documentary Forum Prize News Report for the film *Marcel and Me*.

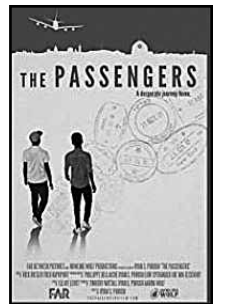
The 2019 documentary *The Passengers* will feature our final post-film discussion of the 2021 Festival, scheduled for Tuesday June 8 at 7 PM with the film's director, Ryan Porush. The story of Demoz and Gezi, two of the roughly 9,000 Ethiopian Jews who speak Hebrew, keep kosher, and have family in Israel, the film traces their continuing struggle with appeals for aliyah, the birthright of Jews from around the world to immigrate to their land of faith. Caught between their birthplace of Ethiopia and the Jewish homeland of Israel, Demoz and Gezi embark on an audacious journey for the path to Israel, a home that they have never seen.

A very timely piece given the challenges that so many Black Jews have faced with aliyah, the film takes place across the globe as the two deeply religious men seek the dream they have waited for so long.

Ryan Porush, who will join our final Zoom discussion, makes his feature documentary debut with *The Passengers*. Director, producer, cinematographer, and co-editor of the piece, Porush lives in Los Angeles. He won several awards for this film and is currently filming his next piece, *A School Grows in Watts*, which profiles an overachieving charter school in the historically underserved community of Watts, a neighborhood in Los Angeles.

Each post-film discussion will take place via Zoom and is included with the purchase of the film itself. We strongly encourage our audience to purchase an All Access Pass for \$110 per household, which includes all 11 full-length films and all post-film discussions, as well as the shorts program and the closing 'around the water cooler' event. We also are offering a Festival Pass, which, for \$43 per household includes access to four films of your choice, the short film program, and the closing 'around the water cooler' Zoom discussion on June 10 in the Red River Theatres Virtual Lobby. Please visit our website on the Eventive platform at <https://2021nhjff.eventive.org/welcome> for more information on the films, programs, and festival itself, as well as to purchase tickets.

We look forward to seeing you at our virtual cinema very soon!



Deborah Shaffer, director of *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack*



Ben Shani, director of *A Lullaby for the Valley*



Recipe: Grilled Lemon Basil Butter Corn on the Cob

By Ashley Barajas

Nothing screams warm weather and sunshine to me like grilled corn. This recipe makes more herb butter than you need, and pairs well with most vegetables. I have found that this recipe works well for butter alternatives, as well as regular butter, making it an easy adaptation to keep it kosher if you are serving meat with your meal.

Grilled Lemon Basil Butter Corn on the Cob Yields : 8 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter/
dairy free "butter," softened
- 3/4 cup lightly packed fresh basil leaves
- 2 tsp grated lemon zest
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1-2 cloves minced garlic
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp freshly ground pepper
- 8 ears corn, in husks

Preparation:

1. In a food processor (or blender) add the butter, basil, lemon zest, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper and pulse until basil turns the butter light green. Transfer to a small serving bowl (can be made up to 3 days ahead and refrigerated).
2. Pull off dry outside husks, tear several into 1/4 inch wide strips to use as ties. Gently peel back inner husks, leaving them attached, remove silk and lightly coat corn with lemon basil butter. Lay inner husks back in place around corn. Tie at top with reserved husk strips. Don't worry if the corn isn't completely covered by the husks. Immerse cobs in a large bowl of cold water and soak for 20 minutes. Drain well.
3. Place corn on a hot grill for 20 minutes, turning often. If grilling without the husks, grill 7 to 10 minutes turning often until tender. Serve with extra butter on the side. Alternately roast in preheated oven at 400°F on a

rimmed baking sheet lined with foil for 35-40 minutes, rotating the corn halfway. If you want that char you

would normally get from the grill, put under the broiler until you get your desired color.


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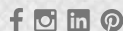
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Veronica Ava Conley, ©2021

Etz Hayim Member with Personal Connection Promotes Blood Drive

The survivor of a life-threatening motorcycle accident credits blood donors with saving her life, and she is now urging her synagogue, and the NH community, to participate in an upcoming blood drive.

In June of 2017, Beth Hudson, 61, was med-flighted to Massachusetts General Hospital with a grim outlook. Eight hours after her initial surgery, her medical team estimated a 5-10% chance of survival. Her initial blood loss was substantial, and she was given 64 units of blood, most of which was administered the first two weeks. Following 32 more surgeries, Hudson finally returned home. She says that if it hadn't been for the 64 units of blood from donors, she would not have survived.

Hudson, who lives in Hudson, NH, is

now a volunteer for American Red Cross. "I feel it is important to thank those who selflessly helped a perfect stranger," she said. As a member of Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry for 15 years, Hudson would like to urge the congregants, and the greater community, to participate in an upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive. This May, she will be interviewed about her story by the Red Cross for Traumatic Injury Awareness Month, and she is hoping WMUR will cover the story and help promote the drive, as well. Hudson also previously volunteered for a blood drive through the synagogue when it was organized for a Bat Mitzvah community service project.

The Etz Hayim Synagogue Blood Drive is a community service sponsored by the

Membership Committee, of which Hudson is a member. She hopes to make it an annual event. "Donating blood is simple,

safe, and a wonderful mitzvah," said Hudson. "Please make an appointment and save a life. You will be glad you did!"

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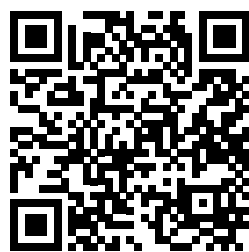
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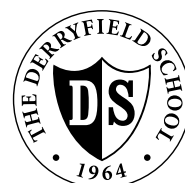
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Three Seders: Why Jewish Life Survives in Taiwan

By Jordyn Haime

While many at home in the states said “next year in person” for the second year in a row, I found myself surrounded by people—Jews from all over the world, non-Jewish friends who wanted to experience a Seder, even a table of Taiwanese Christians likely driven by messianic prophecy—at a Passover Seder in Taipei, Taiwan.

Because of Taiwan’s exceptional epidemic control policies, we were able to sit at large tables, without masks, following along to the *Beijing Haggadah*, a beautifully illustrated volume designed by community leader Leon Fenster. It was my second Seder of the day. Earlier that afternoon, a friend invited me to a smaller gathering, where Jewish American academics read from a progressive Haggadah focused on liberation of all peoples in the modern day. The preparation sent us all on a scavenger hunt for Seder necessities: cheap, sweet red wine from 7-11 as a Manischewitz stand-in; horseradish found at an international supermarket. My third Seder was with the local Chabad—a movement I’m less familiar with, having been raised Conservative. To my left was a Jew from the Netherlands, across from me an American Jew and his Taiwanese wife who had converted to Orthodoxy; together, we read from a Maxwell House Haggadah as we leaned back in our chairs and drank wine.

Never have I been so involved in Jew-

ish life, and never would I have guessed I would become so much more in touch with my identity 7,000 miles away from home, never mind having the luxury to “shop around” and experience traditions across the religious spectrum. Of course, this is partly because Judaism is my research topic here. But my involvement now feels much more like impulse than obligation.

Growing up in New Hampshire, I had never felt much attachment to the religion. In fact, I tried to separate myself from it for a while, caught between pressures of antisemitism to assimilate, and pressures of other Jews to become what they believed to be more “authentically” Jewish.

At the same time, finding Jewish communities so far from home, that welcome me, makes sense: Jews are famously good at making a home in a new land and adapting in order to survive.

The Taiwan Jewish community has faced challenges in the past—including fluctuating membership numbers and skyrocketing rent costs—but it’s a strong one. According to early members, it has always maintained a policy of welcoming all who want to join. It officially registered with the Taipei City government in 1978, but Jews first found community in Taiwan when American military were stationed here in the 1950s. By the 1970s, Rabbi Ephraim Einhorn arrived as the city’s first permanent Rabbi and has remained since, but today, at 102, has taken a step back from services, and handed the



Rabbi Einhorn at Shabbat. Photo credit: Benjamin Schwall, current President of the Taiwan Jewish Community.

baton to Fenster, whose presence has brought new life to the community. Leaders say this year’s Seder was the biggest in recent memory.

In 2011, Rabbi Shlomi Tabib arrived with Chabad, providing another option for religious life, and improving access to kosher food, especially around the High Holidays. Later this year, a new Jewish Cultural Center, sponsored by Jewish businessman Jeffrey Schwartz, will open in Taipei, with the hopes of creating a stronger future for Jews in Taiwan and encouraging more people to settle here.

Another important factor: it’s incredibly safe to be Jewish in Taiwan. With no history of antisemitism, most Taiwanese have a positive impression of Jews, and are excited to have any opportunity to learn about Judaism. There is no threat of being shot for going to shul.

Maybe this is the most important element of the return to Jewish identity. Although I consider New Hampshire and the United States my home, I don’t always feel as though I can call it mine. In America, I’ve often felt less welcome as a Jew than I do as a foreigner in Taiwan. I mentioned my return to Judaism to a friend recently, who said this didn’t seem strange: sometimes, being able to embrace a minority identity means leaving a society that wants to erase you. This year, singing dayenu over three Seders and celebrating Jewish freedom, I finally felt as though I understood what freedom felt like.

Jordyn Haime is a current Fulbright research fellow and journalist studying Jewish identity in Taipei, Taiwan. She grew up in New Hampshire and graduated from UNH with degrees in journalism and international affairs. She can be reached via email at jordynhaime@gmail.com.

The views and information presented are the author’s own and do not represent the Fulbright Program, CIES, IIE, the Department of State, the Fulbright Commission, or the host country.

What, Israel Bobsleigh?

By Evelyn Miller

As chairman of the Israel Education and Engagement committee, I am thrilled when one of our committee members comes up with an interesting idea to showcase Israel. When Linda Gerson mentioned hearing of an Israeli Olympic bobsleigh team, we all got excited: “Oh, what fun if we could interview them.”

We viewed it as another “far-out thing” that Israel gets involved in. We thought it might appeal to all ages and genders—just kind of a crazy thing to have a bobsleigh team coming out of Israel. Little did we know the work that would go into putting this zoom panel together, nor did we fully appreciate the emotions evoked from this encounter.

As one knows, there is not much snow in Israel, nor would you call it a “winter wonderland,” so why a bobsleigh team?

From the panel discussion, we heard stories of team members always being competitive people, in life and in sports. I suspect that the adrenaline rush of seeking new thrills led some to bobsleigh competitions, while others were recruited after that, as additional able-bodied athletes became needed to fill out the team.

Why represent Israel? They talked of pride in Jewish identity, and as American citizens making Aliyah, and becoming Israeli citizens too. However, I am going to guess that the first thought of representing Israel came with thoughts of this being a way to get into a world competition. The stories continued, as they talked about training, acquiring new skills, and dealing with understandable anxieties and the fears in regard to this high speed, dangerous sport.

But then the tenor of the discussion

changed, as each member began to emotionally describe the day they stood on the top of the Konigsee Bobsleigh track platform in Germany in the Bavarian Alps and turned to look straight up into the mountains to see “Eagle’s nest,” the Nazi party lodge and favored Hitler hangout. Now, the team members began to talk of their emotional attachment to their Judaism. For one member, he spoke about his days in Jewish summer camp, and Jewish friends. For others it was their Jewish upbringing. Whatever it was, there was this huge impression of what they were looking at, of what this meant to them as Jews, and the great pride at that moment to be representing the young nation of Israel, born out of the ashes of World War II.

Now, this following section may seem like an unconnected thread, but please bear with me while I express my appreci-

ation to these Olympic hopefuls representing Israel.

My husband was born in 1943. His father, a Jew, was recruited in the U.S. Army and kept stateside until the end of the World War II, at which time he and his Jewish wife, and two Jewish children, were transferred to embassies in Europe for the US to establish a strong presence and assist in the rebuilding of free Europe. My husband went to schools in Greece, Switzerland, and Germany. He returned to the US after his second year in college.

I met Mike in graduate school. When he asked me to marry him, he said — and I quote — “I am Jewish, I want children, I want to raise them Jewish, will you marry me?”

You may say, “not too romantic,” but 51 years later — obviously, it worked!

Bobsleigh continued on page 19



May 2021: A Message from the Ambassador

Shalom New England!

It's been close to six months since my arrival here in the region. While I am still relatively new to your beautiful land, I have had the privilege of representing the State of Israel in many countries in the Western Hemisphere and in different capacities during a diplomatic career spanning more than three decades. I had the honor of serving as Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations and as Israel's Chief of Protocol from 2015-2020.

I am very proud of my two daughters who reside in Israel, the eldest a second year visual communications student at Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem, and the youngest a combat unit soldier on Israel's Southern border. I am partnered to

**Ambassador
Meron Reuben**
**Consulate General
of Israel to
New England**



David, and we have spent this past winter adjusting to New England weather, and adding a puppy named "Doobi" (Teddy Bear in Hebrew) to the household. He is definitely the fluffiest puppy in the area where we reside.

As many Israelis, I am not a fan of titles, as they have a tendency to come and they go, so please, call me Meron.

When asked what would I like to ac-

complish while here in New England, I usually answer: promoting a better understanding of Israel behind the headlines, so that people understand what it is all about. Israel is, of course, a multicultural, multi-ethnic, and multiracial society, made up of people from all over the world, more than half of them from the Middle East and Africa, and we very much value our diverse nation of immigrants.

Israel is far from perfect, but it is a vibrant democracy. A democracy that works to uphold and defend the human rights and dignity of all who reside in it. We face many challenges, but continuously strive to make our society more inclusive and just.

In the coming months, I hope to share

with you my reflections and perspective about various issues both in Israel, and right here in New England, which relate to Israel.

Wishing you all Chag Shavuot Sameach and a Happy Yom Yerushshalayim (Jerusalem Day)!

– Meron

P.S. Please follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter) by searching for "Israel in Boston" to keep up with the events the Consulate produces and co-sponsors throughout New England.

To contact the Consulate, you may reach out to us at community@boston.mfa.gov.il.

EVOLVE Hadassah: The Young Women's Network

By Michele Bank

Hadassah is one of the largest international Jewish organizations, with over 330,000 members just here in the United States. If you have a passion for Judaism and Zionism and feel a responsibility to Israel, please consider becoming a member of Manchester Hadassah. We also need to cultivate the next generation to carry on Hadassah's mission. Please encourage the younger women in your lives to join and tap into the "Power of Women Who Do." There is strength in numbers, and every member

is important. Your life will be enriched in so many ways.

In Hadassah's vision to connect and engage a new generation of Jewish women, they developed a community of strong-minded women and supporters called EVOLVE HADASSAH, the Young Woman's Network. It is geared to engage younger women, under 50, who are dedicated to shepherding Hadassah's core mission into the future ensuring that we remain a vibrant, thriving organization. They engage with Hadassah in varied ways, from local meet-ups to advocacy to social media.

EVOLVE stands for Engage, Volunteer, Opportunity, Leadership, Vision and Empowerment.

To find out about EVOLVE groups, contact evolve@hadassah.org. You can join for as little as \$36 annually (with or without automatic renewal) or \$250 for a lifetime membership and enjoy the many benefits of being a part of our organization, and work with us to heal our world, together. Member benefits include:

- Subscription to the award-winning Hadassah Magazine
- Online programs you can enjoy at home at a members-only discount

- Participation in advocacy actions on women's health, antisemitism, and more
- Opportunities to connect locally via chapter activities
- Professional networking programs
- Receipt of Hadassah's national eNewsletter
- Opportunities and special events to support Israel
- Exclusive Hadassah Israel Travel destinations

For additional information about Hadassah, please contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

Bobsleigh *continued from page 18*

Now, life moved on, we raised a wonderful Jewish family, but I NEVER thought about his funny proposal until I "mentally" stood with the bobsleigh panelists on that platform in Germany, and reflected back on the world then, and what my husband grew up in. Mike grew up with no Jewish communities, no synagogues, no Jewish summer camps, no Hebrew school, and no Bar Mitzvah, but his be-

lief in Judaism and the survival of the Jewish people is strong within him.

So, I thank you Israeli Bobsleigh panelists, for opening my eyes into my husband's world. I appreciate your pride in being Jewish. I appreciate your representing this young nation of Israel on the world stage. And finally, I appreciated the message of "We're here to stay, and we will never give up!"

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Jewish Teen Funders Network Announces New Direction and Name: “Honeycomb”

By Jason Edelstein

New Brand Reflects Growing National Presence and New Field-Building Strategies and Resources to Advance Jewish Youth Philanthropy

New York, NY -- With a growing international footprint and new intensive trainings, resources, and consulting services, the Jewish Teen Funders Network has rebranded as **Honeycomb** (honeycomb.org), focusing on helping educators and community leaders run immersive Jewish philanthropy experiences and programs and other meaningful grantmaking activities for youth and families. Following more than a decade fostering Jewish teens' philanthropy, Honeycomb recognizes the urgency—and opportunity—with Jewish youth today who want to create positive change in their communities and globally, inspired by their Jewish values and learning.

“Amid the global pandemic especially, Jewish youth see individuals and communities in desperate need and facing upheaval, and they want to make a difference,” says Wayne Green, Executive Director of Honeycomb. “We see many opportunities to connect Jewish youths' strong desire to do good with philanthropy experiences that maximize impact and bring them the most meaning. Honeycomb is designed to infuse Jewish en-

agement efforts with the very best practices of youth philanthropy combined with Jewish learning.”

The name “Honeycomb” represents the interlocking elements of group philanthropy experiences and the richness—both in impact and in meaning—that comes from those experiences. Honey itself also carries special symbolism in Jewish traditions and stories, most notably when consumed on Rosh Hashanah. As part of the rebrand, Honeycomb has unveiled new programs, immersive trainings, curriculum development, and consultations available for educators and professionals who run youth philanthropy programs in a variety of settings—Federations, schools, synagogues, community centers, foundations, camps and elsewhere. Together, these individuals and the organizations in which they work comprise Honeycomb's global network of Jewish youth philanthropy programs, which strengthen Jewish identity, develop leadership skills, and inspire a rising generation of Jewish philanthropists and changemakers.

Founded in 2006 as Jewish Teen Funders Network, a program of Jewish Funders Network, the organization initially helped organizations run different local Jewish youth philanthropy groups. When Green became Executive Director in 2017, the group began creating content and offering intensive trainings to teen-

engagement professionals. Honeycomb's new and broader field-building efforts today are helping to shape an entire generation of Jewish youth.

“Anyone who cares about meaningful Jewish youth engagement has a stake in elevating these philanthropic opportunities,” says Jeffrey Solomon, Board Chair of Honeycomb and a Senior Advisor at CHASBRO. “Jewish youth want to be a part of activities, including Jewish experiences, that bring meaning into their lives. Now is the right moment for Honeycomb to expand its work and help create more meaningful ways for Jewish youth to create change. This is the future of Jewish philanthropy, and we must get it right.”

A recent report, GIVE AND GROW: Jewish Teen Philanthropy's Unique, Powerful, and Lasting Impact, shows that Jewish youth philanthropy experiences strengthening teens' connections to Jewish life while cultivating a lasting desire to change the world. Even after a Jewish youth philanthropy program's conclusion, when alumni leave home, they continue to demonstrate stronger Jewish identities, a deeper connection to Jewish community, and the inspiration, skills, and confidence to become leaders and changemakers in their own communities.

The kinds of immersive youth philanthropy experiences that Honeycomb helps train organizations to provide and allow

youth to fulfill all the roles of a funder board—from designing and reviewing grant applications, to distributing funds and reviewing grantee achievements.

“By the end of NatanFamily, teens were so excited about selecting grantees and finalizing the process,” says Adina Poupko, Director of Grants and Programs of Natan, which recently engaged Honeycomb to design and deliver a custom Jewish youth philanthropy experience for the children of its members. “They also really got a sense for what their parents do with Natan and why they spend all those hours at Natan meetings. It was wonderful to see the parents' pride in watching their child have a giving circle experience.”

Regardless of the specific partnership or custom program, Honeycomb helps leaders create philanthropy experiences imbued with opportunities for youth to explore how Judaism feels relevant to their lives and future dreams; to build consensus with Jewish peers by hearing different views, listening to others, and compromising; and to make decisions that are consequential for communities and issues they care about.

“Now is the moment to deepen Jewish philanthropy experiences in youths' lives,” adds Green. “We want more people and communities reaching out to us to join these efforts and becoming part of this transformative work.”

Communities Across US Unite as Never Before to Celebrate Israeli Independence

From LA to Orlando, the Israeli-American Council's coast-to-coast events culminate in historic global musical extravaganza connecting Israel with Israeli-Americans, US Jews

LOS ANGELES, April 19 – Tens of thousands of American Jews, Israeli Americans and others from coast to coast came together Sunday in an unprecedented celebration of Israel's 73rd Independence Day, culminating in a musical experience from Israel connecting these communities as never before, in the Israeli-American Council (IAC's) “Celebrate Israel.”

Celebrate Israel featured major festivals nationwide Sunday included a historic global live-streamed hybrid musical experience direct from Jerusalem with an array of Israeli headlining stars including the Idan Raichel Project; Rami Kleinstein; T-Slam; and Sarit Hadad. Celebrate Israel events provided giant outdoor screens as participants experienced the magic of this first-time concert.

Covid-safe drive-in and in-person events took place simultaneously nationwide, including in Atlanta; Boston; Denver; the East Bay of San Francisco; Fairlawn, NJ; Greater Washington, DC; Houston; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; New York City's

Times Square; Orange County, CA; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia; Rochester, NY and Seattle, among other locations.

Israel Independence Day took place this year on April 15, with Celebrate Israel kicking off the festivities with a series of first-time events from coast to coast. Beginning Wednesday night, city building and landmarks across the US lit up in blue and white, in the Atlanta suburb of Sandy Springs; Boston's City Hall and Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge; Cleveland's Terminal Tower; Denver City Hall; the Charles Braga Memorial Bridge in Fall River, MA; the Guitar Hotel at the Seminole

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood, FL; Houston City Hall; Las Vegas City Hall; Los Angeles City Hall; Lake Orlando in Orlando, FL; Rockville, MD City Hall, representing the Washington, DC region; and New Jersey town halls in Closter, Demarest, Fairlawn, Fort Lee, New Milford and Tenafly.

“This year we celebrated Israel like never before, by coming together from coast to coast and across the globe, showing our devotion to the homeland of the Jewish people and our pride in her incredible accomplishments in just 73 years as a nation,” said IAC Co-Founder and CEO Shoham Nicolet.

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.

Help Wanted!

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Steven Cohen, Esq., LLM, CPA
scohen@dmb.com (603) 695-8504
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111 Amherst St., Manchester

Norman J. Silber Esq.
Licensed in Florida and New Hampshire
Florida Real Estate
Florida Probate & Trust Administration
njs@silbersnh.com
603-293-0565 Gilford

Sari Ann Strasburg, Attorney, CPA
Strasburg Law PLLC
sari@straslaw.com
603-471-0474 Bedford, NH
Business Law Firm for Manufacturing,
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Stephen E. Borofsky, Esq.
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Advance tickets for ALL screenings suggested:
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 Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org
 By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office
 Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM
 For information, call 603-627-7679.
 On Facebook, visit JFNH and NH Jewish Film Festival
 for the latest on the NH Jewish Film Festival.



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

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2021 Festival at a Glance
 May 19 - June 10

All film links are available for 72 hours
 starting at 12 noon on the date indicated.

Please Join Us for Opening Night!
 Wednesday, May 19, 2021
 When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Friday, May 21, 2021
 Double Income, Kids

Sunday, May 23, 2021
 The Crossing

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 3 PM
 Post-film discussion: *Double Income, Kids*
 with director Hendrik Schäfer

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
 God of the Piano

Thursday, May 27, 2021
 Golda

Friday, May 28, 2021
 Here We Are

Sunday, May 30, 2021
 Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack

Sunday, May 30, 3 PM
 Post-film discussion: *Golda*
 with director Udi Nir

Tuesday, June 1, 7 PM
 Post-film discussion: *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack*
 with director Deborah Schafer, artist Audrey Flack

Wednesday, June 2, 2021
 Thou Shalt Not Hate

Thursday, June 3, 2021
 A Lullaby for the Valley

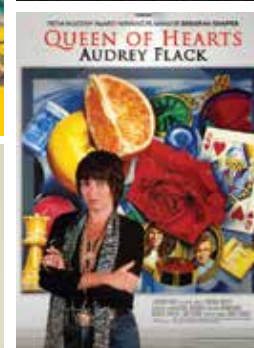
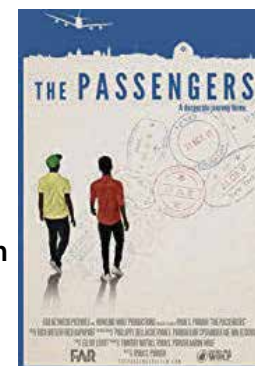
Sunday, June 6, 2021
 The Passengers

Sunday, June 6, 2021, 3 PM
 Post-film discussion: *A Lullaby for the Valley*
 with director Ben Shani

Tuesday, June 8, 7 PM
 Post-film discussion: *The Passengers*
 with director and filmmaker Ryan Porush

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
 A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7 PM
Closing Event: A Water Cooler Discussion
 at the Red River Theatre Virtual Lobby
 Open discussion of all the films in the
 NH Jewish Film Festival



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