

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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New Hampshire

Volume 42, Number 1

September 2021

Elul 5781 - Tishrei 5782



SWEET NEW YEAR

You Make JFNH Possible

By Ken Litvack, Judith Jolton, and Tracy Richmond

You make a difference.

Be the start of something powerful. Here at home and around the world, our Federation works to support, sustain, and revitalize Jewish life. But we can't do it without you. Your contribution is what makes everything possible, enabling us to meet the needs of people in so many ways.

Help us fulfill our ambitious goals while continuing to support our community members.

Jewish learning is a torch that illuminates our history and our future. JFNH works to make sure a Purim storybook arrives on the doorstep of an interfaith family and a scholarship that helps a child attend summer camp. From Hebrew classes and interactions with our Israeli shaliach, to entertaining and in-

sightful films hosted by our New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, your gift helps power Jewish learning in endless ways. With a gift to our annual campaign, you have the power to:

- **Educate Our Children** informally through PJ Library and our Early Education Initiative.
- **Engage Our Community** through education, entertaining and insightful programming.

- **Support those who need financial and emotional assistance.** This year our requests for assistance tripled. We created and supported a walk-in support group in the Portsmouth area and hope to add other groups.
 - **Strengthen Relationships with our Israeli families** through our partnership with two sister cities in Israel, Hof HaCarmel and Halutza.
- Our Jewish traditions and values unite

us in standing up against intolerance and protecting those who are vulnerable. As a people, we believe that each person has strengths to share and important lessons to teach. Through our advocacy work with elected officials to college campuses and around the world, Federation works tirelessly to create an environment where every person's wisdom and joy can come to life.

Thank you for your support.



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CONGREGATIONS

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

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

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BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

CONCORD

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

DERRY

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

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UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com
www.JewishSeacoast.com

HANOVER

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Dan Danson
210 Court Street, Laconia
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 524-7044
www.tbinh.org
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Rabbi Levi Krinsky
1234 River Rd., Manchester
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 647-0204
www.Lubavitchnh.com
rabbi@lubavitchnh.com
Services: Shabbat Services
Saturday morning at 9:30 AM
Sunday morning minyan at 9 AM

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Gary Atkins (Interim)
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org
Services: Fridays at 7 PM
Saturdays at 10 AM

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

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Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)

September 3 6:59 PM
September 10 6:46 PM
September 17 6:34 PM
September 24 6:21 PM



Social Services Walk-In Support Group

Last February, Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman (of Temple Israel Portsmouth) and I were speaking about the possibility of starting a walk-in support group — not a therapy group, but more of a support group for individuals in the Portsmouth community. We were all experiencing the effects of COVID-19, loneliness, and isolation. I thought this was a great idea that could be a tremendous source of support for the community. Temple Israel in Portsmouth took the lead, publicized the program, and in March, a small group came together via Zoom. The description below was publicized throughout the community:

The Joyful Blessing of Time

This discussion group will be a safe supportive place to share our experiences, concerns, thoughts, and feelings about this time in our lives. We will recognize and celebrate our triumphs, acknowledging the strength and resilience each of us has developed over time. With this awareness we can better face the inevitable natural changes to come, both physical and emotional.

Elyse Hyman

Executive Director



We are strengthened as we learn from one another's collective experience, laugh and sigh together, celebrate and support our tomorrows.

Laura Durant, the clinical social worker who facilitates the group, also shared her feelings with us, as printed below:

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to share a glimpse of our group with you. I am honored to facilitate Joyful Blessings of Time with Temple Israel of Portsmouth, and to be a part of such a warm and caring congregation that Zoom has brought together. I reside in Florida. Our group began on 3/7/21 during the height of the pandemic. It's extraordinary to feel the closeness that has developed when you realize we haven't met in person

yet! Zoom has enabled so many of us to connect while we were quarantined. We "visit" with our families, old and new friends, our clergy, as well as our physician tele-visits, etc. Also let's not minimize the endless variety of movies, documentaries, and activities that provide a welcomed escape from the constantly overwhelming news shows.

There are so many ways that we have changed over this past year and a half... but that is an idea for another time—maybe a time when we might enjoy building a column, together, sharing our experiences, anecdotes or fun stories including ways we've changed and things we've learned... like wearing yoga pants with a lovely blouse or a button-down shirt!

Speaking of sharing, the group is ongoing, exploring ways to find joy and maintain balance while we adjust to the challenges of our time, a true support group. It's so important to know we have each other and are not alone. We share suggestions for coping in this rapidly changing environment. By listening to one another as

we move from topic to topic, always being aware of the mind, body, soul connection—mindfulness, forgiveness, cherished memories, the power of words, reassessing and embracing each day. Sometimes we are nostalgic, or we might even share recipes for holidays that bring us closer to our precious recollections of our lives. Covid has provided us with a chance to reset, to learn from our past as well as role modeling for the younger generation and lots more.

The needs of the group guide the path. There is no set agenda. The group grows stronger and closer as we receive insight and inspiration from one another. Join us. We welcome newcomers seeking support and possibly some new friends.

The group has been meeting since March and have come to enjoy the topic of the week as well as the opportunity to be together. If you or someone you know would like to join this group, or to help us organize a new group in a different part of the state, please be in touch with the Federation office.

The Year Past, and the Year Ahead

The fiscal year that has just completed was quite challenging, to say the least. The board and staff worked miracles to make sure our programs and fundraising continued without interruption. However, amidst the struggles of a pandemic year, the Federation has not only persevered, but seen great successes and triumphs, from the rekindling of old relationships to the fostering of new ones. Looking back on the past year, and ahead at the next, it's great to see how all of us, together, have continued building a better and stronger Jewish New Hampshire.

As always, this is a time of change, and the first thing I want to do here is welcome our new board members. In that regard — everyone, please welcome Jen Fox, Roberta Gordenstein, Carol Pressman and Amy Lester, as our newest additions. All of you are worthy additions to the board, and I am truly looking forward to working with you to build on the successes of the Federation.

Of course, as some are only joining us now, others are taking their leave. And on that note, a huge thank you goes to our departing members: Jay Madnick, Judith Jolton, Elsa Conrad, and Ross Fishbein. All of you, thank you so much your service, and all that each of you as

Ken Litvack

JFNH Board Chair



done on behalf of the Federation. It will not be forgotten.

Looking back on the last year, there are many other people and committees we must recognize, as well. First off, thank you to Pat Kalik and Ross Fishbein, the co-chairs of our film festival. There is no way to overemphasize the untold hours that was poured into the film festival this past year, and the end result produced fabulous films, record attendance, and very successful financial results.

We also need to say thank you to the Israel Engagement committee, chaired by Evelyn Miller and co-chaired by Linda Gerson, which was able to bring us many exciting programs with the help and creativity of our Shlichah, Avia, who is now back in Israel. One of the highlights from this committee, this past year, has been the rekindling of the relationship with our original sister city, Hof HaCarmel,

combined with the development of a new relationship with our inspiring second sister city, Halutza. Bertha and I hope to visit both of these wonderful cities in this coming winter.

This past year, of course, has seen some troubling events. I am sure you are all aware of the rise in antisemitism throughout the country, and even right here in NH. On a positive note, Dina Chaitowitz has been working diligently on not only bringing more awareness to these incidents, but also taking action against them. Right now, we are in the middle of forming a Holocaust Survivor Committee, which you will hear much more about shortly.

The Social Service Committee proved invaluable to so many this past year. David Goldstone—our new vice chair—along with Mel Spier and Kerry Hanson worked diligently toward helping people in need, and the board was able to allocate additional funding for this very important committee. This is the core of who we are, and what we're about: helping people in need.

And that leads me to the committee of all committees — our campaign committee. You know, I had an economics teacher who once said, "Money is the blood of

any business. Without it, you cannot operate." And well, the same thing applies to nonprofits: without it, we cannot operate. The campaign committee was co-chaired by Judith Jolton, Tracy Richmond, and myself, and included Pat Kalik, David Goldstone, and Jay Madnick. The committee did an amazing job, exceeding their goal by almost \$100,000, as well as bringing in 72 new donors. A very special thanks to Jay, who coordinated our amazing virtual Super Sunday.

All of the committees we have, including the ones I haven't had time to mention, did a spectacular job this past year, and deserve all the credit in the world. Thank you, all of you, for your hard work. And an especially huge thank you must go to Allyson Guertin, whose direction, coordination, and assistance has been the key component that made all of these programs possible.

Winston Churchill once said, "It is more agreeable to have the power to give, than to receive." And I hope each of you find the power to give—and know that what you receive, in return, is the knowledge that you are doing something that will help our Jewish community in NH create more programming, more awareness, and a future we will all be proud of.

Allyson Guertin: The New Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

By Ken Litvack

The Board of Directors is happy to announce that Allyson Guertin will assume the position as Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire beginning September 6th.

I am sure Allyson needs no introduction: she has been the eyes and ears of the Federation for many years. In my few years on the board, I have never worked with anyone with such dedication and commitment to an organization. Allyson, who grew up in Manchester, has been involved with the Federation and the NH Jewish community since she was a child. She has spent time as a student at the Jewish commu-



Allyson Guertin

nity school, became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel in Manchester, and taught at the Jewish Federation Preschool. Most recently, Allyson has worked as the Director of Outreach and Engagement for the last four years, running our PJ Library, providing programming for our Seniors Forever Young program, supervising our Shlichut, and so much more.

We are looking forward to keeping the community informed of new roles and positions within the Federation. I hope you will give the staff your cooperation, support, assistance, and patience in order for them to transition into their new and expanded responsibilities.

Job Available: JFNH Program Coordinator

Part Time 25 hours/week

Job Responsibilities

Summary: Reporting to the Director, the Program Coordinator has primary responsibility for developing and implementing the PJ Library and PJ Our Way program and Seniors Forever Young Program as well as to think creatively about ways to engage teens and young adults. Additional responsibilities include assisting with additional Federation programming that occurs throughout the year. This is a hands-on position with the goal of increasing connections and participation in Jewish life to all members of the community including interfaith families and those unaffiliated with a synagogue. The ideal candidate will be dynamic, high-energy, creative, organized, and be able to act as a community organizer while possessing an unequivocal level of diplomacy and discretion.

Essential Responsibilities:

- Work with Federation staff, committee members and volunteers to develop and increase the overall engagement with our PJ Library and senior communities
- Manage all committees related to the PJ Library and Seniors Forever Young.
- Execute event development, planning, marketing, and coordination
- Manage the PJ Library and JFNH Young Families Connection Facebook pages
- Develop and implement a year-round calendar for engagement programs for the Federation's PJ Library and Seniors Forever Young
- Serve as primary contact between Federation and National PJ Library representatives
- Manage Grinspoon Foundation reporting and Grant process

- Create bi-weekly JFNH community e-Blasts
- Build relationships with local synagogues and Jewish agencies
- Support all Federation special events
- Accept other duties and special programs as assigned

It is understood that the above duties and responsibilities are subject to change and are not intended to be 100% inclusive of all that will be expected to execute the position successfully.

Required Qualifications

- Prior experience in a related field preferred
- Strong networking skills and an entrepreneurial spirit
- Experience planning and marketing programs
- Creativity and vision
- Understanding of Jewish values, holidays, traditions, and culture
- Demonstrable ability to collaborate both inside and outside the organization

Required Attributes and Competencies

- Proven ability to manage volunteer committees
 - Demonstrated ability to coordinate and facilitate events in an effective and efficient manner
 - Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work as a team member
 - Outstanding verbal and written skills and the ability to speak and present to the public
 - Strong social media skills
- Must be willing to work Sundays and travel throughout New Hampshire to provide programming.

Resume

Interested candidates should submit their cover letter and resume to allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org

Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

Sunday September 19

Southern NH Jewish Men's Club "The Business of Baseball: Building Polar Park"

9:30AM – 11:30AM, Zoom
Matt Levine, Senior VP of the Worcester Red Sox will discuss how Polar Park has become the first professional sports venue to provide autonomous check out for concessions. The fans just download the app, grab whatever they want and go their seats. The app automatically knows what they have taken and handles the payment. The WooSox market at Polar Park features among its menu items, Hebrew National Hot Dogs and other foods provided by the Butcherie. Learn about the latest technologies implemented at Polar Park and How they have helped the Worcester Red Sox learn more about their customers and create an improved fan experience.
For more information contact Paul Moverman president@snhjm.org or <http://snhjm.org>

Sunday, September 19

NH Shaliach Ra'an an de-Haas Presents his Israeli Story

7PM, Zoom
Meet the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's new Shaliach and learn a little about his background. Time at the end for Q&A
Look for Zoom registration link on Facebook and JFNH e-Blasts

Monday September 20

Erev Sukkot Potluck at the Strawberry Banke Sukkah

6pm – 8pm, Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth
Please join Temple Israel Portsmouth and Chavurah Pisacataqua at the sukkah outside the Shapiro House at Strawberry Banke for a potluck picnic.
For more information contact Heather Tomlinson 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org or <http://www.templeisraelnh.org>

Saturday September 25

Lulav Parade and Picnic Lunch with TIP at Spiller Farm

10am -1pm, Spiller Farm, Wells, Maine
Bring your lulav and etrog to this family-friendly, outdoor Sukkot celebration! Hosted by Temple Israel Portsmouth and the Spiller Farm.
For more information contact Heather Tomlinson 603-436-5301 templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org or <http://www.templeisraelnh.org>

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

Help Wanted!

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

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

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

Greetings!

Shalom! My name is Ra'anan de Haas and I'm your new Shaliach (the masculine form of Shlichah). I'm really excited to be writing this first of many articles to help and bring a little bit of my Israeli experience to your doorstep.

First of all, I have to take the opportunity to thank Avia again. The two weeks of overlap we had together really gave me a soft landing and I was able to learn so much from her. It was very appreciated, and I now realize the big shoes I need to fill.

The past few weeks, driving around the state for our "Shalom Shalom" tour was amazing, I got to meet many of the amazing people of the community and the beautiful state that I now officially call home. Over the next few months, I will be traveling statewide to experience services, Shabbat dinners and holidays. I'm looking forward to meeting as many people as possible.

Speaking of holidays, something I'm looking forward to experiencing is the High Holidays outside of Israel. I grew up in a secular household where the holidays were an excuse to get together as a



family to have a fancy meal, but we wouldn't necessarily do things "by the book." That being said, by growing up in Israel, I was also surrounded by the more traditional aspect of the holidays. Everything was closed on Rosh Hashana and there were honey-dipped apples and pomegranates galore. No one drove on Yom Kippur, and even the VOD TV services were suspended. Just by walking around, you saw Sukkot everywhere you looked. That said, I believe that having the opportunity to choose how much of the holidays I want to celebrate, it will actually pull me in closer and give me the opportunity to start my own traditions. I'm very glad the Jewish Community of New Hampshire will take part in my experience.

In the next few weeks I'll be coming



out with my "lecture menu." I'd love for you to invite me to speak at your gatherings—follow updates regarding registration. All in all I'm really excited for this amazing journey I just started and I'm sure that by the end of it I will learn from you as much as I'll be able to teach you.

Shana Tova VeMetuka (wishing you a good, sweet year).



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Celebrating and supporting the JFNH's Shlichut Program

On Sunday, August 8th the community gathered together in a beautiful backyard in Stratham, NH to celebrate and support the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Shlichut Program.

Five years ago the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire made the decision to bring back the Shlichut program after a seven-year pause. For our small Federation to invest \$60,000/year into one program was not a decision taken lightly. But we understood the best way to share Israel with NH is first-hand – for children and adults to meet, interact, learn and build relationships.

Each Shlichim who arrives here works to share Israel with our NH community. Every Shlichim visits every Hebrew School three times throughout the year (that's 12 Hebrew Schools three times a year!), they speak at Brotherhood and Sisterhood events, are excited to be guests at synagogues across our state, meet individ-



uals for coffee to discuss various topics, create engaging programming like whisky tastings and cooking programs, they travel the state to deliver hands on materials to anyone interested, (and this was just this past year during a pandemic!) along with so many other virtual offerings this year. They work to create relationships not only with themselves but with Israel. Together over two weeks Avia and Ra'anana traveled the state stopping to visit community members at some of our synagogues. During this time members from our community shared stories of past shlichim and the relationships they have with them after all these years. We heard firsthand how

Avia's work impacted people and listened as Ra'anana spent 20 minutes discussing a potential trip to Israel a family was thinking of taking in honor of their sons Bar Mitzvah next year.

This is a one-of-a-kind program and your support helps us continue to provide this important work to our NH community. If you were unable to attend our Shlichut Celebration we ask that you consider making a donation towards this impactful program.



Shalom/Shalom Drive-Thru

Avia and Ra'anana had a wonderful time last month traveling the state for several Shalom/Shalom Drive-Thru events. Avia was able to say goodbye while Ra'anana was able to say hello to our wonderful community.

Lehitraot Avia, we know you will do amazing things!




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

COVID, Delta, and the High Holy Days

As I write these words, the Delta variant of COVID is making its way across our globe and nation, raising the previously low new infections rates, and infecting both vaccinated and unvaccinated. Yes, the unvaccinated are a much higher risk of getting infected and getting seriously ill than are the vaccinated, but this is one variant that has “broken through.” And for those who are immunosuppressed or have underlying health issues, being vaccinated may not offer the level of protection for which one would hope.

Thus, as we approach the High Holy Days, many communities are facing the dilemma that we encountered more than a year ago: live, virtual (whatever the platform), or a combination of both? I am a Reform rabbi, and thus the issues connected to electronic use on the chagim are not obstacles for us. But I know they are for my traditionally observant colleagues and friends, and my heart goes out to them and their communities, knowing that the choice is made for them, and that they may be putting themselves and others at risk. I pray for those communities that their masks are strong, their distances from one another minimize the risks, that their singing is sweet and soft, and the weather cooperates with outdoor services. For those of us in communities where the use of electronics is acceptable (or turning on and off live stream may be done automatically, or before and after the holidays begin), may we decide wisely, always

Rabbi in the House	
	Rabbi Robin Nafshi
	Temple Beth Jacob

putting *p'kuach nefesh*, the Jewish value of saving a life, first.

Beyond these practicalities lie the emotional and spiritual challenges of facing another year of High Holy Day worship effected by COVID. Some communities will be limiting in-person worship to those who show proof of full vaccination, or requiring masks, or both. Others will forego in-person worship completely in favor of live stream, or Zoom.

However we will experience the High Holy Days this year, let's remember a few things:

- As I mentioned above, *p'kuach nefesh*, saving a life – This is paramount. For most people, *p'kuach nefesh* has meant getting vaccinated. Others have held off for reasons they feel are equally lifesaving.
- *Kol yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*, all Israel is responsible for one another – These decisions are made with the best interests of the entire community in mind. You may feel that your suggestions aren't being considered. Our synagogue leaders are doing the best they can at any given moment with the information they have. They need your support.
- *Zachor et asher asah l'cha amaleik*, remember what Amalek did to you – The annual reminder in Torah (Deuteronomy 25:17) to protect the weak and vulnerable, as Amalek had attacked the Israelite stragglers during the wanderings in the wilderness.
- *L'maala v'lamata*, it's up and down – We are all feeling the emotional roller coaster. Our hopes were high just a few weeks ago when the new infections were low, and we seemed to be headed in the right direction. This is hard, really hard. September is 18 months since we entered lockdown in March of 2020. We never expected it to last this long. We must acknowledge this and continue to mourn our losses.
- *Gam zeh ya-avor*, this too shall pass – Perhaps not as quickly as we had wanted, but in time we will resume worshipping together, unmasked, socially close, with *onegs* and *kiddushes*. I don't know when, but a Jew must live with hope and the knowledge that better days are coming.
May 5782 bring us—and our entire world—peace, wholeness, good health, and healing.

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bedford Montessori School Feeds Goats

By Jessica Friedenberg

Humans have always had a complicated relationship with their environment. On the one hand, we possess a desire to control that which surrounds us. And yet, on the other hand, we strive to live harmoniously within our environment and ecosystem in order to preserve a certain natural order of beauty.

I run Bedford Montessori School, and I have the pleasure of overseeing the well-being of many small children between the ages of three and six. Recently, stand-

ing directly in the way of their health and safety was a large swath of poison ivy in our play space. I would be remiss if I didn't admit to thinking of resorting to all-out chemical warfare, but this type of scorched-earth strategy wasn't necessarily in the best interests of my children, nor the message I wanted to impart on impressionable youth. I decided to discuss the issue with members of my immediate family, who have been instrumental in my efforts to run my business.

Being raised in a Jewish household instilled certain values and perspectives,

and falling back on this mindset often helps me to realize that the teachings we once discussed around the dinner table often give me insight into everyday dilemmas. We often applied many of the ethical principles and philosophical teachings to topical issues, both personal and global. I have long since realized that the roundtable discussions of my youth have applications to my adult life. It was during one of these occasions, a semi-regular Shabbat dinner with my husband, parents, and brother, that we broached the issue of our playground's overgrowth. To avoid a rash of afflicted children, we decided to tackle the issue together.

The Torah teaches us that we are the caretakers of the Earth, and that we are not to unnecessarily harm the land or animals. Granted, the early Israelites were an agrarian society that were reliant on the generosity of the land. Our modern understanding of ecology allows us to fully realize the importance of such a relationship. The Montessori philosophy reflects the same principles and so we were looking for a solution to our ivy problem that would send a positive message about sustainability and conservation.

The answer at which we arrived was the use of goats.

It turns out that goats find poison ivy and other troublesome plants to be a tasty snack. This turned our problem into something positive: I have often found through first-hand experience that children react positively to the presence of animals, and that animals react positively to the presence of tasty snacks. These quadrupedal landscapers have miraculously turned our school once again into a safe and beautiful environment, and if you ask me, have earned themselves a free pass for this Yom Kippur.

Jessica Friedenberg is the owner and director of Bedford Montessori School. Jessica, who holds a B.S. in Psychology from Brandeis University and a M.A. in Child Development from Tufts University, is now director of this much-loved program and is now leading the next generation of learners. After starting her professional career in Special Education she has returned to her Montessori roots. It is a full-circle story, as Jessica began her educational journey at Bedford Montessori School in the early 1990s as a preschooler.

See you soon!

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At TBJ, we put our children first. We seek to provide an experience that nurtures their Jewish identity and helps them become a member of the Jewish community. Our students learn Hebrew for prayer as well as Modern Hebrew. Judaica studies include holidays, Torah study, Jewish history, and Jewish values.

To learn more, please visit us at www.tbjconcord.org, call 603-228-8581, or contact our principal, Noreen Leibson at principal@tbjconcord.org. Other than pre-K, Temple membership is required to enroll your child. Tuition is a part of your membership dues.

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Our education program is proud of our intimate, friendly, and warm environment. Our curriculum is relevant and relatable to our students and families.

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(grades 8-10). Classes are bi-monthly for our Nitznutzim K'tanim (Hebrew for Little Sparks) Family Program; weekly for our K-2, and twice weekly for grades 3-7. For more information, call the synagogue office at 603-669-5650 or e-mail our Education Director, Stacy Garnick: eddirectorTAY@gmail.com

Temple Adath Yeshurun - 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH 03104 - A proud member of the Union for Reform Judaism

National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting

As we begin the new school year, many girls are registering or reregistering as Girl Scouts. (See <https://www.girlscoutsgwm.org/> for more information.) Do you know that there is the National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting (NJCGS)? Perhaps your daughter would be interested in pursuing activities that are aimed at Jewish Girl Scouts. There are awards for Girl Scouts in the Jewish community that can be seen at

<http://www.njcggs.org/>. There are also other materials available there that you can download or order, such as a guide to camping with Jewish Girls and a 10-year calendar of Jewish Holidays to help with planning for Girl Scout activities. Isabel Danforth idanforth@gmail.com is the liaison for our local council, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. Feel free to contact her with any questions.

Temple Beth Jacob – Concord – Religious School: Keeping Your Child Connected Dor L'Dor (from generation to generation)!

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The Sweetness of “Hinei Mah Tov” Aspirations

*By Stacy Garnick, Education Director
Temple Adath Yeshurun*

Hinei mah tov uma na'im; shevet achim gam yachad.

How good and pleasant it is for brothers & sisters to be together!

I love the Jewish musical duo Nefesh Mountain. I have watched their YouTube video “Brothers and Sisters,” which is their rendition of “Hinei Mah Tov” what seems like a gazillion times. The excerpts that I love and resonate with me most, especially lately:

*“We come from a tale told long ago
Passed on by the waves and the wind
We've made it this far together you know
Come brothers and sisters lets sing!”*

*Hinei mah tov uma na'im
Shevet achim gam yachad*

*Our mothers and fathers who've weathered
The storms*

*Grew strong in the trials of their times
So we brothers and sisters, ledor vador
Carry on with this song in our lives”*

It is a combination of the classic and Nefesh Mountain's newer lyrics that inspired my first- of -the 5782-school year's bulletin board. I am hoping our Temple Adath Yeshurun teachers, students, and families will see it whilst being together in our school. My daughter, Dahlia and I have been cutting out images of people

from magazines (remember those?). These paper people are becoming miniature collages on cardboard letters, forming the inspirational words above.

A bulletin board can be both decorative and interactive. It's been cathartic working on art to illustrate how excited we are to be together again in our holy space. Giant paper bon-bons represent the sweetness of togetherness and of our new year. People will be invited to add their hopes and aspirations for our time together; what they are looking most forward to.

Not only for those of us at Temple Adath Yeshurun, but for people everywhere, the excitement stems from the optimism, the hope, and the expectation that in September we could be together; smiling and playing, praying, teaching and learning, simply holding the blessing of seeing each other panim l'panim, face to face.

Our classes span the ages and stages from pre-K children and their families, up into high school. M.A.N.T.Y., the Reform movement's high school youth group is planning another fun, relatable and relevant year of programming. This autumn we are launching our new Chai School for post B'nai Mitzvah kids. Our curricula is interactive, modern, and designed to engage, inspire, and guide our learners to be their best selves as they navigate their world. Hopefully in person this fall, we cannot wait to continue to learn and grow with you and your children.

Hinei mah tov uma na'im!

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

In the Community

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

Jewish Food Festival Pick Up Day at TBI — 2021 Jewish Food Festival was an astounding success!

THE FIRST RESULTS ARE IN! The customers were thrilled with

1. the drive-through process,
2. the friendliness of the volunteers,
3. and, of course, the food!

Here are a few of the comments that we have already received:

- *I would like to compliment the team at the temple for a well-run event. Tom picked up our order and loved the drive thru! We are still (k)noshing away.*
- *From a Taylor customer: Thanks to you and Ray for managing all those food deliveries! I am trying not to eat all the pastries at once! To save myself, I've frozen what I can but plan to make Reubens for Jim, all weekend! Yum.*
- *From a customer: I picked up yummy treats on Friday and wanted to let you know how delicious the food is, nice to taste other varieties of our Jewish family foods. I hope that it is a successful*



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The Sunday team led by Jane Harrington: Ed Harrington, Debbi Finkelstein, Rhoda Goodman, Ann Marie Bedford, Steve & Sandy Richton, and Jane Bogursky

Temple B'nai Israel

fundraiser and that eventually, the temple can hold its traditional festive event.

- *Paula and Ray Chambers regarding the Taylor customers: Everything, and I mean EVERYTHING, I have heard from people here is that the food was absolutely delicious! (The response has been so favorable that some people have wanted to DOUBLE their order for next year already)*



Jane Bogursky delivers an order to a happy patron



Rhoda Goodman checks the order picked by Sandy Richton.



Coolers packed with the day's deliveries!



Steve Richton picking an order.



Bubbie shows the way to pick up orders.



The Consulate General of Israel to New England Wishes You
a Happy, Healthy & Sweet
New Year!

שנה טובה, בריאה ומתוקה



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הקונסוליה הכללית של ישראל לנוו אנגלי

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

In the Community

Temple Israel Portsmouth Offers Many Paths for the New Year

By *Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman*

At Temple Israel Portsmouth, the High Holiday season begins one month before Rosh Hashanah in the month of Elul. Jewish tradition gives us this month as a period of preparation for entering into the High Holidays with awareness and motivation. Beginning at 8:15pm on Saturday evening August 28, TIP will host a “Moth” style event as congregants share their stories on the theme of forgiveness. The evening will include a contemplative Selichot service with renowned professional harpist Carol Emanuel. This event will be livestreamed on Zoom along with limited in-person seating. Registration is required.

All TIP High Holiday Services and events will include a combination of in-

person and live-streamed services from our sanctuary as well outdoor experiences. Erev Rosh Hashanah begins with a Rosh Hashanah Seder on Zoom at 6:00pm led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Participants will receive a prayer guide to use during this event as well as instructions on how to prepare and what foods to have available for the seder. Together with Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro, we will bless the new year with familiar High Holiday tunes, prayers, and culinary delights.

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 includes an outdoor Family Service and a modified in-person sanctuary service also live-streamed through Zoom and followed by outdoor gatherings by the water in a variety of locations for more Shofar and

Tashlikh. Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah will also include a morning sanctuary service with a combination of indoor seating and live-streaming.



Yom Kippur services will include similar elements of in-person and Zoom services from the Sanctuary and some outdoor events during the day. An outdoor Family Service for children of all ages will take place on Yom Kippur morning.

All High Holiday services will be led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro. All indoor services require registration, proof of vaccination and masking. To accommodate appropriate distancing, seating will be limited. Please check our synagogue website for updated program information including timing, links to virtual services and registration details for outdoor events.



“Shanah Tovah Umetukah!
Wishing you health and happiness in the New Year.”
-Congresswoman **Annie Kuster**
Paid for by Kuster for Congress, Inc.

L'Shana Tova!
Wishing you meaningful High Holy Days and a happy, healthy 5782!



JAY KAHN ★★ ★
STATE SENATE

Paid for by Friends of Jay Kahn, Cheryl Kahn Treasurer.
P.O. Box 433, Keene, NH.



L'Shana Tova
Wishing you, your family and all families a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Chris and Valerie Sununu

In the Community

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Hosts the Tempest Trio in Live Concert – September 3

By Eileen Regen and Martin Kessel

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation is pleased to announce that the Consulate General of Israel to New England will co-support the Tempest Trio concert at 5pm on Friday, September 3, live in the BHC sanctuary. The trio features Alon Goldstein (piano) and Amit Peled (cello), two highly acclaimed Israeli-American musicians, together with Ilya Kaler (violin). This is the final event in the Sounds in the Sanctuary series this year.

Shlichah Avia Sagron spent Shabbat in



The Tempest Trio

Bethlehem with BHC members and friends in late July during her farewell tour of New Hampshire synagogues. She presented a most interesting program introducing us to five inspiring and accomplished Israeli women: Ada Yonath, a crystallographer and 2009 Nobel Laureate in chemistry; Adi Altschuler, current Israeli Finance Minister and the first female Major General in the Israel Defense Forces; Lucy Aharish, the first Muslim Arab presenter on mainstream Hebrew-



The Manchester, NH Airport moose welcomes Shaliach Ra'anan de-Haas.

language television; Orna Barvivai, a social entrepreneur beloved for founding communities of kindness; and Miriam Peretz, mother of two fallen soldiers and a 2018 Israel Prize laureate. The presentation can be viewed at <https://prezi.com/view/YOpemE5oteRJy7Mclfb/>.

Before returning to southern New Hampshire, Sagron joined the congregation for Shabbat morning Torah study

with Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum. The congregation had one last opportunity to say goodbye to Sagron and to welcome Shaliach Ra'anan De-Has, the 2021-23 emissary from Israel, during their drive-by visit to BHC in August.

Members of BHC wish Avia Sagron every success in her future endeavors in Israel and look forward to future visits with Shaliach Ra'anan De-Has.



Shlichah Avia Sagron includes BHC on her farewell tour of New Hampshire. L to R: Dorothy Goldstone, Vice-President Martin Kessel, President David Goldstone, Shlichah Avia Sagron, and Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum.

Shanah Tovah!



Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. SENATOR

From our family to yours, we wish you peace, prosperity, safety, and good health.

Today and for the year ahead.

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In the Community

Local NH Organization ‘Holiday Cards for Our Military’ Getting Started on Chanukah Cards Now

As the Jewish community of New Hampshire readies for the High Holidays this September, a local businesswoman, Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber, is planning further ahead — to Chanukah, that is, as well as the many other holidays celebrated later in the year by

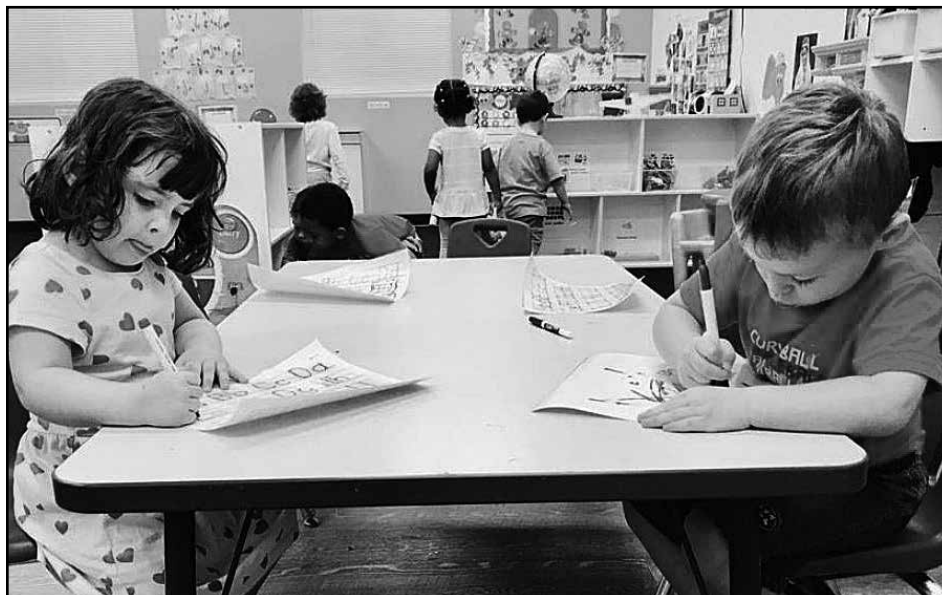
overseas troops in the U.S. military.

Her organization, Holidays Cards for Our Military, has been working for almost two decades—and at almost a half-million cards to date—to get holidays cards into the hands of troops on a nonpartisan and diversity-friendly

basis. This past year, in partnership with NH Senator Maggie Hassan, they created the #cards2connect challenge, where cards of gratitude were sent to NH veterans in residential communities, as well as the NH National Guard who were stationed in the U.S. Capitol on January 6, and who assisted with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines over the course of 2021.

Getting the cards shipped to the troops in time means starting early, and

so Lander-Garber is accepting them now. Cards should be addressed to “Dear Warrior,” can be lighthearted or humorous, should respect the religious diversity of U.S. military members, and children’s drawings are particularly enjoyed. Drop boxes can be found across the state of NH, but those interested should be aware that the deadline is October 31st. For more information and direction, please visit: www.Military-HolidayCardChallenge.com



*Wishing you and
your loved ones
a healthy and sweet
New Year.*

— Senator Maggie Hassan

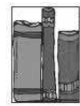
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www.MaggieHassan.com

Join the Temple Israel Manchester Book Club

The Book Club Committee has an exciting year planned for all readers with not only new books and various genres, but authors of some of our selections will be joining us in person!

SAVE THE DATE – October 6th at 7 PM. A book by our own Gigi Georges, PhD, wife of Jeff Oxman, titled, *Downeast*, a non-fiction book visiting the life of *Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America*. Gigi's book is creating quite a stir nationally as she has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *Politics and Prose Bookshop* with Secretary Hillary Clinton as the moderator and Podcast with Steve Hayward to name a few. On October 6th we will be meeting at the Temple **LIVE** at 7 PM to meet and listen to Gigi about her book. This is an exciting story about a small, rural town in Washington County, on the



**Temple Israel
Book Club**

Eastern Seaboard in Maine that offers hope for all of rural America. Mark your calendar now to join us as you won't want to miss this Book Club meeting followed by desserts and coffee!

December 15th brings another **LIVE** author to our Temple when our own Michael Davidow, Esquire and Writer will discuss his new novel, *The Hunter of Talyashevka*. Set in 1926 in Kiev, an American journalist scouting locations for a film, connects with old friends. One friend's sister is an art dealer and discloses her brother is looking to find the creator of a strange painting that is a small black square that is modernistic for that

time. This is the tale of the American trying to find his friend by following the trail through the Soviet countryside without knowing the Soviet police are following as well. Michael's writing beautifully weaves Jewish events, customs and beliefs into a beautiful tale. **SAVE THE DATE – December 15th at 7 PM** to mark your calendar now as you won't want to miss this Live Book Club meeting moderated by Michael himself! And, yes, there will be desserts and coffee for everyone!!

September 1st brings the return to Zoom at 4:30 PM, to discuss *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford as recommended by Rachel Spierer. This is a tale of conflicted loyalties, timeless devotion and of love lost and maybe found again. Thanks, Rachel, for recommending this!!

On November 10th we return to Zoom at 4:30 to discuss Pulitzer Prize Winner Richard Russo's book, *Chances Are...* You may think this is a story about Johnny Mathis, however, it is the story of

three men who had gone to college together and now in their late 60s gather on Martha's Vineyard to revisit each other. On the minds of each of these friends is an incident on Memorial Day Weekend forty-five years ago. Mr. Russo's novel holds lies, secrets and a missing friend's ghostly presence. Set in a time many of us will remember, it brings back moments of your own life. Don't pass this one by.

As always, you don't have to have read the book to join us, as you will learn about them as we meet—and quite often, get off-topic. It's all about just having a wonderful time being together! If you have any recommendations or questions, or want to participate, don't hesitate to please contact any of us:

Ken Cohn newbegin04@yahoo.com
Aida Koocher akoocher@comcast.net
Benay Birch benay.a.birch@gmail.com

Happy reading!

L'SHANAH TOVAH
שנה טובה



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NH4Israel Annual Party 2021

NH4Israel Annual Party – 2021

The educational, informative, and Zionist NH4Israel held its 15th annual party at Lake Massabesic in Manchester, NH on July 25th. NH4Israel was formed in 2006, and over one thousand participants have appreciated the programs, lectures and events since the founding. The current Jewish year 5781 has included the following programs:

- Screening of the movie "A Woman Called Golda"
- Lecture regarding the life of **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**
- Presentation of "Women of the Bible"
- Discussion concerning "COVID, Peace Treaties and Israel's Election"
- Presentation regarding "Jews of An-

cient Persia vis-à-vis Islamic Republic of Iran"

- Lecture concerning "Ecclesiastes and politics"
- Discussion regarding "Israel activism"
- Presentation focused on "Connecting with Israel"
- Best-selling author presentation of the book "The Palestinian Delusion"
- Translator presentation of the book "Muhammad's Mission"
- Producer/Director discussion of the film "The Fight of our Lives"

Meetings are held in-person and via Zoom. For more information and/or to sign up for the weekly email, visit NH4Israel.org

L'Shana tova u' metuka!

L'Shana Tovah. Wishing you all a healthy, sweet and joyous New Year.

Michele and Michael Bank

Wishes for a "Shana Tova U'M' Tuka. A good, sweet Healthy, and safe year to all.

Rabbi Gary and Iris Atkins

I wish you a sweet, healthy, and happy holiday.

Renee Brenner

Wishing the Federation Family a very happy and healthy new year.

Frankie Shapiro and Ellen Covici

L'Shana Tovah. Wishing you all a sweet, healthy and joyous New Year.

Jane and Mark Wisan

Good wishes for Health and Happiness throughout the year. Shana Tova.

The Jolton Family

Sweet Wishes for a Shana Tova!

The Regen Family

L'Shana Tova to all.

Marc Rubenson

L'Shana tova from Kol Ha'Emek

The Upper Valley Jewish Community

Happy and Healthy New Year!

The Kalik Family

From our family to yours, Have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Ken and Bertha Litvack

As we enter the "New" normal may the lessons learned in the pandemic guide all of us to a better, healthier life.

The Soreff Nation

L'Shanah Tovah

From the Kushner Family

L'Shanah Tovah tikatev v'taihatem

From the Carrus Family

Shana Tova!

Wishing you and your families health and happiness throughout the coming year.

The Harrison Family

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

The Cohen Family: Tiffany, Daniel, Skylar, Flynn, William, and Arabella

Wishing you a year filled with many blessings, good health, and happiness.

L'Shana Tova

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation



Happy New Year!

High Holidays

New Hampshire High Holidays Service Guide 2021

Contact your local synagogue (listed on page 2) for more information and to reserve tickets when required. Note that as the pandemic continues, scheduled events may be subject to change, and *The Reporter* is only printing information as known at the time. Certain times (e.g., Shofar blowing, Taslich, sermons, Yizkor) are approximate and may vary from published schedule.

AMHERST

Congregation Betenu

We plan to hold in-person services with remote access. Join Betenu in welcoming the new year 5782 with services led by Rav Giulia Fleishman and Cantorial Sololist Howard Solomon. **Monday, September 6:** 7:30 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah service. **Tuesday, September 7:** 10:30 AM Rosh Hashanah morning services. **September 10:** 7:30 PM Shabbat Shuvah observance via Zoom. Kol Nidre will usher in Yom Kippur on **Wednesday, September 15** at 7:30 PM. **Thursday, September 16:** Yom Kippur services will begin at 10:30 AM and continue throughout the day, including a break activity between morning and afternoon services. Yizkor and concluding services will begin at approximately 5:30 PM and conclude around 7 PM. We hope to provide a “grab-and-go” break the fast snack. **Contact the office about bringing family and friends.**

BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation

All services will take place in the BHC Sanctuary: 39 Strawberry Hill Street, Bethlehem, NH – and via Zoom. **Saturday, August 28** 8:00 PM – Selichot. **Monday, September 6** 7:00 PM - Erev Rosh Hashana. **Tuesday, September 7** 9:30 AM - Rosh Hashana I. [Children’s Service TBD] **Wednesday, September 8** 9:30 AM - Rosh Hashana 2. **Friday, September 10** 6:00 PM - Kabbalat Shabbat. **Saturday, September 11** 10:00 AM - Shabbat Shuva. **Wednesday, September 15** 7:00 PM – Kol Nidre. **Thursday, September 16** 10:00 AM - Yom Kippur AM: Yizkor at 12:30 PM, Mincha 5:00 PM, Neila/Havdala 6:30 PM, final Shofar 7:38 PM. **Friday, September 24** 6:00 PM – Kabbalat Shabbat. **Saturday, September 25** 10:00 AM – Shabbat (Sukkot 5). **Tuesday, September 28** 6:00 PM - Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor. Simchat Torah Celebration 7:00 PM.

CONCORD

Temple Beth Jacob

Please note: All services, other than family services and Tashlich, are open in person only to Temple Beth Jacob members and their family members with tickets sent out after proof of full vaccination; all others are welcome to join us online at <https://www.tbjconcord.org/live-streaming.html>.

Sat., August 28	7:00 pm	<i>S’lichot Service</i>
Mon., September 6	7:30 pm	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah Service</i>
Tue., September 7	10:00 am	<i>Rosh Hashanah I Service</i>
	12:30 pm	Family Service (for children 2nd grade or younger), Everett Arena Boat Launch
		1:00 pm <i>Tashlich</i> , Everett Arena Boat Launch
Wed., September 8	10:00 am	<i>Rosh Hashanah II Service</i>
Wed., September 15	7:30 pm	<i>Kol Nidrei Service</i>
Mon., September 16	10:00 am	<i>Yom Kippur morning Service</i>
	12:30 pm	Family Service (for children 2nd grade or younger), outdoors at or near TBJ
	4:00 pm	<i>Afternoon-Yizkor-N’ilah Services</i>

DERRY

Etz Hayim Synagogue

Please join us! **Saturday 8/28:** 8 PM Selichot Program “Hummable Hits for the High Holidays.” 9 PM Services. **Monday 9/6:** 7:15 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service. **Tuesday 9/7:** 9:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Service (Day 1). 1:00 PM Tashlich – Hood Pond, Derry. 2:30 PM Family Service. **Wednesday 9/8:** 9:30AM Rosh Hashanah Service (Day 2). **Wednesday 9/15:** 7:15 PM Kol Nidre. **Thursday 9/16:** 9:30 AM Yom Kippur Morning Service. 1:00 PM Discussion “Lessons Learned from Covid for our Synagogue.” 2:00 PM Family Service. 4:00 PM Afternoon Service. **Monday 9/20:** 7:15 PM Erev Sukkot. **Friday 9/24:** 7:15 PM Shabbat in the Sukkah. **Wednesday 9/29:** 9:30 AM Simchat Torah. We look forward to seeing you and engaging in meaningful prayer as we begin another year. For more information, current COVID guidelines, or live stream links, please contact us at office@etzhayim.org or call 603-432-0004. Etz Hayim is located at 1 ½ Hood Road in Derry, NH. All services will be held on Zoom. Please contact office@etzhayim.org for Zoom credentials.

DURHAM

UNH Seacoast Chabad

Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center invites you to High Holidays 5782 at Three Chimneys Inn. **Monday, September 6:** 6:30 PM services. 7:00 PM Rosh Hashanah dinner (RSVP required). **Tuesday, September 7:** 10:00 AM Services. 11:30 AM Shofar Blowing (followed by Kiddush/light buffet). Taslich. **Wednesday September 8:** 10 AM Services. 11:30 AM Shofar Blowing (followed by Kiddush/light buffet). **Wednesday, September 15:** 7:00 PM Kol Nidrei Services. **Thursday, September 16:** 10:00 AM Services. 12:00 PM Yizkor. 6:30 PM Neilah followed by a delicious BREAK-FAST. No membership necessary. Prayers in Hebrew and English. Friendly and welcoming.

HANOVER

Kol Ha’Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community

We have decided to proceed with a modified virtual observance of the High Holidays. Our tentative schedule of services is as follows:

- 9/6, Erev RH, 7 PM
- 9/7, First Day RH, 9 AM
 - Family Service, 10 AM
 - Taschlich, 3 PM in Lebanon, Hanover and Grantham
- 9/8, Second Day RH, 9 AM
- 9/15, Kol Nidre, 6 PM
- 9/16, Yom Kippur, 9 AM until ~ 7:15
 - Family Service, 10 AM
 - Tot Service (to be confirmed), 10 AM

KEENE

Congregation Ahavas Achim

Erev Rosh HaShanah, Monday, September 6th: 7:00pm - Erev Rosh HaShanah service. **Rosh Hashanah Day 1, Tuesday, September 7th** 9:00am - Morning Service. 11:00am (approximately) - Torah Service. 4:00pm Tashlich. **Rosh HaShanah Day 2, Wednesday, September 8th:** 9:00am - Morning Service. 11:00am (approximately) - Torah Service. **Friday, September 10th:** 7:00pm - Erev Shabbat Service. **Saturday, September 11th** 9:30am - Shabbat Shuvah/ Shabbat Morning Torah Service. **Erev Yom Kippur, Wednesday, September 15th:** 6:30pm - Kol Nidre Evening Service. **Yom Kippur, Thursday, September 16th:** 9:00am - Morning Service. 11:00am (approximately) - Torah Service. 1:15pm - Yizkor Service. 4:00pm. 5:00pm Mincha/ Haftorah Jonah. Study Session. 6:30pm - Ne’ilah. 7:22pm - Havdallah



High Holidays

LACONIA

Temple B'Nai Israel

- Erev Rosh Hashanah Service, **Monday, September 6** – 7:30 pm.
- Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day, **Tuesday, September 7** – 10:00 am
- Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day, **Wednesday, September 8** – 10:00 am
- Tashlich – **Monday, September 7**, 1pm Bartlett Beach, 88 Winnisquam Ave., Laconia.
- Kol Nidre, **Wednesday, September 15**, – 7:30 pm
- Yom Kippur, **Thursday, September 16**, services begin at 10 am. More details at <https://tbinh.org/worship/high-holiday-services-5782-2021/>

MANCHESTER

Chabad Center for Jewish Living

Rosh Hashana: Monday, September 6th 7:00pm - Maariv followed by Rosh

Hashana Dinner. Welcome the Jewish New Year on the Eve of Rosh Hashanah at our outdoor Rosh Hashanah Dinner following services. Enjoy a four-course festive meal with traditional Rosh Hashana foods, matzah ball soup & mouthwatering dessert. Adult: \$30. Child, under 14 :\$18. Reservations required. **Services:** Tuesday September 7th 10am, Wednesday September 8th 10:00am. Shofar blowing at approx 12:15pm. **Shofar in the Park: Tuesday September 7th 5:00pm at Stark Park.** Hear Rabbi Krinsky blow the shofar, enjoy a sweet RH treat. Please RSVP to Chanichie@ChabadofNH.com. For all ages. **Yom Kippur: Wednesday September 15.** Kol Nidrei 6:45pm. Thursday September 16. Morning 10:00am. YIZKOR, remembering our dearly departed loved ones, will take place at approximately 12:30 pm. Yom Kippur services conclude with a Shofar blast at 7:35pm. A break-fast buffet will be served at the conclusion of the fast. All services will follow CDC Covid guidelines. Email info@ChabadofNH.com for more information as guidelines are subject to change.

Temple Israel

Your ticket entitles you to all events. We look forward to celebrating the holidays with you! **August 28:** 8pm Selichot (at Temple Adath Yeshurun). **September 6:** Erev Rosh Hashanah 6pm. **September 7:** Rosh Hashanah Day 1 (childcare from 9a-1p) 9am. **September 8:** Rosh Hashanah Day 2 (childcare from 9a-1p) 9am. There will also be a junior congregation. **September 10:** Shabbat Shuva 6:30pm. **September 12:** Cemetery Visit 10am. **September 15:** Yom Kippur Minchah followed by Kol Nidre 6:30pm. **September 16:** Yom Kippur Morning (childcare from 9a-1p) 9am. Yom Kippur Mincha Neilah 5:15pm. Yom Kippur Break Fast (rsvp by noon Sept. 9). All services will be held in the sanctuary to allow for social distancing. **If you are not fully vaccinated, you will be required to wear a mask.**

Temple Adath Yeshurun

All services are remote, and you may email the office for more information at office@taynh.org. **Monday, Sept. 6:** Erev Rosh HaShannah 8:00pm. **Tuesday, Sept. 7:** Rosh HaShannah 10:00am. Children's Service at 2:00pm. In Person: Tashlich at Livingston Park, Dorr's Pond 4:30pm. **Wednesday, Sept. 8:** Rosh HaShannah 10:00am. **Sunday, Sept. 12:** Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Service 10am. TAY High Holy Day Religious Response to Hunger. Food Donation drop off in the TAY parking lot 11:30am-2:00pm. **Tuesday, Sept. 14:** TAY High Holy Day Religious Response to Hunger Food Donation drop off in the TAY parking lot. 5:00pm-7:00pm. **Wednesday, Sept. 15:** Kol Nidre 8:00pm. **Thursday, Sept. 16:** Yom Kippur. Services begin at 10:00am. Children's Service at 2:00pm. Afternoon Service at 4:00pm. Yizkor 5:30pm. Neilah 6:15pm. Erev Sukkot. **Monday, Sept. 20,** Service at 6:00pm. Yizkor. **Tuesday, Sept. 28** at 10:00am. Simchat Torah. **Tuesday, Sept. 28** at 6:00pm.

NASHUA

Temple Beth Abraham

Times subject to change — check our website tbanashua.org for up-to-date schedule and Covid-19 policies. Times after the beginning of services are approximate. All are welcome! Visit our website or contact Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett rabbijon@tbanashua.org.

Rosh Hashanah - Monday, Sept. 6. Evening Service, 1st Night 7:30 pm (Synagogue, Zoom). **Tuesday, Sept. 7.** Traditional Morning Service, 1st Day 10:00 am (Synagogue, Zoom). ReNewYear Alternative Service 10:00 am (Synagogue, Zoom). Rabbi Jon's Sermon 11:30 am (Synagogue, Zoom). Returning Torah and Musaf Service 11:45 am (Synagogue, Zoom). Shofar Blowing 12:45 pm (Outside). Tashlich Outdoor Service 1:30 pm (Location given with registration). Tashlich Family Experience 4:30 pm (Location given with registration). Evening Service, 2nd Night 8:00 pm (Synagogue, Zoom). **Wednesday, Sept. 8.** Traditional Morning Service, 1st Day 10:00 am (Synagogue, Zoom). Rabbi Jon's Sermon 11:30 am (Synagogue, Zoom). Returning Torah and Musaf Service 11:45 am (Synagogue, Zoom) Shofar Blowing 12:45 pm (Outside). Community Parking Lot Shofar Gathering 4:00 pm. **Yom Kippur- Wednesday, Sept. 15.** Kol Nidre Evening Service 6:30 pm (Synagogue, Zoom). **Thursday, Sept. 16.** Traditional Morning Service, 1st Day 10:00 am (Synagogue, Zoom). ReNewYear Alternative Service 10:00 am (Synagogue, Zoom). Rabbi Jon's Sermon 11:45 am (Synagogue, Zoom) Returning Torah and Musaf Service 12:00 pm (Synagogue, Zoom). Discussion With Rabbi Jon 2:00 pm (Synagogue, Zoom). Mincha, Reading of Jonah 5:45 pm (Synagogue, Zoom). Neilah 6:45 pm (Outside, Zoom). Final Shofar and Havdalah 7:40 pm

PORTSMOUTH

Temple Israel Portsmouth

All TIP High Holiday Services and events will include a combination of in-person and live-streamed services from our sanctuary as well outdoor experiences. Erev Rosh Hashanah begins with a Rosh Hashanah Seder on Zoom at 6:00pm led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Participants will receive a prayer guide to use during this event as well as instructions on how to prepare and what foods to have available for the seder. Together with Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro, we will bless the new year with familiar High Holiday tunes, prayers, and culinary delights. **Rosh Hashanah Day 1** includes an outdoor Family Service and a modified in-person sanctuary service also live-streamed through Zoom and followed by outdoor gatherings by the water in variety of locations for more Shofar and Tashliikh. **Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah** will also include a morning sanctuary service with a combination of indoor seating and live-streaming. **Yom Kippur services** will include similar elements of in-person and Zoom services from the Sanctuary and some outdoor events during the day. An outdoor Family Service for children of all ages will take place on Yom Kippur morning. All High Holiday services will be led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro. **All indoor services require registration, proof of vaccination and masking. To accommodate appropriate distancing, seating will be limited.** Please check our synagogue website for updated program information including timing, links to virtual services and registration details for outdoor events.



'The Business of Baseball' from Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club

"The Business of Baseball: Building Polar Park" will be the topic discussed by Matt Levin, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of the Worcester Red Sox on Sunday, September 19th, at 9:30 AM, LIVE via ZOOM presented by the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club.

Growing up just north of Chicago, Matt became very interested in America's pastime. He and his father eventually visited every major league (and some minor league) baseball park in the country. "It was the perfect father-son event," said the brother of three sisters, who calls himself a proud Conservative Jew. Matt's journey started when he arrived at Boston University where after his fourth application, he secured a marketing internship with the Boston Red Sox. After four years working in Boston Matt transitioned south to join the Paw-Sox in early 2016, working with Larry Lucchino just as the club decided to relocate to Worcester. Matt observed that one of Larry's biggest pet peeves was

fans waiting in line and missing part of the game, whether checking in at the park or trying to pick up food or drinks at the concession stands.

Thanks to Matt, Polar Park has become the first professional sports venue to provide autonomous checkout for concessions. The fans just download an app, grab whatever they want and go to their seats. The app automatically knows what they have taken and handles the payment. Speaking of food, the WooSox Market at Polar Park features among its menu items, Hebrew National Hot Dogs and other foods provided by The Butcherie, a relationship that Matt and his wife secured after moving to Coolidge Corner, just steps from the kosher market and Fenway Park.

Matt's conversation will discuss the

story and process of the development of Polar Park, reviewing a key element, the WooSox Market, and the kosher offerings throughout the ballpark. Matt will discuss the latest technologies implemented at Polar Park and how they have helped the Worcester Red Sox learn more about their customers and create an improved fan experience.

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

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Matt Levin'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@sn-hjmc.org to confirm your registration.



Matt Levin

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 like-minded 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. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is a non-profit 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, Paul Moverman, via email: president@sn-hjmc.org or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>. Membership Dues have been temporarily waived due to the COVID pandemic.

WINES FOR A SWEET NEW YEAR

We feature a variety of kosher and mevushal wines to help you celebrate—from traditional favorites to contemporary brands.

Stop by a store near you or see the list of stores that carry our complete selection of kosher wines at LiquorandWineOutlets.com/wine/kosher.

May the coming year be healthy and prosperous!



FOLLOW US FOR SAVINGS   
LiquorandWineOutlets.com

Please Drink Responsibly





CTeen Road Trip

Chabad of New Hampshire recently facilitated an epic road trip with teens from the local community. The CTeen Road Trip was a short, immersive summer experience run by Chanchie Krinsky, for teens who are part of Chabad's CTeen youth group.

The trip, which lasted five nights and six days, took the teens to picturesque spots throughout New England, such as Woodstock, VT, Bromley Mt. and Block Island, RI.

"After the rough pandemic school year, many teens were eager to make the best of summer 2021. With the road trip, we created a program that engaged the teens' excitement and fostered beautiful friendships during a short amount of time," shared Chanchie, the director of CTeen of New Hampshire.

"I thought I knew what to expect going into the trip, but it was more amazing than I could have imagined," shared a teen participant, "Chanchie made sure that the trip was not only a blast, but also a personal experience for each of us to learn and grow from."

CTeen creates a nurturing environment



where giving to others encourages self discovery. Teens develop awareness and confidence, while connecting with individuals sharing similar experiences and beliefs, becoming an integral part of a group that focuses on building core values and stresses positive character development. CTeen is open to Jewish teens across NH, ages 13-18, regardless of affiliation.

For more information and to be put on CTeen of NH's email list, please contact Chanchie Krinsky at Chanchie@ChabadofNH.com.



Local Elections - Info

Submitted by TAY

For Bedford Residents:

A Special Election for State Representative from Bedford (Hillsborough County District 8) will be held on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**. This election is being held to fill the remainder of the term due to the passing of Representative Dave Danielson. As this is the first day of Rosh Hashanah, please be sure to request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk. Information regarding the election and instructions on requesting an absentee ballot can found at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/5192/ABSENTEE-BALLOT-REQUEST-SPECIAL-ELECTION-SEPTEMBER-2021>

The following are the other primaries:
Bedford State House Special Election: September 7th

Manchester Primary: September 21st

Franklin Municipal elections: October 5th

Cheshire 9 State House Special Election: October 26th

Manchester City General elections: November 2nd

Here is information on Manchester Voting.

Sample Ballots and Absentee Ballots Now Available

Sample ballots for the upcoming Non-Partisan Municipal Primary Election and Special Municipal Election (Ward 8 Only) to be held on September 21, 2021 in all twelve wards are now available. Absentee ballots are also available. Absentee ballot applications are also available directly from our website on our Voter Registration and Elections page, by email upon request, or in person at the TAY office Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah!

Wishing you good health, prosperity and happiness in the New Year.

Mayor Joyce Craig



  @JoyceCraigNH

 @JoyceCraigforManchester

Paid for by Joyce Craig for Manchester. Arthur Gatzoulis, Fiscal Agent.

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

Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Girl in the Blue Coat, by Monica Hesse

The Girl in The Blue Coat, written by Monica Hesse, is an outstanding book for teens and adults. Though the premise involves the Holocaust, it is not the same as any other books you have read.

This novel takes place in 1943 German-occupied Amsterdam. It is a touching sweet plot about how the teenagers there became engrossed in helping the underground and rescuing their Jewish neighbors as the Nazis overtook their country and brought the war to their doorstep.

Hanneke is only sixteen when her boyfriend is killed fighting the encroaching German army. She leaves school and takes a job working for the local undertaker. Her main tasks are secretarial, but on the side, he asks Hanneke to deliver some black-market goods to different clients

around the city. She never shares this part of her responsibilities with her parents. But then one of her customers, Mrs. Janssen, asks her not for coffee, cigarettes, or nylons but to help her find Mirjam, a missing Jewish 15-year-old girl in a blue coat who seems to have disappeared into thin air.

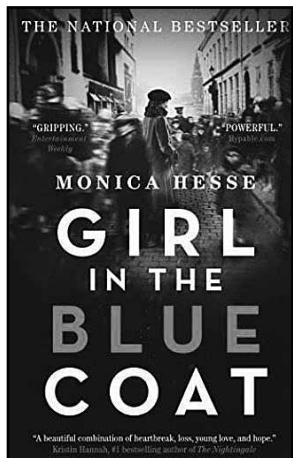
As Hanneke tries to locate the girl, she realizes there are people her age, some of whom she went to school with, who are doing even more dangerous tasks to help the Jewish people being taken away from the city. Her eyes are opened to the horrors of what is happening around her and they want her help. She gets more involved as she tries to find out what happened to the girl in the blue coat. She also starts to get involved in helping others in the Dutch resistance.

She is awed by what some of the other teens are doing and she realizes there is no room for selfish behavior and looking away.

This is a beautiful coming of age story. An unforgettable novel about the war and how a young Dutch girl's life-changing decision to find a missing Jewish girl affects her and the people around her. Well researched and wonderfully written, the book is a nonstop reading experience about the horrors and intense re-

alities of the Holocaust from a different perspective. Watching Hanneke grow up and find her voice and her inner strength. Hanneke's handling of moral decisions and responsibilities keep the reader emotionally engaged in this page turner.

Monica Hesse is the bestselling author of *Girl in the Blue Coat* and *American Fire*, as well as a journalist with *The Washington Post*. She lives outside Washington, D.C. with her husband and their dog.



Manchester Temple Israel to Host Book Talk from Local Author Gigi Georges

Gigi Georges, a local New Hampshire author and a member of Manchester's Temple Israel, will be delivering a talk on her new narrative non-fiction book — *Downeast: Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America* — at the synagogue on Wednesday, October 6th.

Georges, whose Ph.D. is in public policy, has previously served as a White House Special Assistant to the President, a professor of political science at Boston College, and a Program Director for the Harvard Kennedy School's Innovation Strategies Initiative. *Downeast's* release has attracted broad notice in New England and across the United States — having been featured in a dedicated segment by George Stephanopoulos on *Good Morning America*, as the #1 non-fiction title on the *Portland Press-Herald's* best-seller list, and as an Amazon top seller.

The product of years of research, intimate reporting, and deep friendships forged over a half-decade, *Downeast* follows five young women as they come of age in Washington County, Maine—the northernmost county on the Maine coast, running from the Canadian border to about an hour north of Bar Harbor. It is a stunning place and one of the

most geographically isolated regions on the Eastern seaboard. All five girls know

the pain and joy of life in an area whose rugged beauty and stoicism mask dwindling populations, vanishing job opportunities, and pervasive opioid addiction. As the girls reach adulthood, they discover that despite significant challenges, there is much to celebrate in "the valley of the overlooked." Their stories remind us of the value of timeless ideals: strength of family and community, reverence for nature's rule, dignity in cracked hands and muddied shoes, and the enduring power of home.

But this book is not just a hopeful story about five resilient young women. It is a broad, revelatory examination of life in rural America that counters the dominant downbeat media narrative and presents an optimistic look at the future of the American countryside whose tight-knit communities support each other with tenacity, grit, and grace.

Georges' book talk is slotted for 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 6th, at the temple at 66 Salmon Street, Manchester. Come join us!

RSVP:
Ken Cohn, Temple Israel
newbegin04@yahoo.com



Author Gigi Georges



L'Shana Tova!

From Your Friends at...



Film Review

By Zach Camenker

Chai Flicks, the premiere streaming service for Jewish entertainment, has everything you could want while you wait for the spring 2022 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. Comedies, dramas, documentaries, Israeli content, TV series, and short films are among the many genres available on Chai Flicks, which you can subscribe to for a 7-day free trial and then the low cost of \$5.99 a month or \$49.50 for the year.

Before I dive into the three movies I watched this month, I want to highlight three short films that I found particularly strong in my exploration of the streaming service. One of them, *Stamm*, is available to rent on Amazon Prime for \$2.99 in addition to being featured on Chai Flicks. It examines the story of two soldiers from opposing sides who come face-to-face during World War I. The theme of “country over belief” stands out greatly here, especially at a time when the “country over party” narrative is a major thing that is needed to heal the current divisions in the United States. The piece leaves you with many questions, and despite its 10-minute length, you cannot help but continue to think about it long after the closing credits. A similarly provocative short called *Cap or Kippah* follows a young Dutch boy named Bram, who lives in a village of just 3,000 people where he and his family are the only Jews. Like the characters in *Stamm*, Bram has to make difficult choices. In his case, it is whether or not to display his Jewishness by wearing a kippah. Obviously devout, Bram struggles deeply and the piece at hand traces the challenges facing all those who wear their religion on their sleeves. On a lighter note, Chai Flicks also offers some comical shorts, one of which caught my eye as an admirer of Woody Allen films. *Call me Alvy*, only eight minutes, follows a British boy on the brink of his bar mitzvah who is so obsessed with Allen’s films that he insists on being called Alvy after the male protagonist in *Annie Hall*. An adorable piece that pays homage to the style of Allen’s filmography, one cannot help but chuckle at the young man’s insistence and the adorable references to films like *Annie Hall* and *Stardust Memories*.

The first of the three feature films I watched for this month’s edition was a comedy called *Dough*, also available to rent for \$2.99 on Amazon Prime and shown at the Jewish Film Festival in 2016. The story of Nat, an aging Jewish



Dough (2016)

baker living in his native London, and Ayyash, a struggling Muslim immigrant who takes on the role of Nat’s apprentice, *Dough* examines serious issues of religion, prejudice, and aging alongside a clever and funny premise – it involves Ayyash, played by the extraordinarily talented Jerome Holder, accidentally dropping some of the cannabis he has been selling as a side gig into the dough. Nat wonders why business has started to suddenly soar again! The film is really fun and contains a great mix of humorous and deep moments. Though the writing and dialogue are nothing close to a Best Original Screenplay, the messages of acceptance and understanding amidst the ability to laugh and not let life pass by are universal.

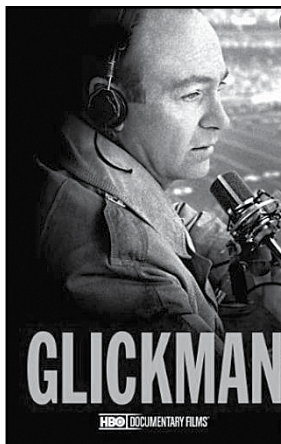
Nat is played by the always magnificent Jonathan Pryce, whose deep grief and anger over the passing of his wife often overshadows his passion for baking and continuing his family’s business. Pryce and Holder make a superb duo and the camaraderie that they develop is both sweet and touching.

Like so many films we have watched at the Jewish Film Festival, *Dough* takes the audience on a journey through a Jewish community (in this case, London) that we may otherwise not know about, exposing us to a variety of intriguing characters and places. The religious juxtaposition between Nat’s Judaism and Ayyash’s Muslim faith is one of the highlights of the film, which shines a strong light on bigotry and acceptance. If you’re looking for a touching movie that has a beautiful message, *Dough* certainly would appeal to all ages!

Chai Flicks currently has an “Olympic Fever” section in its library, which led me to watch the 2013 documentary *Glickman*, written, produced, directed,

and narrated by James L. Freedman and featured in the NH Jewish Film Festival in 2014. Freedman’s film *Carl Laemmle* was also the 2019 NH Jewish Film Festival Gala Event. As he did with *Carl Laemmle*, Freedman achieves great success in showcasing the life of such a pioneering figure as Marty Glickman, who became a famed sportscaster following his removal from the 1936 Olympics in Berlin as the Nazis rose to power.

The film traces Glickman’s star power as an athlete and how he made a second career for himself with his chops for announcing. Through archival footage and retrospective interviews with folks who knew Glickman, Freedman provides context surrounding the 1936 Olympics as a moment of intense antisemitism and bigotry toward Glickman and fellow Jewish American athlete Sam Stoller. Shining light on the controversy surrounding the decision and Glickman’s ultimate decades-long struggle with the collapse of his athletic career, Freedman’s narrative has a deeply personal feeling embedded into it. Despite Glickman’s removal, it is evident that he went on to conduct a fruitful career in sportscasting, logging thousands of



Glickman (2013)

games in football and basketball alone. It’s interesting to see footage of his announcing and just how invested he became in the medium at a time when it was new and exciting for so many. The folks who were influenced by Glickman also play a key role in the interviews, portraying a man who did not let one moment define his career. Throughout, a beautiful story of an American icon is told to audiences, some of whom likely do not know Glickman as he retired nearly a quarter century ago.

The final film I watched this month was an Israeli drama from 2016 called *A*



A Quiet Heart (2016)

Quiet Heart. A captivating and tense story about a secular pianist named Naomi from Tel Aviv who becomes a target upon moving to an ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem, the film reads in many different styles. At times, it seems fitting to call it a “thriller” while at others it strikes the viewer almost as “horror,” in large part due to its unsettling undertones. Actress Ania Bukstein, who plays Naomi, is excellent in her portrayal of a multifaceted character with many arcs. While the script does little to provide backstory, the film is almost better without it, largely because it allows you as the audience member to think about things for yourself. So much of the events lead to a major build-up that you don’t quite see coming, which allows for time to get to know the characters just a bit more than you may have otherwise.

It’s a simple film in a lot of visible ways, but its themes and ideas are very deep and thought-provoking. Ultimately a commentary on how religion and extremes can separate us as people, you are left wondering many things as the piece wraps up. Aside from Bukstein’s strong performance of a numb and sensitive young woman, there are a variety of good supporting players who help strengthen the story. The film is available for free on Amazon Prime for those who do not have Chai Flicks.

I hope you are inspired to watch some of the best Jewish films as we await our spring festival and that you will continue to check out my reviews. Stay tuned for next month’s set, which will feature more from Chai Flicks and beyond!

Keeping you connected



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Tov! A New Podcast About “The Good Place” and Jewish Ideas

By Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett

Are you a fan of *The Good Place*, starring Kristen Bell and Ted Danson? Then you might want to check out my new podcast, *Tov!*

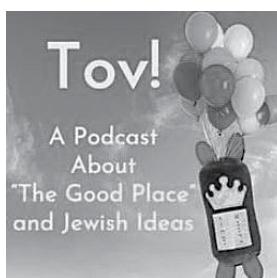
Tov! is the Hebrew word for “good.” Together with a rotating group of smart and funny Jewish teachers from all over, I’m discussing each episode of *The Good Place* along with a Jewish text or idea or two that relates. The tone of the podcast is light, and my hope is that along the way people might develop a Jewish vocabulary about personal change and ethical development. Or just have a good time around something fun, something important, and something Jewish. The first episode came out on Rosh Chodesh Elul, the start of the Jewish month that leads us toward the new year. It’s a time of focus on teshuvah, “coming back” for the sake of becoming better. Which is really what *The Good Place* is all about: Eleanor Shellstrop’s teshuvah, and then (spoiler alert!) not just hers.

I’ve had this idea for a couple of years. Frankly I can’t believe no one else has

beaten me to it. *The Good Place* is somehow both hilarious and a course in moral philosophy. It hit the air in the fall of 2016, and I heard about it and watched the first couple episodes. I loved it! My whole family growing up watched *Cheers*.

While I haven’t seen a lot of Kristen Bell’s work there was a time when *Frozen* was the only thing one of my kids would listen to in the car, and I’m more of an Anna person than an Elsa person.

So this would be my kind of show, but then a funny thing happened. Watching *The Good Place* started to seem like work! I would start thinking about the message, how it worked as teaching about philosophy, how it could be a sermon.... I began to worry that I wouldn’t be paying close enough attention to catch all the nuances and the techniques. I know, rabbi problems. But I actually stopped watching for a couple years. Then my daughter and my wife started watching it on Netflix, and it seemed crazy that I would be the one person in the house de-



liberately not watching *The Good Place*. So I went back to the start and got hooked. I binged to catch up and then couldn’t wait during the last season for each new episode to air.

I started to listen to the official NBC podcast, hosted by Marc Evan Jackson who plays the recurring character Sean, the demon. It was a fun discussion of each episode along with someone from the cast or the creative or production team. Already I had been a committed listener to “*The West Wing Weekly*” podcast, hosted by cast member (and proud Jew!) Joshua Malina and Hrishikesh Hirway. I even got to be their guest rabbi on one episode, after Josh related acting to midrash and I wrote a comment on their Facebook page. I think that podcast, as well as many years in New York listening to “*Mike and Mad Dog*,” are what planted the idea in me to do *Tov!*

A big appeal to me was this, to be totally honest: Many more people, huge orders or a magnitude more, have watched *The Good Place* than have studied with me in my whole career. If even one percent of *Good Place* watchers are Jewish or Jewish-adjacent in any way, and if even ten percent of them are into podcasts, that’s a bigger reach than anything I’ve ever done in Jewish education. How’s that for an ethical motivation?

When the pandemic hit, I thought – it’s not the right time. Nobody wants to think about deeper issues, just what’s in front of our noses. Still, I couldn’t shake the idea. A few months ago I started to talk to my funniest rabbi and Jewish educator friends, to see who I could rope into taking this on with me. I think I’m a good set-up person, funny but only with a team. No one wanted to go all in, so I figured: I’ll do the organizing and invite them as periodic co-hosts. And voila, *Tov!* was born! I set my sights on Rosh Chodesh Elul, and started to schedule

my co-hosts. I’m ever grateful to Dan Ross, one of the rabbis at Central Synagogue in New York City and my online weekly Talmud chavruta (study partner). He did the first couple of episodes with me. By the time you read this, four or five should be available. My goal is for each episode to be fun and to whet the appetite for knowing more about Jewish ethics and Jewish ethical philosophy. So we talk about what made us laugh in the particular episode, and then we use it to explore a Jewish text or idea or two. We try to draw on the plot and the jokes in our conversation. The podcast isn’t out to say *The Good Place* is Jewish, or that all the ideas are the same. Far from it! If you like a *Good Place* idea better, or a Jewish idea better, or some combination, then you’ve given it some thought and I’ve done my job.

The Good Place really is a brilliant exploration of teshuvah, which is not just a concept for the High Holy Days. Rabbi Moses Maimonides (the least funny rabbi in Jewish history) put his teaching about teshuvah in the first section of his whole code about Judaism, rather than in the holy day section.

Tov! is on all the major podcast apps – subscribe on Apple, Stitcher, Google, or Podcast Addict. There’s a website, tovgoodplace.com, where each episode has show notes with the Jewish texts we discuss as well as links for further study and a lexicon of Jewish terminology. Of course it’s on the usual social media too @[tovgoodplace](https://twitter.com/tovgoodplace). Give *Tov!* a try, and tell your fellow *Good Place* fans about it! I’d love to get ideas for how to make it more interesting and more fun. Subscribe to the podcast, bookmark tovgoodplace.com, drop me a note at tov@tovgoodplace.com.

I hope *Tov!* can be part of making a sweet new year!

Jon Spira-Savett is rabbi of Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua and president of the Nashua Area Interfaith Council.



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Jewish Journeys

Jewish Journeys

By Merle Carrus

We are now coming into the month of Elul again. Though some say Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are early this year, according to the Lunar calendar they are right on time. Again, there is a question of whether we can meet in person or virtually, with masks or without. The world is a continually changing place. So many changes have taken place over the last year. We can help direct the future.

In the recent Torah reading, Re'ah, Deuteronomy 11:26-16-17, we read about Moses giving his last minute instructions to the Israelite people as they are about to enter the Promised Land. Moses starts off by saying, "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse." As we move into this new year it is a chance for us to choose the blessing or the curse. To look back at the year and evaluate where we have come from and how we want to move forward.

Last year I looked around me, and also inside myself, deciding I would like to make some changes and improvements. A little tweaking was in order. I applied for

and was accepted as a member of the inaugural Volunteer Leadership cohort of the *Mahloket Matters Fellowship*. Through Pardes Institute in Israel, I joined a group of lay leaders who wanted to learn to have difficult conversations in a non-confrontational manner and share that knowledge with their communities.

Mahloket l'shem shamayim, constructive disagreement, is a longstanding tradition in Jewish life. Evidenced by our Rabbinic predecessors, in the Mishnah, Talmud, and by our Biblical commentators, it continues today with many in Yeshivas reading and reading the writings of our ancestors and debating these ancient texts.

Today with programs like *Mahloket Matters* we can use the havruta (partner) style of studying and the ancient texts to relate to the issues of our time to help find ways to have these constructive conversations. It is important to our personal growth and I decided to take on that challenge.

There is a story attributed to Rabbi Haim of Romshishok, which has been dubbed the *Allegory of the Long Spoons*, in which the Rabbi tells of his visit to the

afterlife. First, he went to visit hell and saw people sitting at tables filled with food, who were clearly extremely hungry. He saw that the people held spoons in their hands but could reach the food to their mouths. Then he was taken to visit Heaven and here the people were happily in conversation and eating. They also could not reach the food to their own mouths with the spoons, but they had realized that they could reach the spoon full of food to the mouth of the person across from them and so they fed each other. The moral of the story of course is that we should help each other. That working together for the good of others will assist in your own good fortune. That the difference between suffering and satisfaction can be in your attitude and cooperation.

That is what I found at *Mahloket Matters*. A way to help me feel better about myself and feel that I am part of the process that can make a change in the world around me. By learning a few new concepts and looking at situations through a new lens, I could find a way to have conversations around the topics of concern and maybe influence some change. If

not, I can learn to understand their point of view and stay in contact, not alienate those people in my social circles.

Mahloket Matters follows a few important principles. Looking at Rabbinic texts it presents situations of disagreement and tries to find ways to create a conversation. These ancient texts than can be compared to modern day delimitas and the Torah conflicts give us a window to examine our current conflicts. There is the principle of 49 vs 49, which looks at the conversation between GD and Moses. Rabbi Yanai explained that "The Torah was not given in a clear cut manner, rather every statement that GD said to Moses, He would say forty nine reasons, (panim, lit. faces) the matter could be pure and forty nine reasons (panim lit. faces) the matter could be impure." GD is saying that there are ninety-eight different perspectives, and GD says to Moses, "Go according to the majority. (Exodus 23:2). If the majority rules it impure it is impure, if the majority rules it is pure -it is pure." In other words, look at every line of reasoning on

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Jewish Journeys

Israel

By Elliott Frank

Thanks to a scholarship from JFNH, I was able to spend three weeks as part of NFTY's 6 Points Sci-Tech in Israel trip. In addition to the traditional sites in Israel such as the Western Wall, Yad VaShem, the Dead Sea and Masada, the trip also looked at the "Start-Up Nation" through science and technology.

Since I was 12, I've attended URJ's 6 Points Sci-Tech East, a Jewish science and technology camp located in Byfield, Massachusetts. After you age out of the camp, during the summer between 9th and 10th grade, you can spend the next summer on the Israel trip. However, due to the pandemic, my trip was cancelled last year. Luckily, NFTY in Israel raised the maximum age just for this year, so all of last year's campers could go. After getting the vaccine, two negative Covid tests, and a serological test to ensure I had the antibodies, I was allowed into Israel for my first time.

The counselors for NFTY in Israel are a mix of Israelis and Americans, and on my trip, we had three great Israelis and one American. Our director was an amazing guide, Gary Kamen, who made Aliyah over 30 years ago. He was able to give us both the local and American perspectives of all of the different places we visited. Because we did so much in just three weeks, I'm going to describe four unique things we did: our Shabbat, the SodaStream factory, digging at an active archaeological site, and the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation.

In each NFTY in Israel trip, each bus travels with at least two others, and although the itineraries may be different, you stay at the same hotels and spend Shabbat with them. The 6 Points Sci-Tech in Israel trip was paired with the two busses of Mitzvah Corps, which takes Jewish American teens all around Israel to perform mitzvahs, and they volunteer at nursing homes and preschools while learning about the complexities of the State of Israel.

Each Shabbat, a different bus is responsible for planning the group Shabbat services, which always includes a Kabbalat Shabbat before Friday night dinner and a Havdalah service Saturday night. It became our turn to plan for the last Shabbat of the trip, and after participating in prior weeks' services, my friends on our Shabbat Committee knew we had to pull out all of the stops and infuse our last Shabbat in Israel with NFTY and 6 Points Sci-Tech culture.

We had a laidback Kabbalat Shabbat with all three busses, and, after dinner,



broke into our different groups, where my group had the "Sci-Tech Shabbat," complete with a song session with us singing at the top of our lungs, and Israeli dancing until midnight. For many of us, Song Session and Israeli dancing are favorite parts of camp, so we knew we had to bring it to Israel. Our director and counselors were happy to embrace the Sci-Tech culture, joining us in belting out songs and dancing with *ruach*.

When I went in early June, the Israeli government was only allowing in tour groups, and because we were relatively early in the season, there weren't many



dug out a ledge and named it New Hampshire Ledge in honor of our home state (though it wasn't officially recorded in the archaeological records.) We then had the opportunity to crawl through some of the un-excavated caves by candlelight, which was a creepy experience.

On our last day in Israel, we visited the Shimon Peres Center for Peace and Innovation in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, which tied together Israeli politics, science, technology, and innovation. As we were guided through the museum, we interacted with artificial intelligence holograms of Israeli entrepreneurs, played a museum wide game of trivia, learned about Shimon Peres, and read about current Israeli start-ups. The coolest was getting a glimpse of the future of Israeli innovation with virtual reality (VR). After putting on the VR goggles, we were transported to the future of medicine, restaurants, and air and space travel. It was one of the most interactive, high-tech experiences we had in Israel.

However, it was not just the activities that made the trip special — it was the group of kids I went with. The majority of us had spent our last 3-5 summers together, and we had a feeling of *kehillat kedoshah* (sacred community) as soon as we met at JFK airport in NYC. I will always remember the sites we visited, but also the karaoke sessions on the bus, the trying of each other's snacks, the late night hang out sessions in one another's rooms, and the friendships we all made during the three weeks we spent in Israel together.

Israel is a magical place, and I loved every second there. The people, the food, the culture, the history, the innovation — all of it comes together to form a special place, and I'm so thankful I was able to experience it when I did.

Some Words Are Never Funny

By AD Gallagher

There's something about that word — “Nazi.” It makes my skin crawl. It makes my blood boil. It upsets me to my most basic Ashkenazi Jewish core. It is particularly unfunny when non-Jews use this word in jest. I am most certain that most of the time (90 percent of the time, or even more) non-Jews do not understand the often harrowing experience of being Jewish and the discomfort around this particular word.

The interesting part about people using the word “Nazi” is that it can be Jews and non-Jews alike. I have heard both. To be honest, although I am a huge Jerry Seinfeld fan, I never liked or appreciated the “Soup Nazi” episode because it makes it seem all right to joke about a

word that is associated with the attempted annihilation of my people.

I question: Why is it assumed that is copacetic to use this word in front of a Jewish person, or even in any jocular context at all? Is there no thought process involved? Is it just not thought about? I believe, as Anne Frank did, that most people are basically good at heart. However, we have to be careful of the words we use.

As I said previously, I truly cannot handle that word when used in a joking way. It truly offends me, and I am certainly not the only Jew who feels that way. As a member of a community in Concord, NH, I was sitting in the main hall one day and overheard a conversation that people were having about the nametags that we had to wear. One of the people in the organization was joking

about how the German woman who gave out the nametags was very nice, but that she was a “Nazi.” Ha-ha? There was that skin crawling feeling again.

My response was: “You know, I’m Jewish and that word is a little tough for me.” It didn’t seem to stop them from talking about it, but they said “Aww.”

That brings me to this point. The fact that people are not always sure that someone is Jewish makes them more uneasy about how to approach and treat them. We are still seen as different. We are still marginalized in certain ways. It is rare, but I have heard people say, “Don’t Jew me down.” In regard to being Jewish in New Hampshire, I can say that I have not experienced outright antisemitism in this state since moving here to live with my boyfriend (now husband) four years

ago. Mostly, I have experienced an icy coolness around my difference, and a main part of my difference is my Ashkenazic origin. I am Jewish. We found out recently that the Nazis shot and killed some of my ancestors during World War II. Nazis killed my family, albeit many years ago.

With that said, Nazi is not a funny word. It is not cute. There is nothing funny about it. It should not be treated as cute or funny. If you ever hear of anyone using the word Nazi in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, make yourself heard.

AD Gallagher is a Master of Social Work student by day and an aspiring writer by night. She lives with her wonderful husband and a community fish tank with a pineapple ornament in it in Concord, NH.

Food Creates Community

By Rabbi Dan Danson, Temple B'nai Israel, Laconia, NH

“They only come for the food” is a lament heard throughout the synagogue world. There is little question that if people know there’s going to be good food at a service, family event, or a lecture, they’re more likely to come. We joke about this and are even embarrassed by it, but COVID has created a kind of Jewish food desert and made us achingly aware of the centrality of food in our communal life.

But why is it so central? It’s not because most people who come to a Jewish event wonder where their next meal is coming from. There is food hunger among American Jews (a subject for another day), but very little in the decidedly middle-class co-

hort that is active in Jewish organizations. Food draws people into Jewish spaces because wherever we break bread together there is conversation, and with it also comes laughter, lament, and connection. Food creates community.

No social group should be less surprised by this than we Jews. Long before any of today’s food-based constructs of organic, slow, foodie, or vegan, we made our tables a locus of community. From kashrut to birkat hamazon, how we did food has been central to being Jewish. Like all communities, the foodstuffs of holidays and the family table are essential to our celebrations. How we eat together in this New Year is also key to navigating the ongoing challenge of COVID.

Ironically, we are beginning from a po-

sition of strength because we have been intensely focused on our tables and many of us cooked and baked far more than ever. Yeast, stand mixers, and flour were all in short supply at the beginning of the pandemic. For those of us who are vaccinated, the first thing we did after getting our shots was break bread with the family we had not seen since March 2020. Jewishly, food is working its way back into our lives but not in synagogue settings. Synagogue break fast may be off the table but gathering after Nilah with friends is not. I suspect that we are about to find out that the truism of “they only come for the food” is not only correct but essential and that without food there is little in-person Jewish communal life. Which is another way of saying that there are few more im-

portant considerations than how we will be able to be together in a synagogue social hall and say the motzi.

I can’t say I have a solution but looking back over 35 years of Jewish communal work, few things have gained more of my attention than how a synagogue does food right. Whenever we team up together as a congregation to crack the code of which combination of food fits the occasion, great Jewish moments follow – successful seders, dynamic Torah study, and vibrant Shabbat services. We were all on to something in April 2020 when we were out searching for flour and yeast. Dvaka, precisely because of the pandemic, may 5782 be a year where we pay attention to the role of food in creating the moments that make us a vibrant Jewish community.

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both sides and then take a majority vote and the majority wins.

Approach each discussion and each person with intellectual humanity and intellectual curiosity. Then follow these important concepts to keep the conversation on a friendly track.

Listen to the other side’s ideas and be flexible and open to admitting you may be mistaken if you hear a convincing idea. Before you even start the conversation, think about your motive. Do you want to win or solve a problem? Be sure to debate the issue without attacking so as not to harm your relationship. In the end consider that you may both be right, even though you hold opposite views on the topic.

Another interesting concept I have been reading about and hearing personal testi-

monials about is the idea that if you get to know someone personally, it makes it harder to disagree with them. One example comes from the book, *Caste the Origins of Our Discontent*, written by Isabel Wilkerson. In the book she tells the story of a plumber coming to fix a leak in her basement. He seems uninterested in helping her once he gets to the house. She is very upset that she has a problem she cannot fix alone and he does not seem to want to help her. In an attempt to compel his compassion for her situation she mentions that her mother has recently died. She asks him about his mother, which leads to a personal discussion about mothers. After that he becomes very helpful, fixing the problem and even returning another day to make sure there has not been a recur-

rence of the leak. The personal connection is very important.

This concept is also being introduced in Israel by Rabbi Daniel Roth, Director of Mosaica – The Religious Peace Initiative, a program that connects Jewish and Muslim religious leaders to have personal conversations. Using community leaders, they are developing ways to bring friendly interactions to the Muslims and Jewish communities throughout Israel and beyond. Rabbi Roth tells a similar story of an Israel who went to a Muslim leader’s home for a conversation. There was tension at the beginning of the visit, but when the Israeli gentleman saw a musical instrument in the other man’s home, he started a conversation about his musical interest and they found a common

interest which broke the tension for their difficult conversation.

So this year as you find yourself either at synagogue surrounded by your fellow congregants with or without masks, or at home watching services on zoom, think about how you can choose the blessing over the curse. Think about how you can reach out and feed someone across the table from you. We have the power to make this life most unpleasant. We also have the ability to help build a society that is like heaven here on earth. The actions of the society as a whole impacts our lives as a whole. Our choices influence society, and we can make different choices every day, to build a just community, a community that cares for each other.

Shana Tova U’metuka.



Israel Wins Big at 2021 Olympics

By Evelyn Miller

I don't know why I accepted the assignment to write an article on Israel's participation in the summer 2021 Olympics ... but now, after many hours of reading about the history of the Olympics and rereading human interest stories of Israeli medal winners, I know for sure that I'll never become a sports writer for some big city newspaper.

The Olympics started some 2700 years ago in Greece. They were originally competitions between men from different city-states. Certain days were declared "truce days" so the competitors could safely travel to the competition sites. These competitions went from the Greek Pagan adoration of the god Zeus to their decline in Roman times with the rise of Christianity, and the games ceased around 393 AD. Modern Olympics started up again through the efforts of a French man in 1896 to be featured in their world's fair. The Olympics took breaks for wars, included women athletes in 1900, changed locations, included more and more sports, alternated winter and summer competitions every two years, switched countries for competition locations, became big money ventures with corporate sponsorship, decided to allow professional and amateur athletes to compete, and thrilled the world enthusiasm for sports competition.

Today's Olympians come from 206 countries with a total of 11,000 competitors. Unfortunately, over the course of modern-day history of the Olympics, ugly politics have frequently entered into and crowded out the themes of good sportsmanship and fair competition. The list of Olympic games scandals and controversies is very long. The most horrific terrorist attack occurred during the summer Olympic games in Munich in 1972, when 11 Israeli athletes, coaches, and judges were murdered by terrorists. This horrific event was marked by a moment of silence in the opening ceremonies of this year's 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

The Israeli delegation in this 2021 Olympics included 90 competitors competing in 15 sports. Artem Dolgopyat won Israel's second ever gold for men's gymnastics floor exercise. Artem's passion began as a 6-year-old following in his father's gymnastic footsteps. In 2009 the family immigrated from the Ukraine to Tel Aviv Israel in 2009 where he joined the Maccabi sports club and continued his gymnastics training. After many competitions, Artem finally won a silver medal in the floor exercise in World championships in Montreal, Canada. In 2018 & 2019 he won metals in floor exercises at the European championships. His 2021 gold medal in the floor event was a big win over the dominating Russian gymnastics team.

Linyo Ashram, an Israeli 22-year-old,

was the first female to win a gold in the Rhythmic gymnastics competition. The performance included floor gymnastics including ball, ribbon, baton, and hoop. This sport has been dominated by the Russians for 2 decades and was viewed as a big upset. Nicol Zelikman also competed in the Rhythmic gymnastics for Israel. She placed 7th in the competition –both girl teammates were very excited with their performances saying "Now 2 Israelis are ranked in the top 8 in world gymnastics!"

The Israeli mixed gender Judo team won the bronze medal. This was the first time this event was held at the Olympics, the Israeli team won the bronze over the Russian opposing team. During the week their individual competitions were disappointing, but on the last day of the team competition the team of 11 stepped up and gave everything they had in their competitions to secure the bronze.

Avishag Semberg won the bronze in women's 49kg Taekwondo. She is the youngest Israeli to win an Olympic medal at age 19.

There are other wonderful stories of great sportsmanship like Saudi Judoka Tahani Alqahtani facing Israeli Raz Hershko and shaking hands before their women's Judo competition. Israeli Hershko won the match, but to me both looked like winners. Judokas from Sudan and Algeria refused to face Israelis at the Olympics.

And finally there is the another story

of good honest sportsmanship. Saeid Mollaei is a former Iranian Judoka who now competes for Mongolia. Several years ago, when Saeid was told by his Iranian coaches to lose a semifinals match so he wouldn't have to compete against the Israelis, Saeid Mollaei relocated to Germany and obtained Mongolian citizenship. He won his first Olympic silver medal 2 years later leaving Iran. Iran has been barred from this event for four years by the International Judo Federation for unsportsmanlike behavior. After receiving his medal, Saeid expressed his gratitude to Israel for its support on the Israel Sports channel. He thanked them with a "Toda."

And finally, finally, the second Refugee Olympic competed in the 2021 Olympics. The first team was in 2016 with 10 members. This year's team expanded to 29 members from countries in conflict, civil war, or too dangerous for Olympians to return. Countries listed were: Syria, Democratic of Congo, south Sudan, Eritrea, Venezuela, Iran, Afghanistan, and Cameroon .

And finally, finally, finally, this year for the first time ever, there is a Refugee Paralympic team competing.

The International scene of sports is an interesting one filled with hard work, lots of reasons to compete, much intrigue, and many wonderful stories of "the best of the best!"

Israel – Did You Know?

By Evelyn Miller

Because my husband is in the medical field, my focus in this issue's DID YOU KNOW column will be around Israeli medical accomplishments and innovations.

1. One year before the Boston pressure cooker bombing, an Israeli emergency response team was asked to come to Boston and give a course on "Mass Casualty Training". This training was credited for the saving of many lives.

2. The Syrian civil war starting in 2011 has resulted in over 200,000 refugees crossing into Northern Israel seeking medical care . 3 northern Israeli hospitals and temporary medical clinics minister to these refugees medical needs. A fifth of the casualties have been children with extensive injuries of missing limbs, shattered faces, and severe neglect. Israeli trauma medicine excels in the world. Today Israeli Doctors reconstruct wounded faces, implant jaws, and print everything on a 3D printer.

3. Rambam hospital in Haifa Israel can transform its underground bomb shelter parking area into emergency hospital wards to handle 770 patients and surgical operating rooms. Initially designed during the 2006 Lebanese conflict, recently it expanded its underground parking lot to a sterile emergency ward to handle the surge in Covid patients.

4. Gavriel Iddan, an Israeli inventor, changed the field of Gastroenterology by inventing the Pill cam. He put a small camera in a capsule to be swallowed by a patient. As the capsule travels through you, it takes many pictures of particularly your small bowels and transports digital images to an outside screen. This frequently eliminates the need for a full blown colonoscopy.

5. Re-walk exoskeleton was developed by Israeli Amit Goffer. He was an inventor who became a quadriplegic after an ATV accident in 1997. It was thru his own experience in utilizing mobility devices for people with spinal cord injuries

that he developed Re-walk. Re-walk is a wearable robotic Exoskeleton that provides powered hip and knee motion to allow a spinal cord injury person to stand, walk, and climb or descend stairs. Re-Walk was FDA approved in 2014.

6. Hossam Haick, of the Technion Institute in Israel, is an Arab-Israeli scientist and engineer. Through his research he developed the Na Nose. The Na Nose is a breath analyzer that can detect the symptomatic odor of some cancerous tumors, Parkinson's dementia, multiple sclerosis, and other diseases. He is currently working on the Sniff Phone. Haick is a brilliant researcher with a tremendous career—a must read on Wikipedia.

7. Characterization can be dispensed with in many cases. Endopat is a device placed between indicator fingers, which can measure the state of the arteries and predict the possibility of a heart attack in the next 7 years. EndoPat was developed by Itamar Medical Ltd. Out of Caesarea, Israel (our sister city region).

8. The Israeli Emergency bandage is a specially designed , first aid device that is used to stop bleeding from Hemorrhagic wounds caused by traumatic injuries in pre-hospital emergency situations. The bandage was invented by an Israeli medic, Bernard Bar-Natan and is the bandage of choice for the US army and special forces. It is included in first aid kits of emergency personnel and first responders.

9. Israeli Scientist Erez Livneh is working on a new drug that fights viruses through the bloodstream. It is called Vecoy Trap as it tricks viruses into self destruction. It will be very useful to combat hepatitis, and in future Aids and Ebola. It is not ready for prime time yet!

10. Israeli scientists at Hadassah Medical Center (Jerusalem) may have discovered the first cure for Lou Gehrig's disease. Stephen Hawking, a famous British scientist, suffered from this disease and used methods invented by Israeli scientists to communicate.



September 2021: A Message from the Consulate General of Israel in Boston

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

Summer was exceptionally wet this year in New England—in fact it was the wettest in recorded history. As an Israeli, I enjoyed the rain and soaked up the magnificent greenery that it left behind. September is now upon us, with Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and other fall festivals coming early this year. After a year and a half of living with COVID-19, we are beckoned at this time of year to turn inward, assess what has happened and look forward to new chapters in our lives.



Ambassador Meron Reuben

It has been yet another challenging year for the state of Israel, and the conflict in May with the terrorist group Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, was another reminder that we have an uphill battle to reach the goal of peace and tranquility in our beloved land. This summer has also shown us that ice cream can leave a bitter taste. The independent board of governors for Ben & Jerry's de-

cidated to use their so-called social mission to bash Israel instead of trying to help the two sides find ways to collaborate. How can peace possibly be achieved for Israelis and Palestinians alike through such measures? Our efforts to push back on the decision are vital in order to defend the very legitimacy of the State of Israel, unfairly singled out for alleged human rights abuses in a world filled with totalitarian and truly brutal regimes.

In spite of this challenge, there are many positive developments to celebrate as the year draws to a close. A year ago, we were living under the cloud of a global pandemic that constricted every aspect of our lives and caused the death of millions across the globe. Israel has been a leader in vaccinating its population and we are now in a drive to give booster shots to the population over 60.

Limiting travel to Israel has been a necessary means of controlling the spread of the virus. We know how frustrating this has been for so many of you, but it is my sincere hope that travel to

Israel will soon get back to normal, even though the spike in the highly contagious Delta variant of the virus makes this difficult to predict.

The Abraham Accords continue to spread a message of hope and mutual understanding in our region. It was a thrill this summer to welcome “Sharaka,” a new NGO comprised of young Israeli and UAE social leaders of all religions committed to peace and normalization through forging of warm people-to-people connections.

The 2020 Olympics in Tokyo offered another reason to rejoice. Israel sent its largest delegation ever, some 90 Olympians, including baseball Team Israel, that included many American Olim. We even had a chance to see them play in Hartford Connecticut before leaving for Japan. Israeli Olympian Artem Dolgopyat made us all proud by winning a gold medal in gymnastics for the men’s floor exercise—only the second Olympic gold in our sporting history! Avishag Semberg received a bronze medal in taekwondo as did the Judo team. Team Israel kept hope alive by defeating Mexico and advancing

into the second round of the Olympics, defying expectations and serving as emissaries for baseball in Israel. But the most important thing of all for us, was that for the first time—after ignoring the fact for 49 years—the Olympic committee publicly memorialized the Israeli athletes who were victims of terror in the Munich Olympics of 1972. May their memories be blessed.

Another positive note was struck recently when Israel regained its observer status to the African Union, after a nearly 20-year hiatus. The irony of this is not lost on us, considering the massive media coverage of the Ben & Jerry’s debacle. I presume that positive news about Israel does not sell. So, all in all, we have a lot to be grateful for as we leave 5781 and enter 5782. I have had a very challenging yet exciting nine months in New England and hope to meet many more members of the Jewish community in person (and not just on Zoom!) this coming year.

May the new year bless us all with peace and good health.

Shana Tova U Metuka, a good and sweet new year to everyone.

News from Hadassah’s Hospitals: Hadassah Ein Kerem and Hadassah Mount Scopus were named Israel’s Best Hospitals.

By Michele Bank

As reported in the *Jerusalem Post*, Israel’s Health Ministry has rated both of the Hadassah Medical Organization’s hospitals as the best in their class in Israel: “The ministry’s National Program for Quality Indicators report for 2020 puts Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in first place in the major hospital category, while Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus is the top small campus. Both scored a maximum 10.”

The scoresheet takes into account a vast array of services. Among them are the ability to perform heart catheterization in under 90 minutes from the moment a patient is admitted (Israel tops the world in this category), stroke treatment, prevention of in-hospital infections and detection of depression among its patients. Waiting times for a patient’s triage in Hadassah Ein Kerem’s emergency room average just 5 minutes, according to the document published July 28.

Acting Director General Prof. Yoram Weiss, MD, says, “Hadassah teams have proven once again that with hard work, it is possible to achieve impres-

sive results in the various areas of treatment, from infancy to old age, despite the difficult years our medical center has experienced.”

He explains, “Our excellent staff in all sectors and departments of Hadassah Mount Scopus and Hadassah Ein Kerem work day and night for the hospital patients who trust us to provide them with quality and dedicated care. This is evident in the results presented today by the Health Ministry. The high scores show that, despite the focus on optimal care for the largest number of COVID-19 patients to be hospitalized in Israel and the burden this created in our hospital, the quality of the treatment for the other patients was not diminished. It continued to be of high quality and professional.”

The report’s author, Prof. Yaron Niv, praised the Israeli hospital system for the way it dealt with healthcare during such a difficult year. “Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in hospital activity,” he said, “quality of treatment was not affected either in the COVID-19 outbreak units or in the regular departments.”

Health Ministry Director General Prof.

Nachman Ash adds, “This comparison of medical centers is a positive, constructive source of competitiveness, an incentive for excellence and achievement.”

Also in hospital news, Newsweek rated four Israeli hospitals among ‘The World’s Best Smart Hospitals’ and Hadassah-University Medical Center in Jerusalem was one of the four. The hospitals were rated for their ability to leverage smart technologies to manage and improve care.

“They lead in their use of AI, robotic surgery, digital imaging, telemedicine, smart buildings, information technology infrastructure and EHRs (electronic health records). The hospitals on this list are the ones to watch.”

The list is based on recommendations from hospital directors and medical innovation experts from around the world who rated the centers according to the categories above. A three-step evaluation process included in-depth interviews with experts in the field and recommendations from the hospitals; a survey of more than 13,000 physicians, hospital and health administrators; and then the information was ranked.

“The pandemic put hospitals through

the ultimate stress test,” Freedman wrote. “By forcing them to adapt to waves of COVID-19 patients, changing treatment protocols, faltering supply chains and a massive vaccine rollout, to name just a few of the challenges of the past year, the outbreak drove home the importance of advanced technology.

“The hospitals that best weathered the crisis were by and large the ones that were already open to integrating new technologies and taking advantage of data-driven opportunities as they became available,” he continued. “This lesson may turn out to be one of the most profound and lasting effects of the pandemic.”

According to Freedman, the market for smart-hospital technology is expected to reach \$35 billion in 2021 and as much as \$83 billion by 2026.

“The election of Hadassah to this honorable list arouses immense pride at the national level,” said the hospital’s interim CEO Yoram Weiss. “Our hospital staff members, in every sector and position, are the driving force - and have the extensive knowledge - to make use of advanced and smart technologies, many of which are groundbreaking at the global level.”



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Recent Events

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research's *Landsmanshaftn* Collections to be More Accessible through Grant from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

(New York, NY) - The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research was awarded the John Stedman Memorial Grant for its *Landsmanshaftn* Collection Portal Project. The award for \$3,000 was presented today, August 4, 2021, at the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) virtual 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

The John Stedman Memorial Grant, matched in-kind by YIVO, will support the work of two advanced interns to increase online access to YIVO's *Landsmanshaftn* collections. *Landsmanshaftn* were Jewish benevolent societies that were formed to aid new immigrants in their transition from Eastern Europe to America. The YIVO Institute stewards about 1,400 collections of *Landsmanshaftn* records and receives more every year. While most of these records are

from organizations that operated in New York City, there are also records from across the United States and the world.

The grant will enable YIVO to create a single finding aid consolidating all the *Landsmanshaftn* collections making them more accessible to the public.

The finding aid will include the town of origin, its variant spellings, and other genealogical resources from the town, as well as a description of the contents of each individual collection. Individual collections may include links to other *Landsmanshaftn* collections at YIVO, materials which have been digitized through remote reference and digitization on demand, yizkor book links and translations from outside sources like the New York Public Library and JewishGen, and other relevant material.

"We are pleased to recognize the work

of YIVO and to assist them in expanding access to their valuable collections," said Ken Bravo, president of IAJGS.

There is a global audience for these materials. In addition to the 200 researchers who consult YIVO's *Landsmanshaftn* collections each year, nearly 50% of archival research sessions at

YIVO are genealogy-related, and most genealogy appointments involve at least one *landsmanshaft* collection. "This project will help researchers all around the world more easily access important pieces of their own family histories," said Dr. Stefanie Halpern, Director of the YIVO Archives.

OBITUARIES

Toni Beth Gasser

March 2, 1951 – August 9, 2021

Toni Beth Gasser, beloved wife, mother, Nana and friend, passed away surrounded by her daughters, on Monday August 9, 2021. She was 70 years old.

Born on March 2, 1951, Toni grew up in Oceanside, New York before marrying the love of her life, husband Bernie, and moving to New Hampshire, where she spent more than 30 years as a teacher at Amherst Middle School. Toni would tell you that her marriage of 47 years was based on the saying "behind every successful man is a stronger woman." Together they have three daughters Amy, Norri and Debra and beamed with pride for them. Her daughters were her biggest achievements in her life. Toni's sons-in-law James Elterman, Danny Oberlander and Adam Fox were sons she grew to love like her own. Toni was also blessed by being Nana to grandchildren Seth, Bella, Andraya, Shayden, Sydney and Cameron.

As strong as Toni's love of family was, so was her commitment to her friends. She was everyone's cheerleader, friend, and therapist. She was always the life of the party and with them she shared her passions of New York, Broadway, and traveling the globe.

Toni also had a strong presence and connection within New Hampshire's Jewish community, where she was a member of Temple Israel Manchester for 40+ years. Her passing has left an enduring mark on all the people she touched throughout her life, and she will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Toni's memory can be made to Temple Israel Manchester at 66 Salmon Street - Manchester, NH 03104 (Memo: General Fund).



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 Mr. Stephan Salon for his speedy and full recovery from Norm and Andy Kushner
 Joel and Shelley Diamond in Honor of Jessica's engagement to Vince from Norm and Andy Kushner

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In honor of Janet Schiff from Isaac Schiff

Simchas

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

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

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