



PASSOVER



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Parsley, Passover, and a Little Perspective

As we prepare to gather around our Seder tables once again, there's something comforting about the familiar rhythm of Passover. The smell of matzah ball soup simmering on the stove, the collective groan when we realize just how long the Seder actually is, and the inevitable debate over whether or not gefilte fish is edible (I say yes)—it's all part of the experience.

But beyond traditions, Passover is a holiday that asks us to see ourselves in the story. To remember what it means to move from oppression to freedom, from the known to the unknown. And let's be honest, sometimes the unknown is just as scary as Pharaoh himself.

Allyson Guertin

**JFNH
 Director**




I can't help but think about the contemporary ways we experience our own "Exodus" moments. Maybe it's navigating a big life transition, standing up for what's right even when it's difficult, or even just making it through a chaotic family Seder without spilling grape juice on the tablecloth. Freedom isn't always about parting the sea; sometimes, it's

about the small, brave choices we make every day. At the Federation, we see these moments of courage all the time—in the way our community comes together to support one another, in the work being done to fight antisemitism, and in the connections we create to keep Jewish life in New Hampshire thriving. This Passover, as we dip our parsley in salt water and recline just a little extra, let's also take a moment to reflect on our resilience—on the challenges we continue to face and the strength we find in one another for the journey ahead.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, meaningful ... and yes, slightly messy Passover. Chag Pesach Sameach!

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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum
39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(603) 869-5465
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
Weekly services from July through Simchat Torah with Zoom services and Torah study from November to June. Please check our website for service times and event information.

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM,
Saturday 9:30 AM.
Torah Study - Sundays 9:00 AM. Check the website for updates
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar for optional Zoom link.

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mark Melamut
Roth Center for Jewish Life
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover
Nondenominational, Unaffiliated

(603) 646-0460
www.uvjc.org
office@uvjc.org
Services: Friday night Shabbat service at 6 PM
Saturday morning Shabbat service at 10 AM

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org
office@keenesynagogue.org
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM
Weekly Shabbat Torah study at 9:30 AM.
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM.
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM.
All services are in-person and online.
Check the website for schedule changes and Zoom links.

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson
152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 669-5650
www.taynh.org
office@taynh.org
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 MANCHESTER

Rabbi Marc Philippe
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative Affiliated USCJ
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org

Shabbat Services: Every month we offer one Friday night Shabbat with a catered community dinner (rsvp required), and two Saturday Shabbat services followed by a light kiddush (no rsvp necessary). Every Wednesday, we offer a 7:00 AM in-person morning minyan and a 6:30 PM Torah study via ZOOM. Please check our website www.templeisraelmht.org, call our office at (603) 622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org for information on specific service dates and times.

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
Conservative
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbijon@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services (generally):
Every Friday at 8:00 PM
Every Saturday at 10:00 AM
Evening Minyan Monday-Thursday at 7:30 PM
All services are in-person and on Zoom (check our website for schedule changes and Zoom links)

NEWINGTON

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki
2299 Woodbury Avenue, Newington
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 584-4111
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com
www.JewishSeacoast.com

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan Marlana 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, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 10 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)

April 4	6:58 PM
April 11	7:06 PM
April 18	7:14 PM
April 25	7:22 PM



Now Where Did I Put that list? The Annual Passover Prep

I love a good scavenger hunt. How many doors are in my grandmother's house? How many fairy houses are hidden in my house? Where did I put my phone with all my lists? Okay, maybe not that last one so much. But the annual afikomen hunt? That's fantastic. And my brother-in-law has taken it to new and legendary levels of impossible. We're pretty sure there's at least one afikomen that hasn't been found.

What should not be hard to find is tips and tricks for celebrating Passover with children. PJ Library has their holiday hub ready: <https://pjlibrary.org/passover>, complete with a new downloadable guide. It's got everything I could ask for as a busy mom: The seder prep checklist, the PJ Library Haggadah, madlibs, recipes, podcasts, reading lists and more. This year I plan to find our globe and look at "How Passover is Celebrated Around the World" (see QR code).

Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



Passover is FULL of family ritual. There's "Bubbe Molly's Matzo Ball Soup" – always made with turkey, not chicken — and with plenty of kloitchkes (potato dumplings). There's "frogging" Grampa Mark: all the children become plagues and "ribbit" gleefully while playing with stuffed frogs. Uncle Izzy's sound effects for "Chad Gadya" come close to rivaling Robin Williams. And of course, there's the recitation of the Four Questions. Here it's more a



raucous group effort of all children, often standing on a couch singing loudly. Fortunately, PJ Library has everything you need for that too, except maybe earplugs. See QR code.



One tradition I value most on Passover is practicing *hachnasat orchim* – welcoming guests. I encourage my kids to bring friends to our Passover seder, just as my parents always encouraged me. We love giving them this opportunity to take the lead on educating their friends in our customs. Even if that custom is hiding under the table from the "ghost" of Elijah.

Have you heard yet about the PJ Library Get Together Grants? Invite two or more Jewish families over to help you eat that leftover charoset or dip matzo in chocolate – and let Harold Grinspoon Foundation pay for the groceries or craft

supplies! Adult meetup to help clean each other's houses and taste test wines maybe? Learn more at <https://pjlibrary.org/gettogether> or email me at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.

As I clean my pantry and go through the boxes of Passover items, I need something peppy to get me in the mood (and keep the baby entertained). Check out my playlist of Passover Parodies on YouTube. I highly recommend "Six13 - A Lion King Passover" and Adam Shapiro's Passover Wicked Parody, "Defying Slavery" (also, shout out to Maccabeats for their "An Encanto Purim - We don't talk about Haman," which is sooo good).



I hope your seders are raucous and joyful and your preparations easy and stress-free. Happy Passover and Chag Pesach Sameach!

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

Statewide Calendar of Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are submitted weeks in advance of publication, and are subject to change. For information on format changes, rescheduling, 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, March 23 – Friday, April 11

2025 17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

Films will be shown in theatres around the state and virtually. Please join us at the 17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival in theatres across the state and from the comfort of your home. Check out more information on our website- <http://nhjewishfilmfestival.com>, or contact Pat Kalik at filmfest@jewishnh.org.

Friday, April 4

Etz Hayim Synagogue: Family Pizza Dinner & Shabbat

5:30PM-7PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Join us for a free pizza dinner followed by potluck desserts. At 6:15 PM, our Book Bubbe, Leslie Kirshman, will read a story. By 6:30 PM, we will start the family Shabbat service. All are welcome! Please RSVP at office@etzhayim.org by March 31, so we can plan on how much pizza to have. See you then and there! Many thanks to the anonymous donors for covering the cost of the pizza. Contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or email office@etzhayim.org. <http://www.etzhayim.org>

Temple Adath Yeshurun Family Shabbat Service

6PM-8PM, TAY, 152 Prospect St., Manchester, NH Family Shabbat Service with pizza following. Advanced reservations required. Contact Karen at 603-669-5650 or email office@taynh.org. <http://www.taynh.org>

Saturday, April 5

Beth Abraham's Young Family Shabbat

9:45AM-10:30AM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH
Join Beth Abraham for a Young Family Shabbat with Cantorial Soloist, David Rothberg. Open to all! Play time and snack to follow. Follow the link to register, so we know how many to plan for, <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/Young-Family-Shabbat>
Contact Sarit Tsor at 603-883-8184 or email sarit@tbanashua.org

Beth Abraham's Soul Shabbat

11AM-12PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH
Join Beth Abraham for an interactive Shabbat experience featuring music, mindfulness and accessible prayer, to get in touch with our Jewish souls. Open to all! Led by Cantorial Soloist and Jewish music recording artist, David Rothberg.

Sunday, April 6

Shavua Tov Story Time- Passover

8:30AM- 9AM, Zoom
Cost - \$18.00
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5
Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Alane at alane.sabel@jewishnh.org.
The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions. To register <https://forms.gle/XknJuPEVCPkJPnk9>

PJ Library Goes to the Movies: The Prince of Egypt

1:30PM-3PM, Red River Theatre, 11 S. Main Street Suite L1-1, Concord, NH 603-224-4697
PJ Library is partnering with the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival.
Join us at Red River Theatre in Concord, NH, for Passover-themed crafts and snacks, then watch the movie "The Prince of Egypt" together. Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org. info@redrivertheatres.org, <https://redrivertheatres.org/>

Klezmer Conservatory Band

2PM-4PM, Concord City Auditorium (Audi), 2 Prince Street, Concord, NH
Cost - \$23.00
A leading voice in the world of Klezmer music and eastern European song for over 40 years, the Klezmer Conservatory Band (KCB) continues to thrill audiences all over the world. With a repertoire ranging from Yiddish standards to rousing dance medleys and little-known gems, the KCB's musicians have served as important ambassadors in promoting the universal appeal of Jewish music. Contact Lori or David Carey or Murdo at 603-344-4747 or email at nhd40@comcast.net or <http://ccca-audi.org>.
Tickets \$23 on-line at ccca-audi.org or \$20 day of performance at box office. Any number of accompanied persons under 18 are free with a purchased ticket. klezmerconservatory.com.

Sunday, April 13

Diaspora's Double Feature: Second Night Seder at Beth Abraham

5:00PM - 8:00PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond St. Nashua, NH 03064
Cost: \$40 adults, \$20 children ages 6-12, Free for ages 5 and under. Cost is never a barrier to participation.
Experience the traditions of the Seder and explore the resonances of Pesach (Passover) themes today, in a cinematic vein! We'll sing, observe the essential customs and laws of the Seder, and break out into groups to discuss timeless themes that are of moment today through scenes from modern films. (We'll be reading, not actually screening them.) If you're available to pitch in, help us cook a healthy, celebratory meal or set up our spaces during the week or day leading up.
Contact: Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett (603) 883-8184 or rabbijon@tbanashua.org
Website: <http://tbanashua.org>

UVJC Community Seder

5:30PM-7:30PM, Roth Center for Jewish Life, 5 Occom Ridge, Hanover, NH
Cost per person is \$25; cost per family is capped at \$50.
Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, will hold a second night family-friendly Passover Seder at the Roth Center in Hanover, NH. For reservations, contact office@uvjc.org, or contact Roberta Berner at email abelberner@gmail.com.

Etz Hayim Synagogue: Community Second Seder

6PM-8PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Cost: Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the charge is only \$18.00 per adult member, \$23 per adult non-member, with children under thirteen free.

Join us to recount the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt. We will offer a catered vegetarian Seder consisting of appetizers, including gefilte fish with horseradish, vegetable matzo ball soup, stuffed peppers with farfel & vegetables, vegetarian carrot tzimmes, potato kugel and Passover desserts. Our second night Seder has been an Etz Hayim tradition for over 30 years!

RSVP by 4:30 PM, Friday, April 4, 2025. To RSVP and pre-pay, please visit www.etzhayim.org or contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or email office@etzhayim.org.

Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Seder

6PM-9PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St., Manchester, NH
Sisterhood Second Night Seder: Open to all who wish to participate in a Seder. Traditional Passover meal will be served by Roots Catering. Reservations are required. Contact Dot Warshaw at 603-669-5650 or 603-483-5035. Or email djwarshaw@gmail.com. We look forward to dining with you and our congregational family. Enjoy our coming spring! RSVP by April 10, 2025.
Cost: Adult tickets in advance are \$42/ Children under 12 are \$12.

Monday, April 21

Inside Israel with Ra'anana

1PM- 2:30PM every month on the 3rd Monday until June 16, 2025, JFNH office, Bedford and via Zoom
Join former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anana de Haas to discuss news and hot topics in Israel
Ra'anana will cover everything from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics. This program will meet on the third Monday of each month for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid - join us at the JFNH office in Bedford or attend from your home via Zoom.
Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Wednesday, April 23

Yom HaShoah "6 Million Steps"

5:30PM - 8:00PM, Walk from Temple Israel to Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
A Community Event in Remembrance of the Holocaust.
For the third year in a row, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is partnering with Manchester synagogues to participate in "Six Million Steps," a national program supported by the Israeli American Council to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and raise awareness of global antisemitism. (www.6msteps.org/)

Join together to remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as we walk from one Manchester synagogue to another. Walk with us to help achieve the goal of 6 million collective steps as a community, followed by a hybrid service. We will walk from Temple Israel in Manchester to Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester. The final program will take place at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Security will be provided throughout the walk and program. Contact Allyson Guertin at allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org

Thursday, April 24

Temple B'nai Israel Community Holocaust Remembrance Program

5:30PM-7:30PM, Laconia Congregational Church, 18 Veterans Square, Laconia, NH
Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia, in collaboration with the Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, and the Laconia Human Relations Committee, will host a moving Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) community.
The community is invited to come together and remember the victims of racially motivated violence. This year's program will feature a powerful dramatic reading of the one-act play "Anne & Emmett" written by Janet Langhart Cohen. This imagined conversation between Anne Frank, a young Jewish victim of the Holocaust, and Emmett Till, a young African American victim of racial violence, explores their shared experiences of hatred and the tragic impact it had on their lives. This program seeks to share these powerful stories, ensuring that the lessons of the past are not forgotten and that we continue to strive for a more just and compassionate future. Connecting the stories of Anne Frank and Emmett Till reinforces the importance of combating hatred and promoting tolerance. Contact Barbara Katz at 443-254-6994 or email barbarakatz@gmail.com.

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A Month of Advocacy



In March, JFNH Executive Director Allyson Guertin delivered testimony opposing HB 555 and joined the Jewish Clergy Association of New Hampshire in signing a letter, alongside several larger organizations, opposing HB 94. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to combating antisemitism, protecting religious freedom, and advocating for our community at the state level. Here is her statement.

Chairman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Allyson Guertin, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. You have already received my letter outlining our concerns with the proposed amendment to HB 555, so I will focus my time today on what is most critical.

In the past 15 months, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire has received reports of antisemitic incidents in three different schools across our state. This is not abstract. This is happening here, in our own communities, and we must be mindful of the impact our laws and policies have on fostering either understanding or division.

The amendment before you, inserting the term "Palestinian genocide" into the Holocaust and genocide education statute, does not advance historical education—it advances a divisive political agenda. The Holocaust and genocide education law was created to teach students about well-documented, universally recognized genocides, ensuring that we learn from the past to prevent future atrocities. Adding a term that is highly politicized and deeply disputed not only weakens the integrity

of this law but risks turning classrooms into battlegrounds for political narratives rather than spaces for factual learning.

This proposal has real consequences. Regardless of intent, framing Israel's actions as genocide promotes a misleading and inflammatory narrative that contributes to antisemitism. It introduces bias into educational standards and risks fostering hostility toward Jewish students and the broader Jewish community. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which New Hampshire adopted into law last year, provides clear guidance on how antisemitic rhetoric can manifest—including in ways that distort or demonize Jewish identity and the Jewish state. We must be cautious not to introduce language into our education system that could fuel division or hatred.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to reject the amendment. The original law serves a vital purpose: ensuring students understand the catastrophic consequences of true genocides. This amendment distorts that mission. Let's keep Holocaust and genocide education focused on history—not politics.

Thank you.



To: House Speaker Sherman Packard, New Hampshire House of Representatives
cc: All House members

Re: Community Organizations Opposed to HB 94 Banning Medicaid Coverage for Circumcision

March 4, 2025

Dear Speaker Sherman and Members of the House of Representatives,

We are writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 94, which bans Medicaid coverage for circumcision. We find it deceptive and offensive that HB 94 is titled the "Children's Body Autonomy Act" to frame the issue. The implied notion that children are being denied bodily autonomy works to demonize many longstanding normative religious and cultural practices. Furthermore, the proposition that children have bodily autonomy, if codified into New Hampshire law, will predictably be used as a predicate for the banning of religious ritual circumcision on the grounds that the child does not have the capacity to duly consent. Naturally, that would make New Hampshire completely uninhabitable to young Jewish and Muslim families. In addition, it would create a legal quagmire that would in effect constrain parental decision-making in matters of life-saving and quality of life-enhancing procedures for newborns and infants, consequently putting children's lives and best interests at risk.

Moreover, we believe that blocking Medicaid coverage for circumcision would yield two additional negative outcomes: (1) It would create a financial impediment to a medically beneficial procedure for Medicaid recipient parents who elect it for their newborns. (2) Because it is a procedure popularly associated with Jews and Muslims it will likely be misconstrued by the public as a message that those groups are not welcome in the Granite State.

Regarding the medical merits and benefits of circumcision, the American Academy of Pediatrics wrote, "the benefits of circumcision are sufficient to justify access to this procedure for families choosing it and to warrant third-party payment for circumcision of male newborns... Specific benefits include prevention of urinary tract infections, penile cancer, and transmission of some sexually transmitted infections, including HIV."

Medicaid coverage varies from state to state, but generally covers a wide array of medically beneficial but not mandatory procedures, such as cleft palate repair and breast reconstruction surgery after cancer treatment. Out of all those procedures, people might wonder why the state

would selectively block Medicaid payment just for this procedure, and they might imply a message that the Legislature never intended to send.

We urge you to please consider these points, and vote NO on HB 94.

Sincerely,

Israeli-American Council (IAC), Idan Kweller, New England Regional Director

Israeli-American Coalition for Action, Jake Bennett, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs

StandWithUs, Peggy Shapiro, Director of Special Projects

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Allyson Guertin, Executive Director

EndJewHatred, Adar Rubin, Director of Mobilization

National Jewish Advocacy Center (NJAC), Mark Goldfeder, Executive Director

ADL, Samantha Joseph, Regional Director, ADL New England

Jewish Clergy Association of New Hampshire



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~ Albert Einstein

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Passover: An Invitation to Multiple Meanings

Passover, our holiday that celebrates freedom, is on the horizon. It is replete with rituals that serve as metaphoric gateways from oppression to freedom. It is a “journey” ritual that takes us from the experience of oppression to freedom. It is interesting to note that the Passover Hagaddah itself begins the story of the Exodus from Egypt with a question: *Mah nishtanah halaylah hazeh mikol haleilot? - How is this night different from all other nights?* And as the seder rituals unfold, we discover that there are many answers to this seemingly simple question. One could say that the Passover seder celebrates and ritualizes the sharing of multiple viewpoints on a particular narrative. The seder itself,

Rabbi in the House



Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

Temple Israel Portsmouth

modeled after the Greek Symposium, is an invitation into dialogue.



While it is certainly the case that many of us have had the dry experience of reading through the Haggadah, word for word, with no wrestling with the text, the Rabbis intended the text to serve as a springboard for discussions about freedom and oppression. The

content of the Haggadah itself is full of such discussions, quoting various Rabbis’ differing interpretations of the Exodus story. Additionally, we read the famous story of Rabbi Akiva and his friends who, on one Pesach eve, stayed up until dawn discussing the Exodus. And if the message isn’t clear enough the text of the Haggadah includes the following statement: *“Even if all of us were wise, discerning, venerated and completely knowledgeable in Torah, it is still a mitzvah to speak about the Exodus from Egypt. And the more one extrapolates and embellishes on the Exodus from Egypt, the more one is praiseworthy.”*

The Passover Seder as envisioned by the Rabbis who created it, was designed to bring families together, across generations, to openly discuss oppression and freedom, enslavement and liberation, from their many points of view. This year, many families may find themselves

struggling with one another over differing opinions and views on the subjects of Israel and the current American administration. Let us consider this year’s seders as an invitation to us all, to enter the Rabbinic Study Hall, a sacred symposium in which to engage with one another, to ask questions, to listen attentively and to respectfully express our ideas. Our rabbinic tradition teaches that engaging in an argument, *l’shem shamayim*, for the sake of heaven (and earth), is a sacred undertaking. It requires building the capacity to sit with multiple meanings, to consider that there may be many co-existing truths. In the words of Rabbi Shai Held, “Understanding something as having multiple meanings is one of the deepest expressions of freedom.” Let us consider this and bless our gatherings that they may offer the seeds of a truly redemptive Pesach.

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LEARN MORE:
 Contact Foundation Chair Julia Preis through the JFNH Office at 603-627-7679



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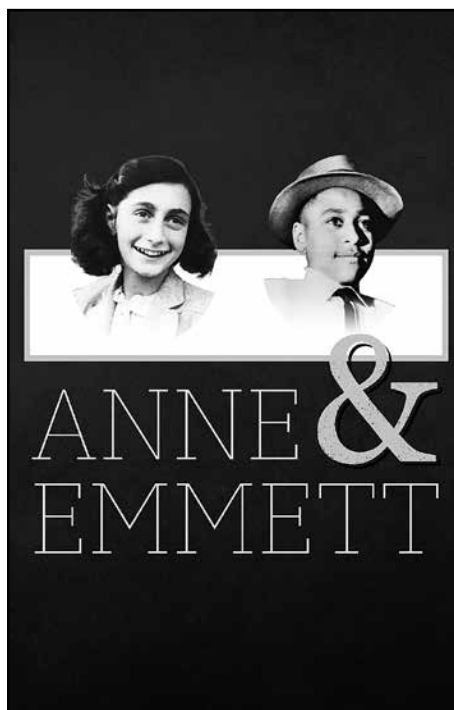



In the Community

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: Yom Hashoah Community Holocaust Program

Laconia, NH – Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia, in collaboration with the Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, and the Laconia Human Relations Committee, will host a moving Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) community program on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Congregational Church of Laconia, UCC, located at 18 Veteran's Square, Laconia.

The community is invited to come together and remember the victims of racially motivated violence. This year's program will feature a powerful dramatic reading of the one-act play "Anne & Emmett" written by Janet Langhart Cohen. This imagined conversation between Anne Frank, a young Jewish victim of the Holocaust, and Emmett Till, a young African American victim of ra-



cial violence, explores their shared experiences of hatred and the tragic impact it had on their lives. This program seeks to share these powerful stories, ensuring that the lessons of the past are not forgotten and that we continue to strive for a more just and compassionate future. Connecting the stories of Anne Frank and Emmett Till reinforces the importance of combating hatred and promoting tolerance.

The reading is directed by Debbi Finkelstein and will feature students from Laconia High School alongside members of the community. The program will begin at 5:30 PM with a light supper, followed by the dramatic reading. This event is free and open to the public. Please register using this link - <https://tbinh.org/holocaust-program-registration/> - or scan the QR code.



Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Community Second Seder

Join us Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM. The Etz Hayim Ritual Committee is excited to invite you to our community Passover Seder. This year, we will offer a catered vegetarian Seder consisting of appetizers, including gefilte fish with horseradish, vegetable matzo ball soup, stuffed peppers with farfel & vegetables, vegetarian carrot tzimmes, potato kugel and Passover desserts. What a wonderful way to celebrate Passover and



to be with our community and enjoy our synagogue. Our second Seder has been an Etz Hayim tradition for over 30 years!

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the charge is only \$18.00 per adult member, \$23 per adult non-member, with children under thirteen free. The deadline to register for the seder is Friday, April 4, 2025 by 4:30 PM. To RSVP and pre-pay, please visit www.etzhayim.org.




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*Wishing everyone a healthy and
happy Passover.*

Mayor Jay & Veronica Ruais

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Ammunition Hill: A Personal Story

By Richard England

History can be told as a list of names and dates, or it can be told as a personal story. On March 2, an Israeli visitor told his personal story to a gathering at Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center hosted by Rabbi Berel Slavaticki and representatives of JNF-USA. Alon Wald was a small child in 1967 when his father was called up for IDF reserve duty just before war broke out with several Arab countries. Alon's father, a carpenter, was an officer with a paratrooper brigade deployed near Jerusalem.

From the 1948 War of Independence until the 1967 Six Day War, Jerusalem was divided in two with the Jordanian Army occupying the Old City. Ammunition Hill was a highly fortified and strategic position that protected Jordanian forces in eastern Jerusalem. Once the Six Day War began, the IDF moved to expel the Jordanians from the Old City. On June 6, 1967, outnumbered IDF paratroopers stormed Ammunition Hill. After fierce hand-to-hand combat, the IDF troops took the Jordanian stronghold but not before losing 36 killed and 90 wounded. This victory enabled paratroopers to retake the Old City the next day and enter the Kotel, or Temple Mount.

Jews in Israel and the Diaspora celebrated the reunification of Jerusalem on June 7, but the day was a sad one for Alon because his father was one of

those IDF troops who had died in battle on Ammunition Hill. For years, the young Alon asked why his father had to die in a war. It was only as he matured and learned the history of the Six Day War that Alon came to understand why his father had fallen in battle: His death was part of the price paid to protect his family, the State of Israel, and the Jewish people.

Alon now serves the memory of his father and those comrades who also fell in battle by heading operations at the Ammunition Hill Heritage Site. Jewish National Fund-USA has turned this battlefield into a place that preserves the memory of those who died to defend the Land of Israel. Half a million people visit the Ammunition Hill Heritage Site each year, ninety thousand of them young IDF soldiers and another hundred thousand who are students or members of youth groups.

To commemorate the IDF soldiers who fell in the battle to reunify Jerusalem, 182 olive trees have been planted at Ammunition Hill. Harvests from these trees are turned into olive oil at a local moshav. Oil from a recent harvest was used to light menorahs, or hanukkiot, of IDF troops serving in the Gaza war with Hamas.

Jewish National Fund-USA has plans to build a multi-media auditorium and education center at Ammunition Hill. There are also plans to expand the Wall of Honor, where plaques record the



Alon Wald and Rabbi Berel at Seacoast Chabad.

names of Jewish soldiers who have served heroically through the years. The Adopt a Liberator program matches Israeli schoolchildren with aging veterans of the three paratrooper brigades that liberated Jerusalem during the Six Day War. These veterans will share their memories with a younger generation of Israelis. Each veteran's memories will then be preserved in a film, essay or photo album for heritage site visitors to see.

Those of us who attended Alon's presentation at Seacoast Chabad were



Evelyn Miller and Alon Wald at Seacoast Chabad event.

moved by the story of his father's bravery and by Alon's dedication to preserving the memory of his father's service to the Jewish people. When you visit Israel, plan to tour Ammunition Hill Heritage Site, and be sure to say hello to Alon.

Richard England is a member of the JFNH Israel Engagement and Education Committee.

For more information about the Ammunition Hill Heritage site, go to <https://www.facebook.com/AmmunitionHillJerusalem>.

Nashua's April 22nd Yom HaShoah event focuses on "The Media and the Holocaust: A Journalist's Perspective"

On Tuesday evening April 22nd, Temple Beth Abraham and Rivier University welcome Dr. Laurel Leff, Professor Emerita of Journalism at Northeastern University. The event will be held at Rivier University in the Dion Center at 16 Clement Street in Nashua at 7 p.m.

Laurel Leff's book, *Well Worth Saving: American Universities' Life and Death Decisions on Refugees from Nazi Europe* (Yale University Press) was a finalist for a 2020 National Jewish Book Award. Her previous book, *Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper* (Cambridge University Press) was chosen as the Best Media History Book of 2005 by the American Journalism Historians' Association and Best History Book of 2005 by ForeWord Reviews. Leff has a master's degree in the study of law from Yale University and a master's in communications from the University of Miami. She received an A.B.

from Princeton University with a major in the School of Public and International Affairs. She was formerly a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Miami Herald* and an editor with American Lawyer Media Inc. and The Hartford Courant.

Dr. Leff will explore how the Holocaust is presented in the media, both during World War II and in the present day. How did Americans access information about antisemitism during the 30s and 40s? How do current news sources shape what readers - especially younger audiences - know about Holocaust history?

Following a question-and-answer session, a candle-lighting ceremony will be held memorializing Holocaust victims. The Nashua Community Interfaith Choir will perform at this observance.

The event is free and open to the public. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/jctwuru5> to register for this event.

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Wednesday, April 23rd, 5:30pm

Temple Israel to Temple Adath Yeshurun.
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Springing Ahead with Purim Storytime and Hamantaschen Making at Keene Synagogue

Changing the clock ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 9 didn't stop four young families in Keene from getting together for stories, hamantaschen baking, and fun. One would never have guessed that this first-ever event of Congregation Ahavas Achim's Family Engagement Committee was a pop-up event, conceived of and planned only a few days earlier by the committee's co-chairs, Sophie Carney-Brenner and Becca Goldenberg, with the assistance of Dina Berch, JFNH program coordinator, Rabbi Daniel Aronson of CAA, and Daniella Yitzchak, CAA's office manager.

The morning began at 8:30 with a watch party of PJ Library's online Shavua Tov Storytime Purim. The children, ranging in age from 22 months to 8 years old, enjoyed listening to storyteller Alane Sabel read the classic Purim tale, *Sammy Spider's First Purim*. Though it appeared on the Zoom screen that everyone in the carpeted, kid-friendly room at Congregation Ahavas Achim was part of Rabbi Dan's family, the crowd was literally just playing his family on tv, in true Purim fashion.

Following story time, the families made their way to the social hall to create yummy hamantaschen with Daniella Yitzchak,



Daniella Yitzchak (CAA, Office Manager), Jeffrey Driban, Maxwell Driban (age 8)

who, in addition to being CAA's office manager, is the congregation's baker- and chef-in-residence. Sporting a PJ Library apron, Yitzchak guided the children and parents through the process of making their own hamantaschen: cutting out circles from pre-made dough, placing a dollop of filling in the center of the circles, and gently folding the edges of the circles to form Haman's hat or Haman's ears, take your pick. Yitzchak then placed the creations in the oven and baked them to perfection.

While their treats were baking, the families gathered for another story on the carpet in CAA's play room, this one read by Rabbi Dan, who came clad in jeans for the occasion. Moos, baahs, clucks, and laughter filled the air as everyone participated in



Daniella Yitzchak instructs families how to make hamantaschen.

the reading of *Barnyard Purim*, a vintage PJ Library favorite.

Filled with stories, the satisfaction of making hamantaschen, and with the taste of freshly baked hamantaschen in their mouths, the children then ran around the social hall one more time before springing ahead into Adar, with Purim only days away.

Carney-Brenner, who attended with her son, Eli (22 months) and Goldenberg, who was unable to attend due to illness, were thrilled with the turnout and enthusiastic response. They noted that two of the families present are not yet members of CAA but were drawn to the event after connecting with Rabbi Dan and members of the congregation at Popsicles at the Playground in Keene last summer, a program of JFNH and PJ Library organized by Dinah Berch. Additionally, the Young Family Engage-



Rabbi Dan Aronson (CAA, Keene), Eli Carney Brenner (22 months). Rabbi Dan reads *Barnyard Purim* to Eli.

ment Committee co-chairs thanked Rabbi Dan, Daniella Yitzchak, and Dinah Berch for helping organize what might be the first of a series of CAA-JFNH-PJ Library monthly programs at the synagogue.

By the end of the day, the team had already created a registration page for Passover Storytime and Matzah Making on Sunday, April 6th! You can sign up to participate in person at <https://registration.keenesynagogue.org/PassoverStorytimeApril2025>. For more information, call Congregation Ahavas Achim at (603) 352-6747 or email Daniella Yitzchak at office@keenesynagogue.org.

Two Special Musical Programs at Temple Beth Jacob

Temple Beth Jacob's annual Shapiro Family Lecture Series will present two special musical programs this year – Cantor and Composer Jonathan Comisar and Musicologist Galeet Dardashti.

Comisar is an ordained Cantor from the Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music. He is a highly esteemed and sought after composer of Jewish themed music. He has received numerous commissions and artist residencies from synagogues and Jewish organizations, including Temple Emanu-El (NYC), Central Synagogue (NYC), and Congregation Emanu-El (San Francisco), and the American Conference of Cantors, who commissioned Comisar to write a choral work for their 60th Anniversary. Comisar's education includes Eastman School of Music (pre-college), Oberlin Conservatory (piano) and composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composer David Del Tredici. He recently completed his Masters in classical composition at the Manhattan School of Music. His work for orchestra, *The Hero's Journey*, was re-

cently premiered under the direction of New York City Opera conductor, Maestro George Manahan. Comisar is also a musical theater composer (Public Theater, Jerry Orbach/Snapple, *Don't Tell Mama*, TACT) and a member of the prestigious BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theater Workshop. Comisar's musical theater piece "Things as They Are," about the life of American photographer Dorothea Lange, was awarded Best of the Festival Audience Favorite Prize at the NY Musical Theater Festival (2010) and was twice nominated for the Fred Ebb Foundation Award, 2009 and 2011.

For Temple Beth Jacob, Comisar will present, "To Bigotry No Sanction," his original text study of President George Washington's Letter to the Jews of the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island (Touro Synagogue); it also will include a video performance of the Letter set to music – both chorus and chamber orchestra.

Galeet Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing performer and advo-

cate for Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture. She is the first woman to continue her family's tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship. Dardashti is widely known as leader/founder of the renowned all-woman powerhouse Sephardi/Mizrahi Jewish ensemble, Divahn. According to the *Jerusalem Report*, her "sultry delivery spans international styles and clings to listeners long after the last round of applause." Dardashti's nationally acclaimed release, *The Naming*, musically interprets some of the compelling women of the Bible. *The Huffington Post* called *The Naming* "heart-stopping."

Monajat is Dardashti's powerful and award-winning album of original compositions featuring her singing with remixed samples of her grandfather, Younes Dardashti (The Nightingale of Iran), one of Iran's most famous singers during the 1950s and 60s, and a devout Jew. In this live concert, Dardashti reinvents the ritual of *Selihot* (prayers to prepare for the High Holy Days) with a soundscape of original music performed

with an acclaimed ensemble of Middle Eastern and jazz musicians, and vivid video art enveloping the audience.

As a scholar, Dardashti holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and specializes in Mizrahi culture and music; her current book project explores the Mizrahi piyyut (sacred song) phenomenon in contemporary Israel. She has held Assistant Professor positions at New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. She currently is a Fellow at University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. For Temple Beth Jacob, Dardashti will present her lecture on "Middle Eastern/North African Jewish Poetic Songs (*Piyutim*) – From Pulpit to Pop Chart," which will include some live performance.

Jonathan Comisar will be at Temple Beth Jacob on Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 pm; Galeet Dardashti will present on Wednesday, May 14. Temple Beth Jacob is located at 67 Broadway, Concord. Both lectures are free and open to the public. If you have any questions, please email office@tbjconcord.org or call 603-228-8581.

Save the Date at TBA: Galeet Dardashti

Dr. Galeet Dardashti will join Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on the weekend of May 16 for a scholar-in-residence program. The weekend will kick off with a Persian-inspired dinner Friday night where Dr. Dardashti will talk about her family's history and then lead a participatory Sephardi/Mizrahi Kabbalat Shabbat service using prayers from diverse Middle Eastern/North African Jewish communities.

About Dr. Dardashti:

A vocalist, composer and anthropologist, Dr. Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing performer and advocate for Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture. Dardashti is the first woman in her family to carry on their tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship. In the 2024 hit audio documentary series, *The Nightingale of Iran* — which Dardashti co-created and co-produced with her sister, Danielle Dardashti, the sisters explore the story of their Iranian grandfather, known as “The Nightingale of Iran” and reveal painful secrets unspoken for generations.

As a scholar, Dardashti holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and specializes in Mizrahi culture and music; her current book



project explores the Mizrahi piyyut (sacred song) phenomenon in contemporary Israel. She held Assistant Professor positions at New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dardashti is currently a Fellow at University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. For more info on Dr. Dardashti, see <https://www.galeetdardashti.com>. Please visit tbanashua.org to find more information about the weekend.

This event is funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Jewish Federation.

Temple Israel's Exciting Passover Celebrations!

Temple Israel Portsmouth is thrilled to invite the Seacoast Jewish community to celebrate Passover with us this year! We are hosting a vibrant Community Seder on April 13 at 5:30 pm, and we would love for you to join us. This special evening will bring together families, friends, and neighbors to experience the warmth and joy of the Passover traditions. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the community, the Seder promises to be a meaningful and memorable event, filled with rich traditions, delicious food, and uplifting moments of reflection. Please RSVP through our temple website calendar, www.templeisraelnh.org

In addition to the Community Seder, Temple Israel will be hosting Passover events throughout the month. Please note that Yizkor will be recited on the 7th day of Passover, April 19, providing a special opportunity to remember and honor our loved ones. We invite you to

participate in this sacred moment of remembrance.

For our younger community members, our Early Learning Center will be hosting their Passover Chocolate Seder, where children can explore the Passover story in a fun and engaging way, featuring chocolate and other sweet treats.

Temple Israel is not just a place of worship but a vibrant community, and we encourage all to get involved. Whether you are looking for spiritual growth, meaningful connections, or a welcoming place to celebrate Jewish traditions, Temple Israel is the place for you. We look forward to celebrating Passover together and sharing in the blessings of this special time.

For more information and to RSVP for the Community Seder, please contact our Administrative Director, Ryan Bernstein, at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org. Let's make this Passover a time of unity, reflection, and joy!

The Camera as a Weapon: Deconstructing Nazi Images – a Presentation at Etz Hayim by Tom White


On Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM, Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach, Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, will discuss how photojournalism, not just print journalism, became a respected arbiter of “fact” with the liberation of the camps. Do photos still have the same impact and what are potential pitfalls in using them? Photographs do not merely capture or illustrate the historical past, they interpret it. How do we construct and deconstruct narratives? A potential pitfall in teaching about the Holocaust is using Holocaust imagery without ever teaching students how to evaluate and decode those images. Nazi photographers were desig-



nated as “weapons” of the Nazi effort, and their images continue to have power to shape the narrative in ways that serve the perpetrator.

This program will be held at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038.

There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, “Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff.” Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.



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In the Community

The Best New Hampshire Jewish Baker

On March 1st seven children between the ages of 9 and 12 competed to be the best New Hampshire Jewish Baker! The contestants completed three timed challenges inspired by Tu B'shevat and

utilizing the seven species as ingredients. Thank you to Rabbi Berel and Rochy of Seacoast Jewish Community Center and Brooklyn Cafe for hosting!”



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In the Community

Pippa's Passover Plate: a PJ Library story time and author/illustrator meet & greet”

On March 16th PJ Library – New Hampshire hosted “Pippa's Passover Plate: a PJ Library story time and author/illustrator meet & greet” at Temple Adath Yeshurun in partnership with Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Israel in Manchester. We had over twenty families join us! Our guests Vivian Kirfield and Jill Weber read their book "Pippa's Passover Plate",

followed by a few Passover songs with Temple Israel - Manchester, NH's Rabbi Marc Philippe and then crafts, chocolate matzo and meeting the author and illustrator! Thanks to everyone who joined us and especially to all of our volunteers!!! This was such a special coming together of the greater Manchester Jewish community. We hope to see everyone again soon!



JEWISH FEDERATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS THE STATE PRESENT:

CELEBRATE ISRAEL

A COMMUNITY YOM HA'ATZMAUT EVENT



Camp Tel Noar
167 Main Street,
Hampstead, NH

Come together to celebrate Israel's 77th anniversary in the beautiful setting of Jewish summer camp.

Join us as we highlight the vibrancy of Israeli culture and the enduring bonds of our Jewish community in New Hampshire!

FREE community event.
Family-friendly. Kosher food

Register by scanning QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/celebrateisrael25>.

JUNE 8, 2025 | 2-5PM

Questions: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, info@jewishnh.org or call JFNH office at (603) 627-7679





PURCHASE TICKETS

- Online at <https://2025nhjff.eventive.org/welcome>
 - Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org
 - By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM
- *Additional tickets for in-theater screenings may be available at the door prior to the show.
 **Tickets for virtual screenings are per household.

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

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 Temple Israel Portsmouth Cultural Endowment Fund • Upper Valley Jewish Community
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In-Theater Events

Sunday, March 16, 5:30 PM
Technion 10²
 Special Pre-Festival Event with Special Guest Dean Kamen, Reception
 Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 23, 12 Noon
 Opening Reception
 Spotlight Room at the Palace
 Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 23, 2 PM
Shari & Lamb Chop
 Opening Film
 The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Tuesday, March 25, 7 PM
October H8te
 Followed by Post-Film Discussion
 SNHU Walker Auditorium
 Manchester, NH

Thursday, March 27, 7 PM
Midas Man
 The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 30, 10 AM
Janis Ian: Breaking Silence
 Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM
Running on Sand
 Apple Cinemas, Merrimack, NH

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM
Never Alone
 Followed by Post-Film Discussion
 Keene State, Drennan Auditorium
 Keene, NH

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM
The Property
 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 PM
Unspoken
 Apple Cinemas, Merrimack, NH

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 PM
Unspoken
 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 PM
Soda
 Keene State, Drennan Auditorium
 Keene, NH

Wednesday, April 2, 7 PM
The Blond Boy from the Casbah
 Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Thursday, April 3, 7 PM
Max Dagan
 Special Post-Film Discussion with Director Terre Weisman
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 1 PM
Centered: Joe Lieberman
 Shown with Short *Righting a Wrong: The Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project*
 Bonus: Pre-recorded Conversation with Filmmaker Jonathan Gruber
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 1:30 PM
Prince of Egypt
 Special Free PJ Library Event
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 3:30 PM
Bad Shabbos
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 5:30 PM
Wrap Party
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH



Special Virtual Screenings*
 Janis Ian: Breaking Silence
 Sunday, March 30 –
 Tuesday, April 1
 Live Zoom Conversation with Filmmaker Varda Bar-Kar
 Tuesday, April 1, 7PM

Sunday, March 23 –
 Friday, April 11
 The following films will be available for 20 days:
 Never Alone
 Running on Sand
 Soda
 The Property

Virtual Screenings Bonus Week*
 Sunday, April 6 –
 Friday, April 11
 Technion 10²
 The Blond Boy from the Casbah
 Unspoken

*After film is unlocked, you have 48 hours to screen.



Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

Remaining Days of Festival (and Virtual Opportunities!)

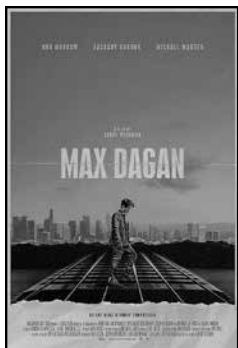
We at the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival are so thrilled with the success of our events thus far! As always, we thank our audiences, donors, sponsors, and volunteers for their steadfast support of this enormous undertaking.

If you have not yet attended one of our in-theater screenings, there is still time to join us in the remaining days of our Festival!

On Thursday, April 3 at 7 PM at Red River Theatres in Concord, New Hampshire-based filmmaker Terre Weisman will join us for a screening of his new film *Max Dagan*, which



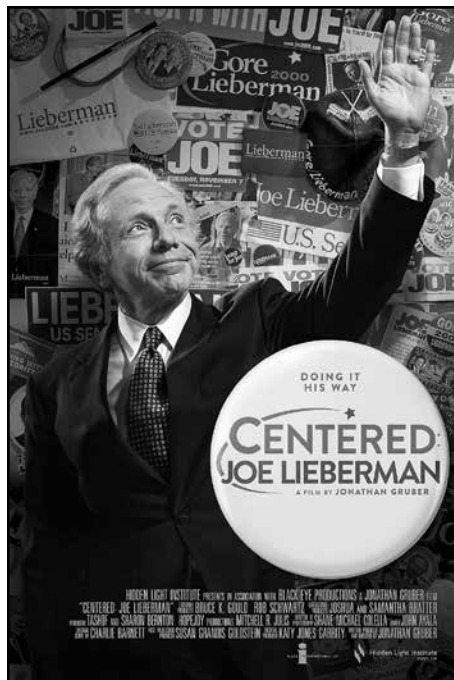
tells the story of a young man who aims to get his terminally ill father out of prison with a compassionate release. In seeking the help of his estranged uncle and the daughter of the man who Max's father killed, two divided families discover they have more in common. Terre Weisman will join us in person for the screening, and he and I will participate in a post-film discussion with Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett of Nashua's Temple Beth Abraham. This is an incredibly unique opportunity that you did not want to miss!



We close out our in-theater events on Sunday, April 6 with a 1 PM screening of the new documentary *Centered: Joe Lieberman*, which chronicles the life of the late United States senator and vice-presidential running mate of Al Gore. The film will also be accompanied by a short feature *Righting A Wrong: The Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project* and include a pre-recorded discussion between *Centered* director Jonathan Gruber and me.

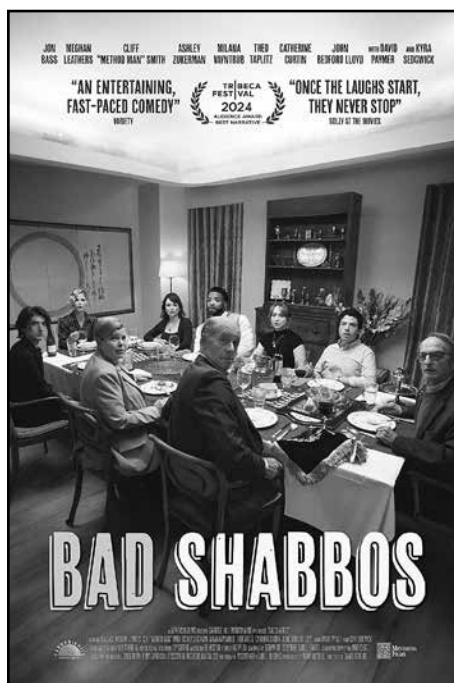
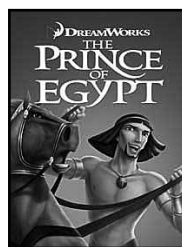


Families with young children can also enjoy the classic animated film *The Prince of Egypt* at Red River, beginning with a 1:30 PM PJ Library sponsored



activity before the movie begins.

Finally, before our Wrap Party on Sunday, we will end our in-theater screenings with the dark comedy *Bad Shabbos* at 3:30



PM. The winner of the Audience Award at this year's Tribeca Film Festival, the film follows David and Meg, a newly engaged interfaith couple, as they prepare a major Shabbos dinner and a meeting of their families. When Meg's midwestern

Catholic parents are set to meet David's New York Jewish ones for the first time, all eyes turn to the chaos that ensues when everything goes horribly wrong. This is one that you will not forget!

Film Review continued on page 25



A Special Free PJ Library Event Prince of Egypt

In-Theater: Sunday, April 6, 1:30 PM, Red River Theatres, Concord, NH
Enjoy a Free Pre-Film Craft Project

Director: Brenda Chapman, Animation, 1998, USA, 97 minutes, English
The story of Moses and the Ten Commandments is retold in song and story, following the prophet from his adoption by the Pharaoh to his role in leading the Hebrews out of Egypt. This film features the voices of Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, and Jeff Goldblum.



Register today for the PJ Library Event.

Advance purchase for ALL screenings suggested. Online at <https://2025nhjffeventive.org/welcome>
Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org. By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM. Follow us on Facebook at New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

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

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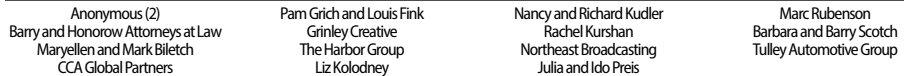
PRODUCERS



FILM STARS



DIRECTORS



Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

One Little Goat by Dara Horn

Passover is one of the most celebrated of the Jewish holidays. It is a holiday observed in homes around the world. There are many different Haggadot offering a variety of ways to put together a seder. Families build on generational customs or create their own traditions to commemorate when the Israelites left Egypt and started their journey to the promised land. And in Dara Horn's new graphic novel, *One Little Goat*, she brings her memories of family seders to teen readers. This audience will definitely be able to relate to the teenage angst of being caught at the dinner table for many hours with elderly relatives and younger cousins and siblings.

Using themes and references to the Passover seder, Horn creates a witty, funny story about what can happen if you never find the Afikoman, the dessert without which a seder cannot end. Bringing to life the goat from "Chad Gadya" – the song sung at the end of



the seder about a father buying a goat for two zuzim – our protagonist is able to be the hero and find the missing matzah after six months of being stuck at the Seder.

The goat takes the "wise child" on a journey meeting characters from the many seders throughout history. They travel back in time and see his parents as children at their own family seders ... in the USSR, back in 1981, as refuseniks. Then, he goes further back in time, past the Holocaust and seder in the Warsaw Ghetto. Back to the 1300s and creation of the Bird's Head Haggadah. This leads to a visit with Rabbi Don Isaac Abarbanel, Nachman of Bratslav, and even Dona Gracia Nasi in Constantinople in 1556, during the Inquisition. Then, the Goat takes the

child—who now is becoming wiser—further back in time to meet Rav and Shmuel in the third century, known as great Amoriam. The Rabbis, Eliezer, Joshua, Elazar ben Azaria, Akiva and Tarfon make an appearance before the Goat takes the child all the way back to the night his ancestors left Egypt.

This is a very clever way to tell the Passover story and explain its importance to older children. It is a very timely story showing how throughout history Jews have been strong and resilient, continuing their traditions even in the face of adversity. Bringing home the message how special and magical maintaining our Jewish connections can be.

Dara Horn is the award-winning author of six books, including the novels *In the Image* (Norton 2002), *The World to Come* (Norton 2006), *All Other Nights* (Norton 2009), *A Guide for the Perplexed* (Norton 2013), and *Eternal Life* (Norton 2018), and the essay collection *People*

Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present (Norton 2021). Her books have been selected as New York Times Notable Books, Booklist's 25 Best Books of the Decade, and San Francisco Chronicle's Best Books of the Year, and have been translated into thirteen languages. Her nonfiction work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, *Tablet*, and *The Jewish Review of Books*, among many other publications. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and four children.

Theo Ellsworth illustrates the novel with a tangled style of drawing that captures the spiraling style of writing in this graphic novel. The black and white, pen and ink drawings depict the characters from history as the Goat and "wise child" swirl through history. Theo Ellsworth is a self-taught artist and comics creator best known for his graphic novels *Capacity* and *Sleeper Car*.



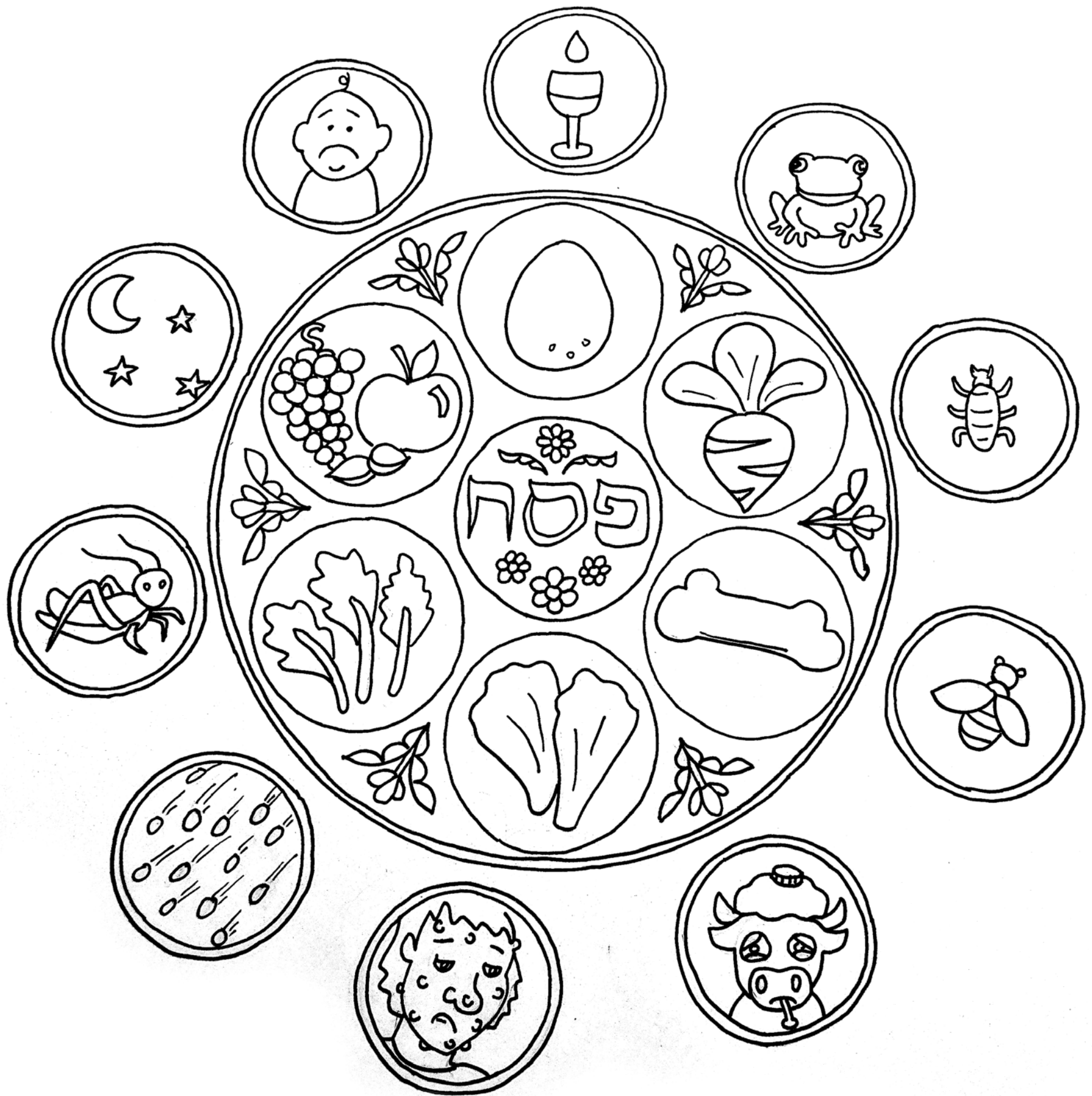
**Jeanne
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Wishing you and
your loved ones a
happy Passover.
Chag Sameach!

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Kids' Corner Coloring Page



VERONICA

Veronica Ava Conley, ©2025

“We Care” of Temple B’nai Israel of Laconia - The Lakes Region Rocks with Country Charm: The Honky Tonk Chicks Will Deliver Memorial Day Weekend Thrill

Meredith, NH - Kick off the summer in the Lakes Region on Memorial Day weekend with a boot-stomping, heart-warming country music extravaganza! On Saturday, May 24th, the Inter-

Lakes Community Auditorium in Meredith will host the Honky Tonk Chicks, a dynamic vocal trio delivering a high-energy, theatrical experience that will have you singing along and dancing in



the aisles. Prepare to be swept away by their powerful renditions of country classics and modern hits, from "Jolene" and "Sweet Home Alabama" to "9 to 5," "Man! I Feel Like a Woman," and favorites from Shania Twain, Elvis Presley, Garth Brooks, and more. This isn't just a concert; it's a celebration of country music, community, and giving back. Tickets are just \$42; no additional fees and plenty of free parking at the venue. Purchase tickets online at <https://tbinh.org> and at select retail locations (see website).

We Care is proud to support Veterans Count Lakes Region Chapter, a vital program of Easterseals NH. Veterans Count ensures the dignity, physical, and mental wellbeing of service members, veterans, and their families by providing critical clinical, social, and financial assistance. Since 2013, We Care has been a pillar of support for Lakes Region nonprofits, and this event continues their tradition of "lending a helping hand." Stu Needleman, chair of the We Care team says, "This concert is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a memorable night of entertainment while directly supporting the brave men and women who have served our country."

We Care extends sincere gratitude to our steadfast sponsors: Audi Nashua, Interlakes Family Dental, Miracle Farms Landscaping, and The Platinum Group of ReMax Bayside Realty, as well as major supporters The Laconia Daily Sun and Northeast Communications. Their unwavering commitment ensures the success of this event and the positive impact it has on our community.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Passover. Each year, the Passover Seder and retelling of the story of Exodus reminds us of the resilience of the Jewish people. May this holiday remind us all that faith brings triumph over adversity.

New Hampshire has a proud, vibrant Jewish community that contributes so much each day to our great state, from community service to advocating for the issues that matter most. I am proud to stand with you and am grateful for all you have done and will continue to do for New Hampshire.

Joe and I hope everyone celebrating has a joyful and meaningful Passover.

Best wishes,

Governor Kelly Ayotte

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“Chag Sameach, New Hampshire! Wishing you and your family a happy Passover!”



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April Report from Hadassah

By Michele Bank

For the first time, *Newsweek* ranked Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) among the world's best hospitals. This Jerusalem based nonprofit hospital system was founded by and is owned by Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America. The 2025 report ranked 2,400 hospitals in 30 countries. HMO is in the company of renowned American institutions: Massachusetts General Hospital, the Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic and The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

In *Newsweek's* most recent reports on the World's Best Specialized Hospitals and the World's Best Smart Hospitals, Hadassah once again earned a spot among Israel's top hospitals for cardiology (fifth year), oncology (fourth year) and the use of smart technology (fourth year).

It all started 113 years ago with founder, Henrietta Szold. Over the decades, Szold has inspired hundreds of thou-

sands of women who have educated, advocated, fundraised, and brought their communities together to represent Hadassah and the mission of empowering women, Zionism and advancing healing. It continues today with many of this newspaper's readers who are members and donors of this very prestigious institution. At Hadassah, we are a part of history. And we are making it—together.

For more than a century, the Hadassah Medical Organization has set the standard for excellence in medical treatment and research in Israel. The experience and ingenuity of Hadassah's doctors and scientists have led to new tools and treatments in all areas of medicine, including therapeutics, diagnostic medical devices, and digital health.

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest Jewish women's organization in the United States. With nearly 300,000 members, donors and supporters, Hadassah brings

women together to effect change on such critical issues as ensuring Israel's security, combating antisemitism, and promoting women's health care. Through its Jerusalem-based hospital system, the Hadassah Medical Organization, Hadassah helps support exemplary care for more than 1 million people every year as well as world-renowned medical research. Hadassah's hospitals serve without regard to race, religion, or nationality and in 2005 earned a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for building bridges to peace through medicine. Hadassah also supports two youth villages (Hadassah Neurim and Meir Shfeyah) that set at-risk youth in Israel on the path to a successful future. Visit www.hadassah.org for additional information.

Today, Hadassah is fighting new diseases and challenges. They are doing what they can to regain what they lost, whether it's helping survivors of Hamas terror learn how to walk again at the new

Gandel Rehabilitation Center at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, or working to regain ground lost for women's health, or advancing new cancer treatments.

Closer to home, Hadassah Northern New England is hosting a major fundraising brunch for the Gandel Rehabilitation Center in Jerusalem. It will be at the Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers, MA, on April 27, 2025 from 11AM-2PM. Celebrity fashion designer David Josef will give a presentation.

Also, the Hadassah Northampton-Amherst (MA) chapter is presenting a virtual program on Jewish Women Healers in Early Modern Europe. In recent years, scholars have begun to unearth the contributions of women to healthcare and healing. This zoom program will be on Wednesday, May 14 from 7PM-8:30PM.

If you would like additional information about Hadassah, the above programs, become a member, or donate, please contact michele.bank@gmail.com.



Shavua Tov Story Time

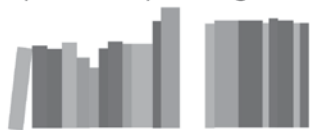
A program for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Register once for \$18.00 to receive monthly crafts in the mail for the year! The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Scan QR code to register or go to <https://forms.gle/q6E3s2nilvmwWibe7>.



September 15 Theme: Rosh Hashanah	February 9 Theme: Tu B'Shevat
October 13 Theme: Sukkot	March 9 Theme: Purim
November 17 Theme: Shabbat	April 6 Theme: Passover
December 15 Theme: Chanukah	May 4 Theme: Lag B'Omer
January 12 Theme: Mitzvot	June 1 Theme: Shavuot

No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



Visit <https://forms.gle/q6E3s2nilvmwWibe7> to register or email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions.

Don't know whom to turn to?
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- Unemployment
- Medical and drug costs
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- Drug or alcohol addiction
- Mental health
- Children with learning, physical, and/or emotional disabilities
- Senior care/dementia
- Legal aid, incarceration, police matters

Don't let your problems simmer until they boil over. Call the JFNH social worker at **603-310-9941**.

All calls and assistance are confidential.

Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Mifgash that Matters: An iCenter Post October 7 Gathering in Israel

By Sarit Tsor, TBA Nashua

In early February 2025, the typically vibrant city of Tel Aviv felt different for visitors. Very few tourists roamed the streets, and posters demanding the return of Israel's hostages held in Hamas captivity in Gaza, as well as memorials for the victims, were present at every corner of the city.

Sarit Tsor, Director of Education and Engagement, and Rebecca White, Director of Operations at Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, attended the iCenter's "Mifgash That Matters," (which translates to "Encounter That Matters") in Tel Aviv from February 3-6, 2025. The iCenter, an organization dedicated to meaningful Israel education, brought together a diverse group of Jewish professionals to Israel, to engage in experiences and conversations related to Israel post October 7th.

At the heart of the seminar was the idea of "encounter" – not just as a meeting or gathering, but a transformative experience which brought to life the living experience of the people of the State of Israel after the horrific events of October 7th and the Swords of Iron War that has followed. The program included museum exhibitions, visits of war af-

fectured areas in the country, meeting with Israeli people of various backgrounds and roles, and most importantly, opportunities to reflect and synthesize the learning experiences.

The seminar included a visit to Kfar Azza, a kibbutz in the Gaza Envelope area of Israel which suffered on October 7th a great loss of life, hostages taken to Gaza and much destruction to property. The tour around the Kibbutz was offered by a Kibbutz member who survived the attack and was able to share with us her personal experience of that day, and the weeks and months following. This was an impactful, emotionally difficult and eye-opening visit.

The group also visited the memorial in the city of Sderot, standing on the location of the police station which was a battle ground between Israeli law enforcement and terrorists on October 7th. Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, where families of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza gather to educate and advocate for the release of their loved ones, was another location visited.

Among the encounters with Israelis, the group met with Youssef Ziadna, a Muslim Bedouin minibus driver who rescued over 30 people from the Nova music festival massacre. The conversation was



Sderot Police Station Memorial



Dizengoff Square impromptu memorial, Tel Aviv



Hostages Square, Tel Aviv

inspiring and highlighted the importance of simple humanity free of religious bias and divisions. Hassan Hajj, a Muslim Israeli-Arab working to promote co-existence in the city of Haifa, was an informative speaker sharing his experience of Israel as a non-Jewish citizen of the country. Aya Zahavi-Feiglin, a Jewish Israeli singer-songwriter, inspired participants with an uplifting musical performance and sharing her experiences as an artist looking for a way to make a positive impact on soldiers and evacuees during the war. The poet Bacol Serlui helped seminar attendees express and process their experiences through the writing of poetry. Rabbi Shalom Myer and his wife Lynn shared their efforts in advocating for and supporting Ultra-Orthodox recruits in the IDF, and author Etgar Keret spoke about writing as a form of expression that helped him communicate with Israeli audiences during the war. Finally, Maayan Snapir, the granddaughter of

hostages and a member of the Hostages Families Forum, shared her personal experiences from the October 7th massacre in her grandparent's kibbutz and working with the Hostages Families Forum to free them and other hostages from captivity.

The seminar left many participants with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to sharing the living experience of Israel post October 7th with our North American communities and beyond. Attendees were more committed than ever to bring the reality of the impact on Israel that this devastating attack and war have created.

The "Mifgash That Matters" seminar in Israel was more than just a program — it was an immersive and intense experience, fostering personal connections and offering diverse viewpoints and narratives related to the October 7th attack and Swords of Iron War.

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Recent Events

JBI Library Offers Free Passover Haggadot and Programming to Individuals Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision or Other Print Disabilities

**Deadline to order Haggadot:
March 28, 2025**

NEW YORK (March 6, 2025) – JBI Library, a Jewish organization that supports people who are blind, have low vision, or have print disabilities, invites individuals to take part in its free Passover offerings, including complimentary accessible large print, braille, and audio Haggadot (17 different editions) and inclusive virtual and in-person “Passover 101” programming.

“During Passover, we sit together with family and friends and read the story of the Jews’ Exodus from Egypt from the Haggadah,” said JBI Executive Director Livia Thompson. “The act of reading this ancient story in parallel with Jews sitting at other tables around the world creates a sense of warmth and connection. For those with blindness, low vision, or other print disabilities, however, not being able to partake in this communal experience can instead feel very isolating. Whether leading a seder or asking the Four Questions for the first time, everyone deserves the opportunity to engage in the Passover story and feel a true sense of belonging—our accessible editions help make that possible.”

Maxine S., the niece of a longtime JBI patron from Canada added, “My aunt has not been able to enjoy a seder in years due to visual impairment. Thanks to the large print Haggadah from JBI, a beloved family member can now fully participate in the family seder.”

To learn more or to request a free* large print, braille, or audio Haggadah for you or someone you know or love, please visit JBI’s website at www.jbilibrary.org, call 800-999-6476, or email haggadah@jbilibrary.org. Please note that in order to receive a free Haggadah in time for this year’s Passover Seder, orders must be placed no later than March 28, 2025. *Haggadot are free for individuals. For institutions requesting Haggadot, NYC-based nonprofits may qualify for free materials thanks to a grant from NYCT. Organizations and businesses located outside of New York City may request materials for a modest fee used to cover production costs.

brary.org, call 800-999-6476, or email haggadah@jbilibrary.org. Please note that in order to receive a free Haggadah in time for this year’s Passover Seder, orders must be placed no later than March 28, 2025. *Haggadot are free for individuals. For institutions requesting Haggadot, NYC-based nonprofits may qualify for free materials thanks to a grant from NYCT. Organizations and businesses located outside of New York City may request materials for a modest fee used to cover production costs.

JBI Library 2025 Passover Offerings

- Accessible Haggadot (Large Print, Braille, and Audio)
- 17 different versions, including Haggadot in several languages, denominations, as well as a Haggadah “digest” for communal seders, perfect for use in settings such as nursing homes. Request 800-999-6476 or haggadah@jbilibrary.org.
- The “Mishkan HaSeder” from the CCAR Press
- PJ Library’s *Family Haggadah* (plus audio version for families who want to study the text and songs in advance of the holiday)
- The *Chabad Haggadah*
- Judaism 101: Passover Programming
- As part of its ongoing “Judaism 101 Learning Series,” JBI will be offering free, accessible in-person and virtual programming entitled “Passover 101,” which will discuss the themes and customs of Passover. Register at jbilibrary.org/catalog/judaism-101.
- “Passover 101” (in-person), March 26 at 4:30 PM ET in New York City, led by chef Lana Flame

- “Passover 101” (virtual Zoom) April 1 at 4:30 PM ET, led by Rabbi Gabrielle Cohn

About JBI

Founded in 1931, JBI Library is a non-profit organization that supports people of all ages and backgrounds who are blind, have low vision, or have print disabilities to fully participate and feel connected to all aspects of Jewish life, from culture, education, and community to religious practice. JBI is committed to increasing accessibility and inclusion so that anyone who wants to connect to Jewish life can access and engage with the written word, independently and without obstacles, to participate, celebrate, learn, and pray.

JBI creates, publishes, and distributes thousands of Jewish-interest materials in audio, braille, and large print, and sends them free of charge directly to patrons. Alongside its vast circulating library, liturgical texts, customized materials, and educational and cultural offerings, JBI advocates on behalf of inclusivity and accessibility. In addition to serving individuals directly, JBI helps groups and organizations to meet the accessibility needs of their communities by providing a range of services, including transcribing and producing custom texts into braille, audio, and large print formats.

To learn more, visit www.jbilibrary.org or contact JBI’s librarians at 212-545-8025 or 1-800-433-1531.

Film Review

continued from page 19

If you were unable to join us for in-theater screenings of *Technion 102*, *Unspoken*, and *The Blond Boy from the Casbah*, the good news is that they will be available virtually from April 6 to 11. Additionally, *Running on Sand*, *Never Alone*, *The Property*, and *Soda*

will also be available at home from the start of the Festival on March 23 to the end of the Bonus Week on April 11. Our virtual platform Eventive will house all of these titles, which can easily be streamed on any compatible smart TV or device.

We thank you again for your support and look forward to seeing you at the movies!

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In the names of Esther and Heshy Halpern – Marc and Alice Serber

How to submit an obituary

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

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, Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

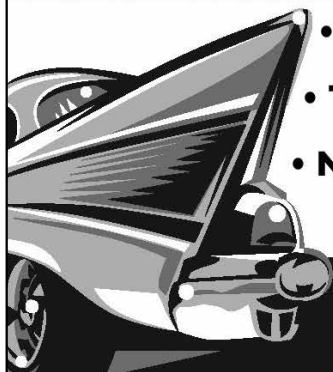
When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

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

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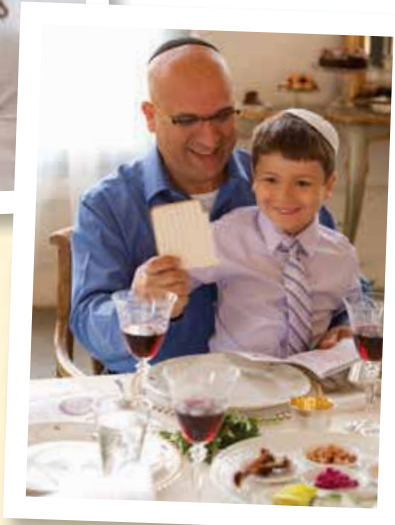
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This Passover, as we gather to celebrate freedom, resilience, and tradition, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is here to strengthen and support our community. From fostering Jewish learning to standing in solidarity with Israel, we ensure that Jewish life thrives across the Granite State. Your generosity makes it all possible—because wherever there is joy, caring, and Jewish values, the Federation is there. Donate today to help us continue this vital work.



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