

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

Published by the
 Jewish Federation of
 New Hampshire

Volume 45, Number 3

December 2024 - January 2025

Kislev - Shevat 5785



CHANUKAH



Image by Mike from Pixabay

Remembering our Resilience

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As we approach the end of another year, this season brings moments for both celebration and reflection. In December, we gather around the menorah for Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, commemorating the miracle that kept the menorah aglow for eight days with only a small amount of oil. The flames of the menorah remind us of our enduring resilience and the power of hope even in the darkest times. This year, as we light our candles, we also hold in our hearts those in Israel and around the world who continue to seek peace and safety. Chanukah events are taking place in communities across the state, and I encourage

Allyson Guertin

**JFNH
 Director**



you to locate one near you and join in the celebration. Together, may our Chanukah lights shine as symbols of courage, faith, and the strength we find in our shared Jewish community.


With the start of the new year, we also enter a period of solemn remembrance. On January 27th, we observe Interna-

tional Holocaust Remembrance Day, honoring the lives of six million Jews and millions of others lost in one of the darkest chapters of human history. This day serves as a reminder of our responsibility to educate future generations, to combat hatred, and to ensure "Never Again" is not just a phrase but a commitment. In recognition of this, we are honored to partner again with the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies to host "L'Dough V'Dough" on January 26th. During this special event, Holocaust survivors (and others with a personal connection to the Holocaust) are

Remembering *continued on page 3*

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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.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

Volume 45, Number 3

DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025
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The objectives of The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of New Hampshire by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

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

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

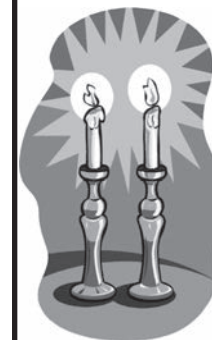
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



December 6	3:53 PM
December 13	3:53 PM
December 20	3:56 PM
December 27	4:00 PM
January 3	4:06 PM
January 10	4:13 PM
January 17	4:21 PM
January 24	4:30 PM
January 31	4:40 PM

Light and Legends

Winter is a time of stories. Days turn to night at 4pm and we pull out the sweaters and slippers. I want to build a pillow fort and read while drinking tea or hot chocolate. I want to let my kids tell me their favorite stories and let the tales take life in our minds as we imagine ourselves the heroes and heroines.

One of my favorite Jewish stories is the legend that, during times of persecution when Jewish study was forbidden, Jews would study Torah in secret. If soldiers came by, they would quickly hide their scrolls and take out dreidels, pretending to be playing games. I can picture the rabbis with their old scrolls and books, the children fidgety and nervous, the voices echoing off cave walls in dim light. Even as a child I was taken by how important reading and learning was – that people would hide in a cave to study together and go to great lengths to make sure they were always learning.

Judaism teaches the value of education, learning, and storytelling. We are admonished over and over to tell our stories, specifically to our children.

PJ Library recently published a new guide, *A Time to Hope: A PJ Library Family Guide for Hanukkah Through Purim*. From the PJ Library website: “This guide focuses on four Jewish

Dinah Berch

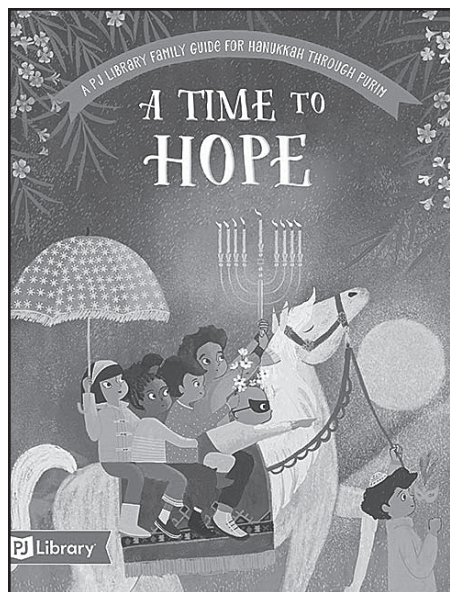
JFNH
Program
Coordinator



holidays that fall each year between November and March — **SIGD**, an Ethiopian Jewish holiday of homecoming; **HANUKKAH**, the festival of lights; **TU B’SHEVAT**, the birthday of the trees; and **PURIM**, the holiday of turnarounds — are joyful celebrations of hope. None of these four holidays appear in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). They were added later in Jewish history and have served to inspire us in challenging times. They are four beautiful examples of how Judaism both preserves the old and embraces the new and how diverse holiday customs evolve over time and place throughout the Jewish world. You can download the guide as a PDF and individual resources at the QR code or visit <https://pjlibrary.org/hope>.



This year we will light our candles proudly in the window. We will curl up in our box forts and pillow caves and tell



stories. I will tell my kids the stories of the Maccabees. From PJ Library: “In lighting candles and remembering the Maccabees’ fight for their uniqueness, we think about the ways in which we’re unique — the special light within us. When we realize our potential, we grow that light. When we accept and respect others, we honor their light. When we stand up for what’s right (like the Maccabees!), we dedicate ourselves to spreading light.” This second QR code points



to a PJ Library hub: “All of the Hanukkah ‘How To’s’ your family needs.’ Song sheets, recipes, playlists, even a video explaining how to play dreidel. There’s even a link to “Sharing Hanukkah At School” and a one-page “Hanukkah 101” cheat-sheet to share with your child’s teacher!

My daughter Rayna received the PJ Library book *You’re My Little Latke!* by Nicola Edwards this month and it’s one of the sweetest baby books I’ve seen. We’re also huge fans of *Meet the Latkes* by Alan Silberberg, and of course, *The Chanukkah Guest* by Eric Kimmel. Last year I was introduced to Lemony Snicket’s *The Latke Who Couldn’t Stop Screaming: A Christmas Story* and it’s also become one of our favorites. I highly recommend it, especially for interfaith families.

For older readers PJ Our Way has a great collection of Hanukkah books as well: *A Dreidel in Time* by Marcia Berneger; *Dreidels on the Brain* by Joel Ben Izzy; *The Golden Dreidel* by Ellen Kushner, to name a few. See more at this QR code. And check out the PJ Library podcasts!



Wishing everyone a season of warmth and light.

Remembering

continued from page 1

seated at tables with community members to share personal stories while braiding challah bread together. The name for this event is a play on the Hebrew phrase “*I dor vador*,” which means “from generation to generation.” This powerful inter-generational experience helps bridge the past and present, fostering a legacy of remembrance and resilience that we carry forward with each loaf we braid.

As we look toward 2025, we are inspired by the continued strength and compassion of our New Hampshire Jewish community. Through Chanukah celebrations and Holocaust remembrance, we come together to honor both the joy and the solemnity of our heritage. May we each carry forward the spirit of this season, kindling the lights of hope, resilience, and unity.

Wishing you a joyous Chanukah.

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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.

November 1 – December 11

Etz Hayim Synagogue Annual Latke Bake

The Etz Hayim Synagogue Latke Ladies are now taking orders. Orders will come in frozen packages of (6), four-inch+ sized latkes for \$10 each (compare to Goldbelly's at \$20-36 per 1/2 dozen!). Order deadline is 12/11. Please visit www.etzhayim.org to order, pay and select your pick up time. Sponsor: Laurie Medrek. Contact Laurie Medrek at 603-512-5711 or imedrek@gmail.com with questions.

Tuesday, December 3

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving that takes place annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This Giving Tuesday please support PJ Library – New Hampshire. PJ Library is a program created and supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in Massachusetts. PJ Library is funded nationally in partnership with local philanthropists and organizations. PJ Library is brought to New Hampshire by the Jewish Federation. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire subsidizes this program to ensure that New Hampshire Jewish families can receive free of charge, age-appropriate, Jewish-content books and music on a monthly basis. Families raising children from birth through 8 years old with Judaism as part of their lives, are welcome to sign up. Children aged 9-12 are encouraged to join the companion program, PJ Our Way. PJ Library and PJ Our Way welcome all Jewish families, whatever your background, knowledge, family make-up, or observance may be. Overall, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire has served almost 1200 families through the PJ Library program. Your support not only enriches the lives of Jewish families in New Hampshire but also contributes to our broader mission of supporting Israel and combating antisemitism. Your children are learning about the world around them through the stories they hear. PJ Library books can bring Jewish ideas and inspiration for you and your children to share together. But PJ Library also goes beyond books. Jewish Federation of New Hampshire employees travel the state to bring books, resources, activities and programs to families like you. And we can't do it without your support! Every donation, however small, helps us to bring this excellent Jewish content to families like you. Your \$40 gift ensures one child in New Hampshire receives a year of PJ Library books. Will you help us to maintain and expand our PJ Library offerings throughout the state this year? Donate at <https://givebutter.com/PJNH2024> or contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.

Wednesday, December 4

TIP presents Kibbutz Galuyot, Ingathering of the Exiles with Jared Goldfarb

7pm, Temple Israel, 200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH

Spotlight on Israel Fall 2024 Class Series at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Jared Goldfarb leads four sessions discussing Israel's complex history, politics, and culture. Classes may be taken individually or as a series of four. Free and open to all; register via the temple website calendar. Wednesday, 12/4, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Kibbutz Galuyot, Ingathering of the Exiles. We survey the diverse Jewish communities that call Israel home - from Ashkenaz to Yaman - and look at the successes and failures of the attempt to create a unified Israeli identity. About our speaker: An independent educator and licensed tour guide living in Jerusalem, Jared Goldfarb teaches the history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, biblical geography, and the geopolitical history of Israel and Palestine to religious leaders of all faiths, educators, seminarians and university students from around the world.

Sponsor: Temple Israel Cultural Endowment Fund Contact the Temple Office at 603-436-5301 or templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org with questions.

Friday, December 6

Temple Adath Yeshurun Family Shabbat Service

6pm, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH

Join us for a Family Shabbat Service at 6pm followed by Pizza.

RSVP required in advance. Sponsor: Temple Adath Yeshurun.

Contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or office@taynh.org.

Sunday, December 8

Temple Israel – From the River to the Sea, Is There Room for You and Me?

10am, Temple Israel, 200 State St, Portsmouth, NH
Spotlight on Israel Fall 2024 Class Series at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Jared Goldfarb leads four sessions discussing Israel's complex history, politics, and culture. Classes may be taken individually or as a series of four. Free and open to all; register via the temple website calendar. Sunday, 12/8, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. "From the River to the Sea" Is There Room for You and Me? We take a deep dive into modern Palestine and discuss geography, identity, nationalism, relationship with Israel, and hope for the future.

About our speaker: An independent educator and licensed tour guide living in Jerusalem, Jared Goldfarb teaches the history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, biblical geography, and the geopolitical history of Israel and Palestine to religious leaders of all faiths, educators, seminarians and university students from around the world. Sponsor: Temple Israel Cultural Endowment Fund. Contact the Temple Office at 603-436-5301 or templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org.

Thursday, December 12

Curating Yiddish Culture with David Mazower

7pm, Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West Street, Amherst, MA via Zoom

Free online talk. Join us for a talk with David Mazower, the Yiddish Book Center's research bibliographer and the chief curator and writer of the Center's acclaimed permanent exhibition, Yiddish: A Global Culture. David will share his favorite objects and images from the exhibition, stories of the search for original artifacts, and reflections on how

the exhibition speaks to us about the past, present, and future of Yiddish culture and community. Contact Eva Gellman at 413-256-4900 or updates@yiddishbookcenter.org.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents Your Diet & Your Health

7pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

David Riese is an Aerospace Engineer with a keen interest in how diet and lifestyle affect health. After seeing Dr. Joel Fuhrman's "Eat to Live" program on PBS ten years ago, he read the book and started following the program. He immediately experienced weight loss and improved energy and vitality and has been following the plant-based lifestyle ever since. Mr. Riese will share his experiences and suggest the best resources and tips to get started on this wonderful, health-promoting lifestyle. All programs are 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.
Sponsor: Laurie Medrek

Friday, December 13

Chanukah Pre-Check with Congregation Betenu

7:30pm, Congregation Betenu, 5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst, NH

Join Congregation Betenu on Friday, December 13 for a Chanukah preparation celebration led by rabbinic intern Jayce Koester. Try out latkes, practice gift exchanging and rehearse your blessings. Just because you may be traveling at Chanukah this year doesn't mean you have to miss out on congregational traditions. Contact the Betenu office at 603-886-1633 or office@betenu.org for more information.

Sunday, December 15

Shavua Tov Story Time – Chanukah

8:30am via Zoom

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 from 8:30am to 9:00am. 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.

Super Sunday 2024

10am, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road #5, Bedford, NH

Support the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire on Super Sunday!

Each year, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire brings together individuals and families across our state to celebrate and strengthen our community. From providing critical support for Jewish education and cultural programs to standing strong in the face of rising antisemitism, we are here to ensure that our Jewish community remains vibrant and resilient.

This year, more than ever, your support is essential.

The events of the past year—including the attack on Israel on October 7th—have reminded us of the importance of unity, advocacy, and mutual care. The Federation has been at the forefront, organizing solidarity gatherings, coordinating with local and state leadership, and offering security and educational resources to our synagogues and Jewish institutions.

What Your Gift Will Support:

Vital Programs: From the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival to PJ Library, we're enriching Jewish life for all ages.

Holocaust Remembrance & Education: Partnering with local organizations to honor our past and educate future generations, including programs like L'Dough V'Dough and 6 Million Steps.

Israel Advocacy and Solidarity: Hosting events and discussions, and organizing the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

Security & Community Support: Ensuring our community remains safe and strong in times of increasing antisemitism.

Your contribution to this year's campaign will allow us to continue these important programs, respond swiftly to community needs, and invest in the future of Jewish life in New Hampshire.

Join us on Super Sunday to make a difference!

Every donation, no matter the size, helps us build a stronger, more connected Jewish community.

Together, we can ensure that the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire continues to be a beacon of strength, resilience, and support for all. <https://givebutter.com/SuperSunday24>

How the Holocaust Changed the Yiddish Language, with Hannah Pollin-Galay

2pm, Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West Street, Amherst, MA

During and immediately after World War II, Eastern European Jews perceived a radical transformation in the Yiddish language. This perception inspired some intellectuals to create dictionaries and glossaries that deciphered the metamorphosis of Yiddish words. Others incorporated this new strain of Yiddish into their poetry and prose. In this conversation, Hannah will explore Khurbn Yiddish (Yiddish of the Holocaust) as a form of Holocaust memory. Following the conversation there will be a book signing.

Free conversation | Sunday, December 15, 2:00 p.m. ET, at the Yiddish Book Center and streamed live via Zoom. Contact Eva Gellman at 413-256-4900 or updates@yiddishbookcenter.org or visit <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/> for more information.

Monday, December 16

Inside Israel with Ra'anana

1pm, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, #5, Bedford, NH 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. Occasionally pertinent articles will be shared in advance, and each session will end with time for questions. This program will meet on the third Monday of each month for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid - bring your lunch and 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 with questions, or see our calendar at www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar to register.

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Statewide Calendar of Events

Calendar

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Thursday, December 19

Maccabees to Monadnock: An Oil Journey

11am, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, #5, Bedford, NH
Please join us for a presentation by Monadnock Oil & Vinegar, followed by tastings of oils and balsamic vinegars. Chanukah tapas / small plates will be served including soup and latkes! Paula from Monadnock Oil & Vinegar will join us to showcase different products. Monadnock Oil & Vinegar is located in Dublin, NH and Amherst, NH - learn more and browse recipes on their website here. Products will be available to purchase as well. Registration required by Dec 13. \$10/person | In-Person Only. Sponsor: Seniors Forever Young. Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions or see our calendar at www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar to register.

Wednesday, December 25

First Night of Chanukah

Friday, December 27

Temple Israel Kabbalat Shabbat & Complimentary Community Dinner

6pm, Temple Israel Manchester, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH
Traditional Shabbat followed by community dinner. Please RSVP by noon on Dec. 17. <https://forms.gle/3RHV1nhRonBzTApB6>. Contact Christine Dame at 603-716-0428 or office@templeisraelmht.org with questions.

Congregation Betenu Chanukah Service

7pm, Congregation Betenu, 5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst, NH
Bring your menorah and join us for a lay-led third night of Chanukah celebration. Or join our Zoom to add your light to the celebration. Contact Elsa Conrad at 603-886-1633 or office@betenu.org with questions.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Annual Menorah Lighting

7:15pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Join us for the 3rd night of Chanukah and Shabbat Services on Friday, December 27 at 7:15 PM! Participants are encouraged to bring their own menorahs with four candles as we will light up the synagogue bringing light to our world. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Sponsor: Laurie Medrek. Contact Jay Madnick at 603-432-0004 or office@etzhayim.org with questions.

Sunday, December 29

Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Family Chanukah Breakfast

10am, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
FAMILY CHANUKAH BREAKFAST
Sponsored by the Sisterhood and Men's Group. Join us for a fun Chanukah celebration!
Bagel breakfast provided. Latke Contest: BYO latkes - traditional or unique. Sour cream and apple sauce will be provided. Kids Decorated Cookie Contest: Kids, bring your pre-decorated cookies to enter the contest! Kids Cookie Decorating: Cookies and decorating supplies will be provided. Music and Games: Chanukah themed music and games! RSVP required: Please email office@etzhayim.org and let

us know how many adults and children will be attending. No charge, but donations are welcome. Contact the office at 603-432-0004 or office@etzhayim.org with questions.

Temple Israel Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Cocktail Party

5pm, Temple Israel Manchester, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH
RSVP required by Dec 19. <https://forms.gle/roXhwBztJTdkVj68>. Contact Christine Dame at 603-716-0428 or office@templeisraelmht.org.

Tuesday, December 31

Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates New Year's in Jerusalem

4pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Celebrate New Year's Eve in Israel at Etz Hayim Synagogue: A Family Potluck Party
Israeli Cuisine (potluck). Shofar Drop at Midnight (Jerusalem Time). Fireworks, Games, Music. Sponsor: Laurie Medrek. Contact the office at 603-432-0004 or office@etzhayim.org with questions.

Thursday, January 9

Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents Beyond AI: Thriving in the New Era

7pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
On Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM, Wayne Kurtzman will discuss Artificial Intelligence. The online world and offline world will become more engaging, more visual and more interesting. Artificial intelligence is just one part of the changes. Learn what is gradually (and rapidly) changing and how to thrive as we move from the industrial era to the new digital economy. All programs are 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 the 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.

Sunday, January 19

Shavua Tov Story Time - Mitzvot

8:30am via Zoom
A JFNH-sponsored program designed 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. 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.

Tuesday, January 21

Inside Israel with Ra'anán

1pm, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, #5, Bedford, NH and via Zoom.
NOTE - The January Session of "Inside Israel with Ra'anán" will take place on Tuesday, instead of Monday, due to observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Join Former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anán de Haas to discuss news and hot topics in Israel

Ra'anán will cover everything from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics. Occasionally pertinent articles will be shared in advance, and each session will end with time for questions. This program will meet on the third Monday of each month for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid - bring your lunch and 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 with questions, or see our calendar at www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar to register.

Sunday, January 26

L'dough v'dough 2025

2pm, The Millspace, 55 Main Street, South Entry, River Level, Newmarket, NH
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies present L'Dough v'Dough - a community storytelling and bread making event.

In this program, Holocaust survivors (and others with a personal connection to the Holocaust) are seated at tables with community members to share personal stories while braiding challah bread together. The name for this event is a play on the Hebrew phrase "l'dor v'dor," which means "from generation to generation." Thus, L'Dough V'Dough programs are meant to cultivate deep relationships and forms of remembrance across generations. L'Dough V'Dough will be a fully in-person event with limited seating capacity. All participants will braid a small loaf of challah to bring home and bake at the end of the event. Additionally, a light meal of soup and bread is included as part of the event. \$18/general audience | \$9 youth and students
Sponsor: JFNH and the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Contact Allyson Guertin at Allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org with questions.

Monday, January 27

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE ISRAEL

WITH RA'ANAN DE HAAS

MONDAY, DEC. 16TH

Note: January's session will be on TUESDAY, January 21st due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Join Former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anán deHaas once a month to discuss news and hot topics in Israel from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics.

Monthly on the 3rd Monday
1pm - 2:30pm
HYBRID: JFNH office
273 S River Rd. Bedford
and via Zoom

Free program.
Scan QR code to register.
Email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.


Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hanukkah Presence: Be the Light

Frying latkes, spinning dreidels, and gathering to light candles — what a joy it is to celebrate Hanukkah! Every year I invest in a new Hanukkah accessory. Last year I picked up a hat with the message that spoke to me. “Oy! Oy! Oy to the World!” This could be a Jewish mantra anytime. But it seems especially relevant this year, as darkness lingers in the air. Collective grief over innocent lives lost in war, Israel, the elections, political divisiveness, inadequate housing, food insecurity, environmental distress, and if that wasn’t enough, it starts getting dark at 4:30 in the afternoon. Hanukkah’s presence invites us to defy the darkness and be the light.

When we’re in a dark theater, beams of stage lighting draw our focus and attention to the drama being played out. It’s the same with Hanukkah, which

Rabbi in the House



Rabba Mark Melamut

Upper Valley Jewish Community

draws our focus towards the story and the holiday’s rituals. The power of light is built into the fabric of the natural world as well. Most living organisms are drawn towards light. We look towards light for comfort and to show us the way. When we kindle the lights of Hanukkah, we remember the miracle that not only occurred “once upon a time,” but that continues today. When all hope was lost and the Temple ransacked by Antiochus IV in 167-164 BCE, the Maccabees “re-



dedicated” (Hebrew word, “*hanukkah*”) the one and only ancient Temple. When we light candles today and “display our lights for all to see” (Hebrew phrase, “*pirsum ha’nes*”), our homes and our hearts can radiate light and hope.

Hanukkah is replete with meaningful themes: the few over the many, Jewish identity in a word of assimilation, miracles, and courage amongst fear and hate, just to name a few. For this year, what calls out in caps to me is: RESILIENCE! Hanukkah is a time to strengthen our spiritual core. Sometimes it feels like we only have enough strength, patience, or bandwidth for just one minute, hour or day. How can we possibly make it last for eight days and even beyond that into next year? It’s one candle, one day, one moment, one breath, at a time. We “pause for the cause” in our busy lives to

simply stand before the hanukiyah and to offer a blessing. If we set our heart’s attention and intention towards the light, we can become more aware of the potential presence of hope just waiting to be unwrapped and activated with our own energy and dedication.

We begin with one candle and add an additional one each night. Why? The rabbis of the Talmud taught that “in matters of holiness, we only increase/grow/expand.” As we bring more and more light each night, we diminish the darkness and create more room for light and hope. Like the *shamash*, the candle that lights them all, we can be the light, expanding and sharing it with others.

May our light shine brighter each day, and may we all grow in hope in 2025. *Chag urim sameach*: Happy festival of lights.

PLANNED GIVING

Secure the future of our Jewish community

As you envision the future of the Jewish community that means so much to you, consider creating a planned gift with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire that will touch the lives of generations to come.

ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING



By making a planned gift to a JFNH endowment fund, you can ensure that your generosity and vision will have an impact that extends far beyond your lifetime. Endowment funds that were established decades ago are still providing important support to our community today. At JFNH, we have the knowledge and expertise to help you design a planned gift that meets your needs while also endowing your personal vision for the future.

- **Unrestricted Endowment.** A gift to JFNH’s Unrestricted Endowment will support the full spectrum of initiatives and programs essential to the future of our Jewish community.
- **Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE).** You can create an endowment to perpetuate your Annual Campaign gift. This is a wonderful way to sustain your lifelong investment in the community you have helped build.
- **Restricted Endowment.** Our planned giving professionals will work with you to craft a gift that supports the work of a valued partner organization or an area of particular interest to you, such as caring for the most vulnerable, engaging people of all ages in Jewish learning, and supporting Israel.

WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

- **Bequests:** A bequest through your will, trust, or retirement account is an easy way to create an endowment. We will work with you and your advisor to create a gift that clearly reflects and honors your intentions.
- **Retirement Plan Assets:** You may designate JFNH as a beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan such as an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b). To do so, simply contact your plan administrator and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form. By naming JFNH as a beneficiary, you may avoid significant and often unanticipated estate and income taxes that would otherwise be paid by your heirs.
- **Life Income Gifts:** A Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust can provide an immediate tax deduction and lifetime income for one or more beneficiaries. After the death of the last beneficiary, the remainder becomes part of an endowment fund to be used in accordance with your wishes.
- **Life Insurance:** You may purchase a life insurance policy that names JFNH as both owner and beneficiary. After your passing, JFNH will redeem the policy and the proceeds will support JFNH’s endowment.

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




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Registration required by Dec 13.
Scan QR, call 603-627-7679 or mail payment to
JFNH, attention: SFY.
Email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org
with questions.



Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund, The Paul and Fran Gordon Fund and The Singer Family Trust Fund



In the Community



Dot Warshaw receiving the TAY sisterhood Woman of the Year Award with former recipients.

TAY Sisterhood Honors Dot Warshaw at Membership Dinner

The social hall at TAY was filled with sisterhood members as they gathered for their annual membership dinner. Following a tradition of learning about Jews throughout the world, the theme this year was Bukhara. Authentic Bukharan recipes were enjoyed by attendees. The meal and beautiful table décor were planned by June Mittelmark and prepared by members. Linda Rockenmacher gave a slide presentation

about the History of Bukharan Jews.

A highlight of the evening is always the presentation of their annual Woman of the Year Award given to a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Sisterhood and temple: The well-deserving recipient this year was long-time temple member Dot Warshaw. She is currently serving as Sisterhood President as well as TAY Cemetery Chair.

TAY Honors our Veterans at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery



On Thursday, November 7th, several members of the TAY Brotherhood accompanied the TAY Cemetery Chair, Dot Warshaw to honor those Jewish Veterans interred at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery. From Left to Right: Marty Warshaw with Dot, Bob Katchen, Ed Schoen, Mark Granoff, Al Halpern and David Rosenzweig. This is a long-standing tradition of remembrance, and an honor to walk through the history of more than 100 years of service to our country. It was a perfect afternoon for placing the 130+ flags at the graves of our veterans. Thanks to all who participated. (Photo by David Rosenzweig photo, caption by Mark Granoff).

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Shabbat and Simchat Torah at Etz Hayim

By Steve Soreff, MD

On Friday night, October 25, 2024, Etz Hayim Synagogue observed Shabbat and Simchat Torah. Etz Hayim means "Tree of Life," and the Torah is our Tree of Life. The Torah portion of the service began with the three Torahs removed and paraded about the sanctuary. Congregant Rachel Crain read the last portion of the Book of Deuteronomy from one Torah, followed by the reading of the first portion of the Book

of Genesis by Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz, thus completing and beginning our annual Torah cycle.

Next, Jay Madnick talked about our Torahs' histories and pointed out some of their features. Our Hazzan, Al Sandler, displayed the two new Torah mantles that his family donated. After one more parade about the sanctuary, the Torahs were returned to the ark. It was a meaningful and moving service followed by an oneg featuring ice cream donated by Dr. Sandler.



Rachel Crain



Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz

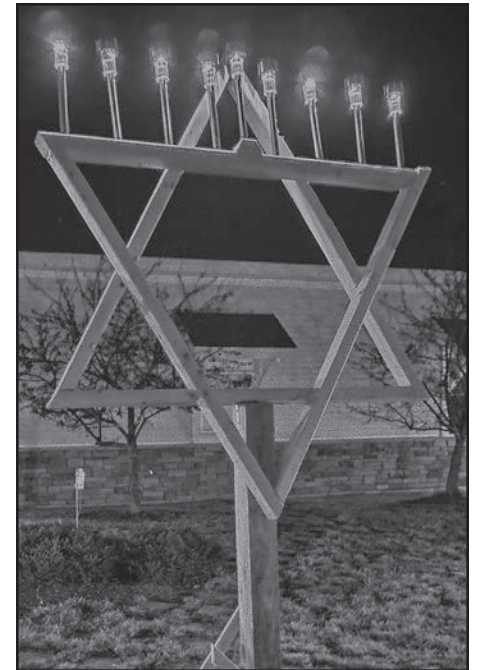
Etz Hayim Annual Latke Sale

**Order Deadline:
Wednesday, December 11**


The Etz Hayim Latke Ladies are holding their annual latke sale. Latkes come in frozen packages of (6), 4" latkes at \$10 per package (compare to Goldbelly's at \$20-36 per 1/2 dozen). Please visit www.etzhayim.org to place your order, pay, and select your pickup date.



Join Etz Hayim December 27



Join Etz Hayim for the 3rd night of Chanukah and Shabbat Services on Friday, December 27 at 7:15 PM! Participants are encouraged to bring their own menorahs with four candles as we will light up the synagogue bringing light to our world. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-112 Hood Road, Derry, NH. (Menorah created by Jay Madnick)



We Need You


Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

Do you have a favorite PJ Our Way book?
Something you just couldn't put down or that you think **EVERYONE** should read?

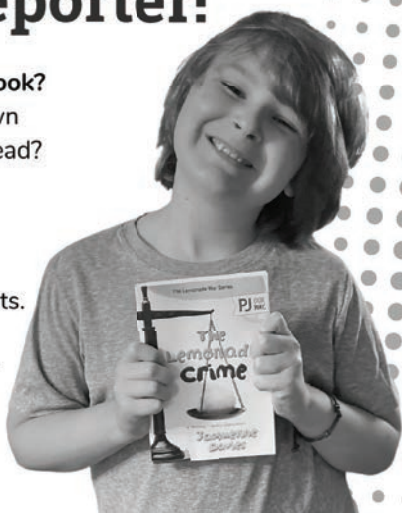
Tell us all about it!

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Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org
or email for details & question prompts.

We'll publish your review in upcoming issues of The Reporter and on Facebook!



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In the Community

Mah Jongg at JFNH

We welcome you to join the fun! Mah Jongg is alive and well at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Did you know that the word mah jongg means sparrows, an allusion to the pictures of birds engraved on some of the tiles? Join

us on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM for some tile clicking, socializing, and mental stimulation. For a few hours, escape and take your mind off from everything else – global politics, antisemitism, family issues. Come and join us!

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Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia Honoring New Members



On Friday, Nov. 1 at Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia, a very special Shabbat took place honoring the new members who joined TBI over the past year. There was a wonderful musical celebration of Shabbat and Simchat Torah featuring Cantorial Soloist Melody Funk, accompanists Joel Funk on the piano and John McArthur with his guitar, Mark Aronson and Julie Hart. The service was followed by a delicious Oneg, including a variety of quiches, a tomato pie, homemade tapioca, and other delicious desserts, topped off by a surprise birthday celebration for Suzanne Appleton.



Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies present

L'DOUGH V'DOUGH

Hear personal stories of the Holocaust while braiding challah together.

Sunday, January 26th, 2pm

\$18 general tickets
\$9 students or youth

The Millspace
55 Main Street
Newmarket, NH



Scan QR code to register and pay online or call JFNH at 603-627-7679. Checks may be sent to Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110. Questions? Email JFNH at info@jewishnh.org.



Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies



2024 TAY Brotherhood Candidates Forum Continues a Tradition That Goes Back Many Years

By Sol Rockenmacher and Mark Granoff

For over 40 years, the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood has hosted a Candidates Forum at TAY every two years, attracting candidates for Governor, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. This year's Forum was on Sunday morning, October 27. Doors opened at 8:45am. The room was once again set up in a patriotic theme. For the attendees there was a table of delicious bagels, cream cheese and assorted pastries, coffee, tea, water and juice.

The program got underway at 9:15am. Brotherhood President Mark Granoff welcomed the audience and introduced Ambassador George Bruno, once again the moderator for the program. George outlined the event schedule. The program started with Scouts Raelynn, Brayden and Miles Woodward once again leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our country. Then Rabbi Beth Davidson led us in a moment of silence in remembrance of the 11 Jews who were murdered 6 years ago at the temple in Pittsburgh, and she then told us that, "Events like this morning testify that our community is an important part of the American landscape, and that it is crucial for us to be part of the process of charting our future, in building better communities, states and our nation." Rabbi told us about extending the meaning of the word Torah from its literal sense teaching, "To include the teachings we are about to hear: how our candidates view the issues in the upcoming election and their ideas for making our society a better place."

She ended stating that she believed, in her words, "That as we listen, the Presence of God is in this room --- and so we ought to respond by listening respectfully, especially to those opinions with which we do not agree. Only when we listen, learn, and actually work together, can we hope to make our community and our state better."

This set the tone for the morning.

From there, we had a wonderful representation of candidates: Kelly Ayotte and Joyce Craig for Governor, Russell Prescott and Chris Pappas for 1st Congressional

District Representative, Lily Tang Williams and Maggie Goodlander for 2nd Congressional District. Massachusetts US Representative Jake Auchincloss was a surrogate for the Democratic President/Vice President ticket. They each gave introductory statements, answered questions from the audience and then gave closing comments. George Bruno did a masterful job as moderator, bringing the questions to the candidates with a level tone and keen wit as appropriate.

There was a very impressive turnout of well over 100 attendees. The atmosphere

was very civil and cordial, respectful and informative. We thank the candidates and their staffs for joining us in this example of democracy in action.

Hats off to the TAY band of Brothers and Sisters who worked so hard putting this very special occasion together and carrying it out with such energy and enthusiasm. This group of "worker bees" includes Mark Granoff, Pat Kalik, David Penschansky, Sol Rockenmacher and George for the planning and structure of the Forum. Thank you to the Woodwards, Rabbi Beth, Ed Schoen, Denis Paiste, Bob Katchen, David Rosenzweig, Alan Kaplan, Al Halpern, Steve Short, Michael Bank, Nadir Ali, Mark Bilech, Bob LeFevre, Eric Ratinoff, Paul Hoyt, and Linda Rockenmacher; Apologies to anyone who has been left off the list.

It was an event that has already received many compliments, and some quotes from our group sum up why the Forum once again turned out so well, such as this from Bob Katchen: "Many hands make for light work." Also, as said by Alan Kaplan: "It takes a village, and we have a great group in our village."



Photography by David Rosenzweig.



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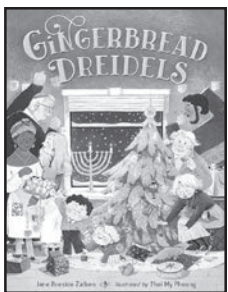
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

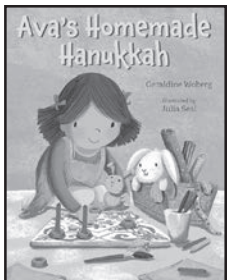
Books for Chanukah 2024

It is time, once again, to pull out all the trusted and well-loved Chanukah stories. As the holiday season is right in front of us, though, I am sharing some new titles for Chanukah—just in case you are interested in something new to read this year, both for children and adults.

Gingerbread Dreidels by Jane Breskin Zalban is very relevant this year, when we'll see both Hannukah and Christmas overlap. When Sophie and Max's family gets together to celebrate both Hannukah and Christmas, there are latkes and applesauce along with sweet potato pudding and turkey. They light the menorah and sing "O Chanukah," and light up the Christmas tree and sing "Silent Night". They are all happy to be together--Sophie, Max, their parents, and all the grandparents—watching the flames from the menorah and lights from the tree reflected on the ceiling.



Ava's Homemade Hanukkah, written by Geraldine Woberg, is the story of Ava and her family tradition for each member of the family to bring a menorah to light on the last night of Hannukah. Ava tells her stuffed bunny about the story of Hannukah and then listens to each family mem-



ber explain the significance of their menorah. Ava creates her own very special menorah to bring this year for the family celebration.

Best Kids Hanukkah Jokes Ever! is a compilation of jokes from *Highlights for Children, Highlights Press*. Here are just a few to get you started on your way to being the comedy entertainment hub this H a n n u k a h : "Who's there?" "Noah." "Noah who?" "Noah a good joke?" How about this joke; "Which candle burns longer - a blue candle or a white candle? Neither. They both burn shorter." There are so many corny jokes in here, but kids will love telling them over and over.



Another new book written by Leslie Kimmelman is *The Eight Knights of Hannukah*. It features Galia Bernstein's colorful artwork depicting the round table, knights of old, and of course a dragon named Dreadful. As the people get ready to celebrate the holiday, the dragon causes trouble. The Eight Knights come to the rescue with acts of kindness and bravery. Then everyone gathers together to light the candles and eat delicious treats.



Hanukkah Pajamakkahs is a story by Dara Henry about getting a present of

Hannukah pajamas. Ruthie gets the PJs on the first night of Hannukah and wears them every night. Each night of Hannukah, something different happens to spill on her pajamas, even though she is trying hard to keep them clean. By the eighth night they are covered but she wears them anyway to the family pajamakkah party.

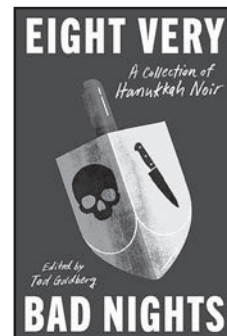


Then for the middle school crowd a book of short stories, we have *The Festival of Lights* edited by Henry Herz. This is a collection of short stories and poems that all touch on Hannukah. With story titles like, "The Mitzvah Tree," "The Thing About Stars," "Light in Darkness" or "Dancing on Hannukah," all written by award-winning authors. There's even a recipe to make homemade olive oil if you grow your own olives, or you can find fresh ones in a store.

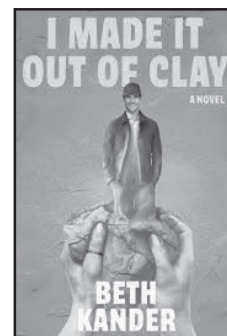


Eight Very Bad Nights: A Collection of Hannukah Noir is a book of short


stories for adults. This book is curated by the mystery author Tod Goldberg with eleven cozy or twisted Hanukah mysteries to keep you busy reading for all eight nights. Sample titles of these stories are "Not a Dinner Party Person", "Johnny Christmas," and "Shamash". All the stories are connected to Hannukah, while covering the genres of mystery, hardboiled noir, cozy caper, or police procedural.



Finally, *I Made It Out of Clay*, by Beth Kander is a romcom centered around Eve, a Jewish woman born around Hannukah, who has to find a date to her sister's Hannukah themed wedding. Turned down when she asks her neighbor to be her date, she decides to make a golem out of clay and take him to the wedding. Can a date named Paul Mudd not cause trouble? This romantic fantasy will lead to a mudslide.



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Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

Between the Temples

When Red River Theatres in Concord recently showed the new film *Between the Temples*, I had every intention to see it, but time got away from me. When I learned that you can now rent it on Amazon and Apple, I immediately decided to add it to my queue.

The story's protagonist is a grieving cantor named Benjamin who is trying to resume his recently upended life with a sense of normalcy. After a chance encounter with his childhood music teacher, his work-life balance takes an unexpected turn as she begins to study with him for the bat mitzvah she never got.

Based on that basic synopsis and what I had read online about the film, I had really high hopes that this would be an enjoyable blend of comedy and drama with heartfelt messages and themes embedded. While the genre blend and thematic pieces did prove mostly true, it was not as good a film as I expected. Like any piece that does not meet my interest as much as I expected, though, I



still can find good things about it. This is particularly true in the sense that *Between the Temples* continues to promote an increased focus on Jewish representation in cinema. But the final product just doesn't completely work in my opinion.

Performance wise, the movie does have great talent. Jason Schwartzman's Benjamin is very well done. He is both fun to watch due to his cringeworthy humor and easy to like based on his challenging circumstances. He plays well opposite Carol Kane, whose role as his music teacher Carla adds nicely to the plot line. Kane, as always, is truly quirky and unordinary, which makes her scenes in the film alongside Schwartzman some of the best to watch.

Additionally, the film works in how it

presents unconventional situations which add another layer to its focus on the aspects of modern Judaism. Benjamin has two mothers who appear to have found love for each other a bit later in life, at least from what we can infer. His biological mother is played by Caroline Aaron, who many may recognize from *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. As usual, Aaron's comic chops and schmaltzy vibes come into play from the start.

Intriguingly, Benjamin's other mom is played by Dolly de Leon, a Filipino actress who became a rising star two years ago with the success of her work in *Triangle of Sadness*. Her work here is equally strong and scene stealing, though quite subtle in many ways. While I wish that the plot explored her conversion to Judaism after marrying Benjamin's biological mother in more depth, to see her deep interest in the religion and culture as a convert was fascinating to me.

Any film with Jewish themes that ex-

plores the embrace of modernity alongside the traditions and customs of the faith already does a nice job in my book. The issue with *Between the Temples*, though, is the pacing and plot holes which make you kind of say "So what?" as the film concludes.

The script suffers from too many shifts in location and time, as well as a lack of overall development with specific characters. Questions are left unanswered and by the end, I really just wanted it to be over. I will give it props for sticking to a realistic finish rather than taking a soapy approach where everything falls neatly into place in spite of the struggles. But it still does not take away from the fact that I looked at my watch more times than I do in most films.

I wouldn't completely avoid it as there is definitely something you might enjoy that I did not, but it is far from my favorite among the many films I've reviewed, and my hopes were for a better movie than what was produced.

Jeanne
Shaheen
U.S. SENATOR



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and peace this
holiday season!**

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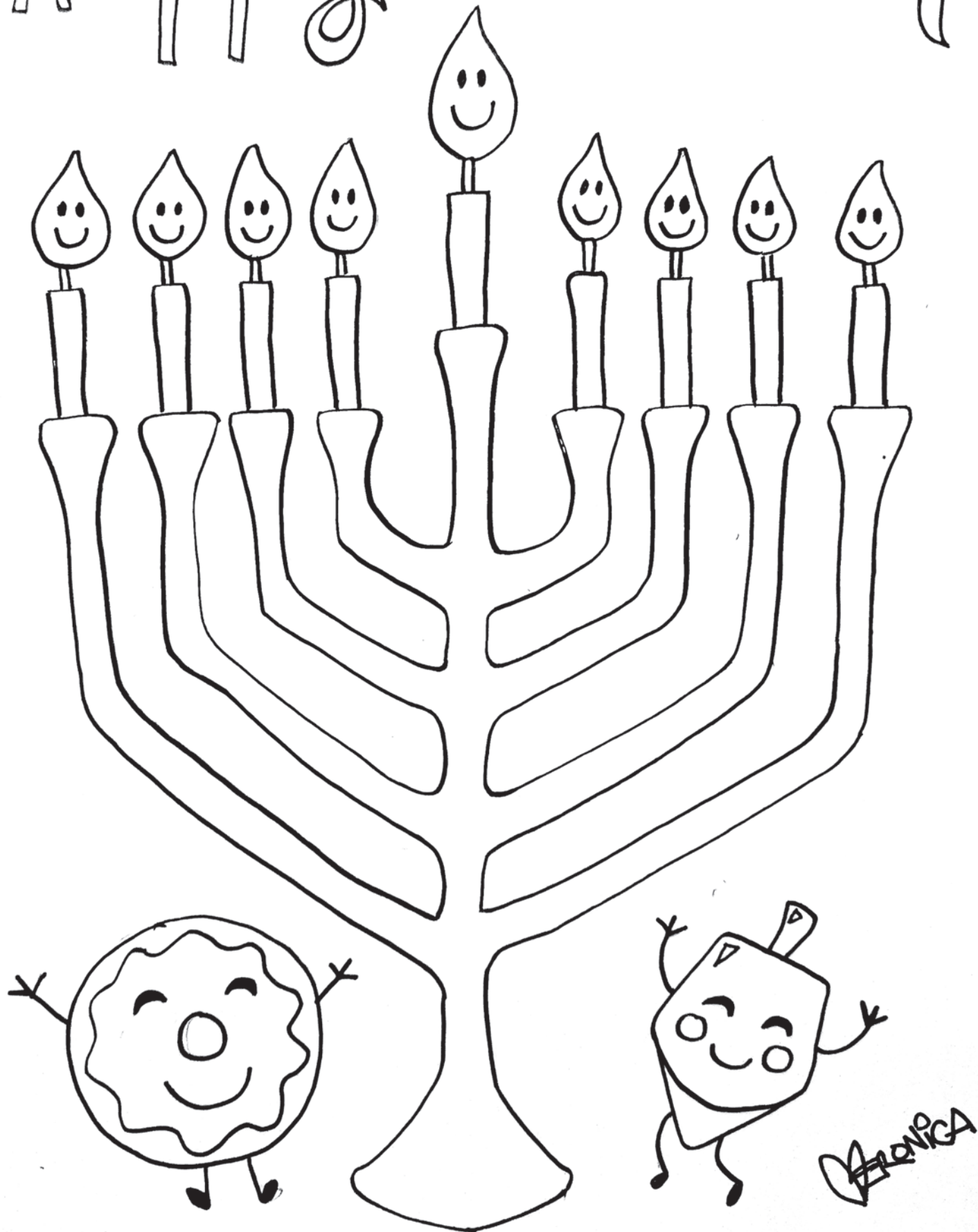
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Kids' Corner Coloring Page

Happy Hanukkah



Veronica Ava Conley, ©2024

A Member of the Jewish Community of Maine Still Needs a Kidney: Please Consider a Gift of Life

By Randi Gelfman

Dear friends,

My name is Randi, and I am a member of Congregation Bet Ha'am in South Portland, Maine. Some of you may know that I have kidney disease. Over time, my kidney disease has gotten worse, causing my kidneys not to work well enough to keep me alive. My treatment options currently are limited to dialysis or a kidney transplant. I have been on dialysis for some time now, 3 days a week for 4 hours each day, which is helping my kidneys do their job of removing wastes, toxins, and extra fluids. But the longer you are on dialysis the more your health deteriorates.

However, a living donor kidney transplant would offer me much more freedom and the ability to live a longer, healthier, and more meaningful life. A transplant would also give me more time to do the things I love most, such as

spending time with my family and friends, my partner Nick, my pets, volunteering, and being outdoors.

Finding a kidney is not easy. People who are on a wait list for a kidney from a deceased donor often have to wait 5-10 years and the kidney lasts on average 15-20 years. But the wait list for a living kidney donor is much shorter, sometimes even months, and the kidney typically lasts 20-30 years. It also functions much better.

In order to donate, living kidney donors get a careful and thorough evaluation with their own team of health professionals to see if you could be a match for me and to ensure that living donation is as safe as possible for you.

I want to share with you some basic information about kidney donation.

(1) You only need one kidney to live a long, healthy life.

(2) The surgery for a donor is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny



incisions, and the recuperation period is fairly quick, generally only a few weeks.

(3) The cost of an evaluation and surgery would be covered by my insurance.

(4) Although my blood type is 0+, you do not necessarily need to have the same blood type or tissue type to be a match.

(5) There is no age limit to be a donor. You just have to have a healthy kidney.

In order to express your interest in becoming my kidney donor, you can fill out the form at this link: mmc.donorscreen.org/register/now. Upon submission, the Maine Transplant Program will be in touch with you. To learn more about kidney donation, you can go to the National Kidney Foundation's website: www.kidney.org/livingdonation. There are also many other websites that can help you learn about kidney disease and donation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. Major ways you can help me are to share it with your friends, family, and on social media.

With much appreciation,

Randi Gelfman
P.O. Box 178
Parsonsfield, Maine 04047

Happy Hanukkah!

May you and your family be blessed with joy, good health, and peace.

- Senator Maggie Hassan



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Barbara Katz (Temple B'nai Israel) delivers the net proceeds from the We Care concert to Beth Dever, Executive Director of Circle Program.



Volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry accepting the donations of personal care items from Temple B'nai Israel

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: Social Action and Giving Back

Laconia, NH – Temple B'nai Israel continues its commitment to the core values of Judaism, *tzedakah* (charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), through social action initiatives and the renowned We Care Concerts. These values are deeply embraced by its members giving them the opportunity to “not only be Jewish, but to do Jewish” in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

During the recent High Holidays, the temple's Social Action Committee organized a successful drive to benefit the Laconia St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry. Members and friends generously donated essential personal care items. The collected supplies were delivered to the food pantry by committee co-chairs Maria Cantor and Lois Kessin.

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, We Care of Temple B'nai Israel hosted a benefit concert featuring The Cat's Pajamas. The a cappella vocal group captivated the audience with their renditions of classic songs from the 60s, 70s, and beyond. The concert raised more than \$20,000, which was donated to the event's beneficiary, Circle Program of Plymouth, NH. “I can't thank you enough for supporting us, for supporting SO MANY LOCAL NON-PROFITS. I am overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for all you do to give back to the Lakes Region community members!” said Beth Dever, Executive Director of Circle Program.

The evening's proceeds were a result of ticket sales and the support of many local business sponsors including Audi Nashua, Interlakes Family Dental, Miracle Farms Landscaping, the Five C's Family Trust, Sales Force, and Outside Unlimited. The partnership between We Care, Circle Program, and these outstanding community minded businesses will help to support the ongoing commitment of Circle Program to girls at risk throughout the central New Hampshire area.

We Care Concerts are legendary in the Lakes Region as a fundraiser for other nonprofits. We Care provides the talent, the venue, logistics, ticket sales, and marketing for a spectacular night of entertainment for the community. The net proceeds from each concert are donated back to the selected beneficiary for that event. To date, We Care has raised over \$350,000 for twelve different non-profits, including organizations that support veterans, homelessness, victims of domestic abuse, community support programs for children, seniors, and the underprivileged population, as well as visiting nurse and hospice services.

Temple B'nai Israel, a small but vibrant congregation, is the heart of Jewish life in the Lakes Region. The members understand the importance of being engaged and committed to the greater good of the community, thereby fulfilling the mitzvot of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam*.

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

Remembrance: The International March of the Living 2024

By Pamela Englander

As the son of a Holocaust survivor, my husband Luis has talked about taking part in the March of the Living (MOTL) for years. For those unfamiliar with MOTL, it is an annual educational program, that brings thousands of individuals from around the world to Poland and Israel to study the history of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of prejudice, intolerance, and hatred. Since its inception in 1988, almost 300,000 participants – including world leaders, educators, Holocaust survivors and students – have taken part in the program.

Our trip to Poland in May 2024 took place against the backdrop of the 80th anniversary of the destruction of Hungarian Jews during the Shoah, the October 7th attack on Israel, and the dramatic rise in antisemitism across the globe. In light of all of this, it felt even more important for us to make this journey and to bear witness to the Holocaust.

On this occasion, we were privileged to march with 6,000 others, including 55 Holocaust survivors from around the world, including Israeli Holocaust survivors who survived the attacks of October 7th. The 3k march itself begins in Auschwitz and ends in the Birkenau death camp, highlighting Jewish survival and solidarity, with a renewed cry of “Never Again.”

What did we experience during our week in Poland?

As a group of 40 strangers, we came together to bear witness to the atrocities that Jews and non-Jews faced in the form of both physical and mental torture. We learned of the depths of the evil in the inconceivable strategic planning involved in the mass execution of human beings and in the destruction of their souls. We bore witness to the willingness of individuals to comply with the evil deeds demanded of them. And we learned of the complicity of the bystander. Many in the group shared stories of surviving family members. Our extraordinary, compassionate guide walked us through a wealth of material with wisdom and insight.

We found hope in the many stories of bravery by those who chose to act and to put themselves and their families at risk—the righteous of our nations, often referred to as righteous gentiles. We were fortunate to visit the Schindler factory, a well-known and remarkable story of courage. We also visited the Zookeepers’ home, the Zabinsky villa in the Warsaw Zoo, where Jan Zabinsky risked his life and saved several hundred Jews from certain death.



Our March of the Living group visits Schindler factory

During the incredibly moving ceremony in Birkenau which followed the march itself, thousands of us listened to the voices of survivors of the Holocaust and of October 7th, non-Jewish and Jewish youth, all of whom spoke of the need for standing up against hate and for worldwide Jewish communities. The years approaching are some of the last that survivors will be able to join these marches, making participation in this trip more timely and relevant than ever before. As Elie Wiesel once said: “When you listen to a witness, you become a witness.”

A couple of highlights for me on this trip were, firstly, a delegation of Israeli Arabs who came to learn and understand the Holocaust. They claimed that the interest amongst Israeli Arabs in future participation was huge. I found this to be both supportive and hopeful. Another emotional moment was the performing of Havdalah in the Marriott hotel lounge and bar in the middle of Warsaw, Poland by the amazing Chief Cantor of the IDF. Who could have imagined this!? Cantor Shai Abramson would then go on to sing magnificently at the Birkenau ceremony.

The name “March of the Living” was proposed by Meir Uriel to contrast the death marches that were typical at the end of World War II. It serves to illustrate the continued existence of the Jewish people despite Nazi attempts at their obliteration. The universal goal of the International March of the Living is to help inspire the participants to fight indifference, racism and injustice by witnessing the atrocities of the Holocaust. This program was fascinating, endlessly engaging and superbly led and organized.



Israeli Arab delegation to the MOTL

And yes, we certainly were inspired. For more information about participating in this program, contact:

Monise Neumann
National Consultant
International March of the Living

(818) 621-0278

www.motl.org

Program dates for 2025 are:

April 22 – May 1, 2025- (Full Program- Poland and Israel)

April 22 – April 28, 2025 (Poland only)



Holocaust survivor blesses Chief Cantor of the IDF at ceremony in Birkenau following the March

Feel free to contact me for an email with the details:

Mexaf4@comcast.net

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December Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

The only medical center in Israel to be ranked by *Newsweek* among the best cancer institutes in the world, Hadassah's Sharett Institute of Oncology boasts not only outstanding researchers but also innovative, cutting-edge treatment that gives cancer patients the best possible outcomes. The robust infrastructure at Hadassah provides companies that want to advance their products opportunities that do not exist elsewhere. At the Hadassah Cancer Research Institute, connections are made between the hospital, researchers at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the bio-tech industry.

In cooperation with a start-up company called P-Cure, for example, Hadassah established the Proton Center, the first of its kind in the Middle East. Radiation using protons rather than commonly used photons limits the harmful effects of radiation on healthy tissues.

Evolve Hadassah is working to engage and transform the next generation of young Hadassah women between the ages of 25 and 55. Since October 7, they have seen a huge increase of women looking to be part of a community of Zionists that can share their thoughts and ideas without judgement.

Evolve sees their mission as planting the seeds for a bright future. Evolve Communities are emerging nationwide, offering a more informal approach than traditional chapters, yet both play a vital role in shaping the next generation. Currently, there are over 15 active and newly active Evolve Communities (including one in Boston) in collaboration with local engagement staff, with an additional 21 potential communities on the horizon. To increase and engage membership with Evolve, focus is on building authentic connections through tailored events that resonate with young women's interests

and values. They have seen success when opportunities are created to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration fostering a sense of belonging and community. Leveraging social media, Evolve resources, and local networks can help spread the word about Evolve Communities while bringing in new and existing faces, maximizing impact. If you or someone you know would like help building an Evolve community in your area, email evolve@hadassah.org.

Registration is open for Hadassah's Swearing In program on February 23-24, 2025. All Hadassah Attorneys and Judges can take advantage of the unique opportunity to be sworn in as a member of the US Supreme Court Bar before the Justices of the Supreme Court and to hear oral arguments. Register at Hadassah.org.

Antisemitism increased 140 percent in the US in 2023. American Jews feel this spike profoundly in their everyday lives — in ways big and small — through violence, fear, exclusion, and hurtful comments. Hadassah is asking women across the country to take a three-

minute survey to share their personal experiences with antisemitism. Contact tellyourstory@hadassah.org.

You are invited to join a zoom region-wide discussion group that runs through March, 2025. The programs are on specific Mondays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. Register for these sessions at <https://events.hadassah.org/nnelunchnlearn>. The one-time registration fee is \$18 for Hadassah members and \$36 for non-members.

The next session will be on December 9 – Invisible Lines of Connection by author Laurence Kushner. The author "ties together the stories of our lives into a roadmap showing how everything 'ordinary' is super-charged with meaning, if we can just see it."

On January 13 the topic is A Taste of Mussar. Mussar is a traditional Jewish spiritual practice that teaches how to cultivate inner virtues and overcome the Evil Inclination and live a meaningful and ethical life.

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

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- Food and shelter
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- 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.



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Healing the Wounded

By Richard England

Since the barbaric attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, a great deal of sympathy and concern has focused on the 250 hostages who were kidnapped on that terrible day and then imprisoned in Gaza. The funerals of those IDF soldiers who died during the ensuing war have also received quite a bit of public attention. Far less attention has been paid to the thousands of Israeli soldiers who have been wounded and sometimes disabled during combat in Gaza and Lebanon.

IDF troops suffer wounds in a number of ways. Some are injured by booby traps while searching tunnels and buildings for weapons caches hidden by Hamas and Hezbollah. Others are injured by rocket-propelled grenades while on patrol in Gaza or southern Lebanon. Still others suffer injuries from missile shrapnel or suicide drones.

The good news is that the IDF soldiers wounded receive the best emergency medical care possible. Evacuation helicopters deliver the seriously wounded to hospitals inside Israel, often within forty minutes. Nearly all of the injured evacuated from Gaza arrive at Sheba Medical Center, one of the best hospitals in the world. Because

of rapid evacuation from the battlefield and excellent emergency care, many of the injured who would have died during earlier wars have survived this conflict. This high survival rate has a downside, however. The IDF and Israeli society need to provide rehabilitation services for thousands of soldiers who suffered serious injuries while defending Israel from Hamas and Hezbollah. Only ten months after October 7, the Rehabilitation Division of the Israeli Defense Ministry had already received ten thousand new troops for treatment. Roughly a third suffered from PTSD or other mental traumas. More than a third suffered damage to one or more limbs. By June of 2024, the total number of IDF soldiers receiving treatment for injuries received during the recent and earlier wars exceeded 70 thousand for the first time.

These IDF veterans need physical and psychological treatment in a timely fashion. Delays in returning them to families, communities, and jobs increase the risks of depression and other mental problems. The reservists in their thirties and forties who left families to serve their country need to return to their spouses and children. The Israeli economy needs veterans

Healing continued on page 22



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

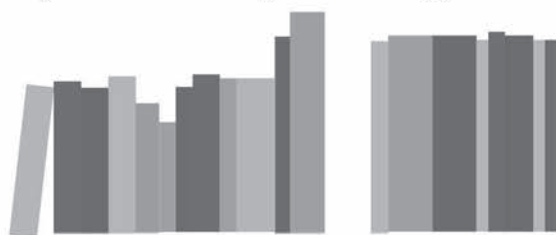
December
15 Theme: Chanukah

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.



JFNH Tributes

Received by November 10, 2024

Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

In memory of Florence Tuman – Andy and Norm Kushner
 In memory of Jacob Kushner – Andy and Norm Kushner
 In memory of Joy Rosenthal – Andy and Norm Kushner
 In memory of Cecil and David Rosenthal – Andy and Norm Kushner
 In memory of Condy Wolff – Andy and Norm Kushner
 In memory of Aric Lasher – Andy and Norm Kushner

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.

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Healing the Wounded

continued from page 20

of this war, whether injured or not, to return to their jobs or reopen their small businesses.

Please consider donating to help wounded IDF soldiers return to civilian life. Friends of the IDF provides a soldier-to-soldier mentoring program (<https://www.fidf.org/how-we-help/fallen-wounded/wounded-soldiers/>). American Friends of Sheba Medical Center helps to

upgrade emergency and rehabilitative services for the IDF wounded (<https://www.afsmc.org/mission/supporting-the-idf/>). JNF USA provides services for Israelis with special needs, including IDF veterans (<https://www.jnf.org/our-work/disabilities-special-needs/adi-negev-nahalat-eran>). Even a small donation can make a difference.

Richard England is a member of the JNF USA Committee for Northern New England.

JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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