



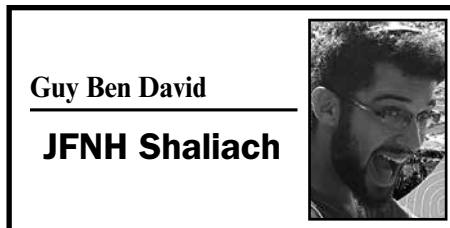
**SUMMER FUN**

**Dvar Shaliach – July 2024: The Finale**

Goodbyes are never easy. Right before I came here, we had a seminar of the Jewish Agency. One of the questions there was “What is the definition of a Jew?” Now, usually the Jewish Agency would never give you an answer. They would most likely give you a question, and you’ll think of an answer of your own. But this time, surprisingly, they gave us an answer. It was this: “The definition of a Jew is someone who has the ability to pack all of his belongings and wander.” I didn’t really understand the answer, but I took it.

When I arrived in NH, I brought with me two of my guitars, all my vinyl records and some clothes. Is that all? Probably not, but I still brought everything I wanted to bring to the community – myself, my knowledge and my spirit from the holy land. Now I must pack again. But how? I did get a new guitar and some new records, but that’s not the problem. How do I pack all the memories, knowledge, and insights?

Unfortunately, it was a really rough year for all. No one expected that, and in one cursed day, my whole role



**Guy Ben David**  
**JFNH Shaliach**

**SPOTLIGHT**  
ON ISRAEL



changed. To what? I’m not sure, but I wasn’t prepared for it. I want to thank each and every one of you for making me feel at home in a place so far away from home. I’m still amazed and grateful for the support I’ve got over here.

Now – let’s pack!

Let’s start with the memories. We had lots of events through the year – the Vigil for Israel right after October 7th, Solidarity gatherings, Hannukah parties, Israeli food making, Taste Of Israel, a Purim Party, Escape Room, Movie Night, 6 Million Steps, Zikaron



BaSalon, Recipe with a Memory, and a Yom Ha’atzmaut event. There were also Shabbat dinners, Israeli Insider programs once a month, and the best memory – my Hebrew School visits. How fun it is to teach the next generation about Israel.

Now, let’s pack the knowledge. I’ve learned something new every day (and not just Yiddish words)! I’ve learned

that the Jewish superpower is love – and nothing is stronger than that. No matter how much hatred there is – love and togetherness are the solution. We can be bitter and full of rage after what happened, but we’ve decided to handle it by spreading love and joy. It’s something that I couldn’t have witnessed in Israel. I had to go far away to understand this,

*Dvar Shaliach continued on page 8*

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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 Peter Levy  
1½ Hood Road, Derry  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 432-0004  
www.etzhayim.org  
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org  
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM, Sat 9:30 AM followed by Torah Study  
Family Service Fridays 6:30 PM (2nd Fri of Month)  
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 9:30AM.  
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30AM.  
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:30AM.  
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 UCJ  
(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 7:00am in-person morning minyan and a 6:30pm 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, 9:30 AM  
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM  
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

# The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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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.

Opinions presented in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation. Photos submitted by individuals and organizations are published with their permission.

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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)



July 5	8:10 PM
July 12	8:06 PM
July 19	8:02 PM
July 26	7:55 PM

## A New Year, A Renewed Commitment

As we begin the new fiscal year at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH) this month, I am filled with a profound sense of hope and determination. Reflecting on the past year, we faced numerous challenges, notably the tragic events of October 7th in Israel and a troubling rise in antisemitism across the United States. These events have deeply affected our community, highlighting the critical importance of our mission and the work we do together.

Despite these difficulties, we have persevered, drawing strength from our shared values and our commitment to support and uplift one another. Our resilience has been a beacon of light during these trying times, and it is this spirit that propels us forward

**Allyson Guertin**

**JFNH  
Director**



into the new fiscal year with renewed vigor.

One of the most significant developments for JFNH is the approval of our new strategic plan by the Board of Directors in June. After months of research and feedback from our community, this comprehensive plan lays out a clear vision for our future, emphasizing the need for robust advocacy against antisemitism, enhanced educational efforts about Israel,

and more opportunities for our community to be together. Beginning in August, we will start rolling out detailed information about this strategic plan, and I am excited for you all to see the positive changes and initiatives that will stem from it.

The start of a new fiscal year is always a critical juncture for any organization, but for JFNH, it is more important now than ever. In the wake of last year's events, our commitment to our community, to Israel, and to combating antisemitism has only grown stronger. Your support is essential as we embark on this journey, as we work tirelessly to advocate for our community and educate others about our heritage and the current realities we face.

I invite you all to join us in person on

August 11th for our Annual Meeting and Community Shem Tov Awards. This gathering will be an opportunity to come together, reflect on the past year, and look forward to the future with optimism and unity. It is also a chance to honor those among us who have made significant contributions to our community, embodying the very best of what we strive to achieve.

Your presence and participation are invaluable as we move forward. Together, we can ensure that the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire remains a powerful force for good, advocating for justice, fostering understanding, and building a stronger, more resilient community.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.

## Havdalah Connections

Today, my baby received a PJ Library book called *Shabbat Light*, written by Samara Q. Klein. The book beautifully moves from the kindling of Shabbat candles through the extinguishing of the Havdalah candle. My son Cayden read the book to his sister all by himself and then said, sadly, that we forgot Havdalah again this weekend. I promised we'd try to do it more this summer.

Havdalah is one of my family's favorite low-barrier Jewish traditions, particularly in the summertime. The ceremony is short, musical, and lovely to do outside. PJ Library has a whole Havdalah hub at <https://pjlibrary.org/havdalah>. Saturday afternoon playdates and potlucks, plus a little bit of doing Jewish to mark the end of the weekend? Yes please! This summer, besides learning to be a mom of three, getting everyone to different camps, and trying to sleep, I want to make new friends and strengthen my existing ones. I want to invite my friends to "do Jewish" with our families together. I want to put time into cultivating my village.

What is my village? My *kehillah*, my true community, isn't necessarily the people in my Venn diagram of clubs and social media groups; it's the people who text once a month to check in, who randomly drop by with some chicken soup or cookies or a bag of apples. Small deliveries that take almost no thought or money but provide that lifeline, the "I see you. I commiserate. I care."

PJ Library is all about connecting families and building community. Meet at a park or playground for a Tot Shabbat and presto! We've found an opportunity to do Jewish and connect with each other. I'll bring the pasta salad, some popsicles and a Havdalah set. You bring the sunscreen.

**Dinah Berch**

**JFNH  
Program  
Coordinator**



Join me at a local splashpad or beach this summer and we can do Jewish together! Let our kids practice their Jewish values of *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests) and *chaverut* (being a good friend). Print out our Get Together cards and bring a few of these in your wallet. My kids LOVE making friends and then exchanging info using their personal business cards!

Exchanging contact info may seem small but this is the first step in building community. I want to know you. I want to know whether your kids prefer the Havdalah smells of cloves or cinnamon, basil or pepper. I want to go out for coffee and trade parenting hacks.

Imagine for the moment having a volunteer PJ Community Connector in every region of New Hampshire who knows your kids' nicknames and birthdays and meets you at a playground to push the kids in swings, or swap tastes of local ice cream, and sends them cards when they go off to summer camp. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer community connector for your area, please let me know! I promise, the commitment is small, but the impact could be huge.

PJ Library's blog says, "Ultimately this Jewish community of support is exactly what the PJ Library community connector program aims to foster. Our low-barrier programs act to both open the doors for lasting relationships and to model in-

clusive and approachable ways to explore Jewish traditions, values, and culture. By coming together as a community, families recognize their experiences as Jewish, and find community among the families

they meet. These shared moments translate to meaningful bonds and traditions that will hopefully last generations."

This summer, let's strengthen our *kehillah* together.



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

PJ Library

Share your info with a new friend!

Name:

Kids' Names:

Ages:

Cell:

Email:

City:

Met at:

# 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.

## Saturday, June 15 – Sunday, July 7

### Temple B'nai Israel's The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival

Temple B'nai Israel, Laconia  
Enjoy the homemade delicacies of the New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival. Order online June 15 – July 7. Orders will be ready for pick up by appointment at Temple B'nai Israel on July 19 and July 20. Menu and more information at [www.tbinh.org](http://www.tbinh.org)

## Monday, July 1 – Thursday, August 1

### Etz Hayim Synagogue School Supply Drive

11:00AM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
Going shopping for school or office supplies or just wanting to help our community? Etz Hayim Synagogue's Chavurat Ezra Committee is running a school supplies drive for Derry's Upper Room from July 1st – August 1st. Supplies needed include single subject notebooks, pocket folders, pencils, markers, colored pencils, pens and backpacks. Please drop off donations in the donation box in the lobby of the synagogue during office hours (T/W/Th

11-3) or check our calendar to see when the building will otherwise be open. ([www.etzhayim.org/calendar](http://www.etzhayim.org/calendar)). If you have items that need to be picked up, please let Midge Goldberg know at [midgecg@aol.com](mailto:midgecg@aol.com). Thank you for your generosity!

## Wednesday, July 10

### Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Books of Jewish Interest Club

4:00PM – 5:00PM, Bethlehem Public Library and Zoom  
Join the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation for some Jewish humor this summer as we read and discuss works by Jewish comedians. First up, "Sick in the Head" by Judd Apatow. We meet simultaneously in-person at the Bethlehem Public Library and on Zoom. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/books-2024>

### Books of Jewish Interest Club

4:00PM – 5:00PM, Bethlehem Public Library and Zoom  
Join the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation for some Jewish humor this summer as we read and discuss works by Jewish comedians. First up, "Sick in the Head" by Judd Apatow. We meet simultaneously in-person at the Bethlehem Public Library and on Zoom. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/books-2024>

## Friday, July 12

### Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Sounds in the Sanctuary

5:00PM – 6:30PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem  
Pianist Bernard Rose will open the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's 11th season of chamber music concerts with a performance of J.S. Bach's "Goldberg Variations." A light reception with musicians follows. Tickets available online at <https://www.bethlehem-synagogue.org/concert-series-2024> or at the door.

[synagogue.org/concert-series-2024](https://www.bethlehem-synagogue.org/concert-series-2024) or at the door. \$25 General Admission/\$20 BHC Members. Season pass (4 Concerts) \$75 General Admission/\$60 BHC Members.

## Thursday, July 18

### White Mountain Jewish Film Festival – Yaniv

6:00PM – 9:00PM, Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem  
The 2024 White Mountain Jewish Film Festival presents five Jewish comedies this summer to fill Bethlehem's Colonial Theatre with the laughter that is so needed in these troubling times. Filmgoers can again enjoy the magic of watching great theatrical presentations on the big screen of Bethlehem's historic Colonial Theatre, one of the oldest continuously operating movie theatres in the country. As always, your ticket includes our festival's famous patio parties beginning at 6PM with complimentary refreshments and an assortment of beverages. At 6:30PM, the evenings guest speaker will introduce the film and then stay for a Q&A as the houselights go on at the end of each film.

Movie Time – All Films: Box office opens: 5:30PM/ Patio opens: 6:00PM/ Guest Speaker: 6:30PM/ Film: 7:00PM.

Tickets are sold at the door or can be purchased online:

<https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/film-series-2024>. General Admission \$10; BHC and JFNH Members: \$9; Season Pass (5 Films): \$40  
Yaniv – When a Bronx high school slashes its arts funding, the affected teacher concocts a scheme to save the department and its production of "Little Shop of Horrors" by entering the dangerous world of Yaniv... a card game played "behind closed doors" by Orthodox Jewish gamblers. This madcap and absurd comedy unpacks Jewish identity, male friendship, and public education, all in one lighthearted package. The film's director, Amnon Carmi, and screenwriter, producer, and actor, Ben Ducoff, will be with us to talk about their film and teach us how to play and score and win at Yaniv!

## Friday, July 19

### Bread and Torah at Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation

1:00PM – 5:00PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem  
Double your Mitzvot Double your fun by learning the art of baking challah and constructing a torah at Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation. BHC welcomes back Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein, founders of the "Bread and Torah Project", who offer interactive educational programs based on their scribal arts and bakery activities. Rabbi Motzkin is trained as a soferet – a scribe. She is currently writing a Torah scroll and leading the Community Torah Project, a long-term undertaking designed to involve a wide range of participants in various steps in the hands-on process of making a Torah scroll, from the processing of deerskins into parchment panels to the proofreading of the completed text. Since 2004 Rabbi Rubenstein has been teaching bread making and operating a non-profit, charitable bakery, Slice of Heaven Breads out of the Temple Sinai kitchen. A volunteer program, Slice of Heaven Breads produces and sells a variety of breads and baked goods, with proceeds supporting hunger relief programs and other charitable causes. The bakery offers ongoing bread baking lessons, providing training and employment to individuals with disabilities, and donated and distributed challah weekly to nursing

home residents, hospital patients, and the needy. This is a "hands-on" activity. All participants will be able to prepare the challah dough with Rabbi Rubenstein. While the dough is set aside to rise, Rabbi Motzkin will demonstrate sewing together the parchments of the torah which she is building with everyone's help!

Make a weekend of it! Drive up through the beautiful White Mountains to Bethlehem, participate in making your own Challah, help to sew together a torah and then stay for an evening Kabbalat shabbat led by our Bread and Torah Rabbis! Enjoy a kiddush with your freshly baked challah and social hour with fellow congregants and friends at BHC. On a clear evening the sunset over the Presidential Range can be seen in all its grandeur from the corner of Strawberry Hill and Main Street. This program is fully supported by BHC and JFNH and is free for all members and friends. For more information check our website at [www.bethlehemsynagogue.org](http://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org).

### PJ Library Splish Splash Shabbat

4:30PM – 6:30PM, Aqua Land Splash Pad, Newmarket  
Join PJ Library and Temple Israel Portsmouth for some Summer fun! Enjoy the Aqua Land Splash Pad in Newmarket, a Shabbat craft, songs and a popsicle. Please register at [jewishnh.org/community-calendar](http://jewishnh.org/community-calendar)

### Temple Israel Shabbat Service and Community Dinner

6:00PM – 8:00PM, Temple Israel, Manchester  
Evening Shabbat followed by a catered community dinner. Please rsvp by noon, July 10 to: <https://forms.gle/U6gUBZLWZfHgejwK6>

## Sunday, July 21

### Seacoast Chabad of New Hampshire Jewish Festival

12:00PM – 3:00PM, Jewish Community Center, Newington  
Join us for the Third Annual New Hampshire Jewish Festival! Secure your tickets at <https://thejewishfestival.com>. Jewish Community Center 2299 Woodbury Avenue Newington, NH

## Wednesday, July 24

### Books of Jewish Interest Club

4:00PM – 5:00PM, Bethlehem Public Library and Zoom  
Join us in person at the Bethlehem Public Library and on Zoom for the second installment of this summer's Books of Jewish Interest discussion group. We're reading books by Jewish comedians, and this time, it will be the grandfather of contemporary Jewish comedy, Norman Lear's "Even This I get to Experience." For information, please visit our website at <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/books-2024>. This is a free event.

## Friday, July 26

### Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Sounds in the Sanctuary

5:00PM – 6:30PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem  
The "Odesa Boys," clarinetist Julian Milkis and pianist Maxim Lubarsky, present a fun-filled program of jazz and classical duets. Tickets available online at <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/concert-series-2024>. Or at the door, \$25 General Admission/ \$20 BHC Members, Season Pass (4 Concerts) \$75 General Admission/\$60 BHC Members.

*continued on page 5*

**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!**

Send your reviews to [Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org) or email for details & question prompts. We'll publish your review in upcoming issues of **The Reporter** and on Facebook!

Jewish Federation of the New Hampshire Area

PJ Our Way sends FREE Jewish middle-grade books for kids ages 9 through 12. Sign up at [pjourway.org/enroll](http://pjourway.org/enroll)



# Celebrating Israeli Independence

This 76th year of Israeli independence has been marked with loss and with resilience, with stories of horror and stories of heroes. On June 2nd the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and seven synagogues from around the state came

together as one New Hampshire Jewish Community to celebrate our heritage and the state of Israel but also reaffirm our commitment to support one another and to promote understanding and tolerance within our broader community.



# Your Federation at Work



# Your Federation at Work

## Dvar Shaliach

continued from page 1

and I'm glad I did. I've also learned that in order to be Jewish outside of Israel, you have to actually work for it. In Israel, it's so easy. Everything is kosher, there are temples everywhere and everyone around you is Jewish. But here? It seems impossible, yet you make it possible, and I admire you for that.

And as for the insights? I've learned that you don't have to live in Israel to love it, and for that I want to thank you.

The suitcase in my brain is already exceeding the limits, so I'll have to let something go before taking off, and it's a few words from a song by Shlomo Artzi, in a bad translation:

*"We'll drive maybe until tomorrow,  
But if we won't slow down, won't observe,  
and notice all the details,  
We won't make it to a new land."*

(The song is called Eretz Chadasha, take a listen, you won't regret it!)

Thank you for an amazing year. *Am Israel Chai!*





### Etz Hayim Synagogue Holds School Supply Drive

Going shopping for school or office supplies, or just want to help our community? The Etz Hayim Synagogue's Chavurat Ezra Committee is running a school supplies drive for Derry's Upper Room from July 1st - August 1st. Supplies needed include single subject notebooks, pocket folders, pencils, markers, colored pencils, pens, and backpacks. Please drop off donations in the dona-

tion box in the lobby of the synagogue during office hours (T/Th/F 11-3) or when the synagogue is otherwise open for services or an event ([www.etzhayim.org/calendar](http://www.etzhayim.org/calendar)). Or if you have items but need them picked up, please let Midge Goldberg know at [midgecg@aol.com](mailto:midgecg@aol.com). Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Thank you for your generosity!

### The SHEPLER FINANCIAL GROUP

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[harry@sheplergroup.com](mailto:harry@sheplergroup.com)

Bedford, NH 03110

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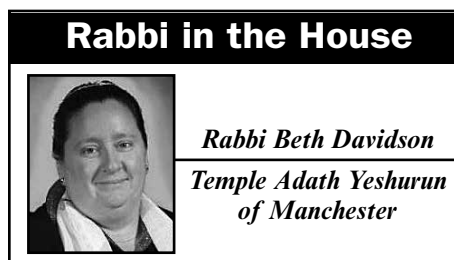
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## You Shall Be Holy

On August 12, we will observe Tisha B'Av, the day when we remember many of the worst events in Jewish history, each of which is said to have occurred on/around the 9th day of Av. These include: the destruction of the First Temple (586 BCE); the destruction of the Second Temple (70 CE); our expulsion from England (1290), France (1306), Spain (1492); the Chmelnitzki Massacres (1648-1657); and the beginning of the deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto (1942). Even this abbreviated list of disasters reveals why Tisha B'Av is a fast day and a day of mourning.

The Talmudic rabbis discussed why the First, and the Second Temples were destroyed. In the case of the First Temple, the tragedy occurred, they opined, because the Jewish people were engaged in idol worship, in forbidden sexual relations, and in bloodshed. In Tractate Yoma, the conversation con-



tinued. "...However, considering that the people during the Second Temple period were engaged in Torah study, observance of mitzvot, and acts of kindness, and that they did not perform the sinful acts that were performed in the First Temple, why was the Second Temple destroyed? It was destroyed due to the fact that there was wanton hatred during that period. This comes to teach you that the sin of wanton hatred is equivalent to the three severe transgressions: Idol worship, forbidden sexual relations and bloodshed...." [Yoma 9b

The William Davidson Talmud]..."

Jewish tradition accepts that there are times when you may have an enemy, or may hate someone. "Wanton hatred" (also translated as "baseless hatred," in Hebrew '*Sinat Chinam*') referred to hatred that had no justification, and was usually internecine in nature. In the First Century of the Common Era, the Jewish community was rife with divisions between various groups, to the extent that the rabbis equated *Sinat Chinam* with the three sins that ended the First Temple.

Jewish society has really never been monolithic. Over the past two thousand years we have seen Sadducees vs. Pharisees, Rabbinates vs. Karaites, Mitnagdim vs. Hasidim, and in more recent times, divisions between Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, and Reconstructionist. Usually, such divisions settle into a state of chilly tolerance.

But I fear that the current division, of Zionist vs. Anti-Zionist, is likely to become more virulent and more destructive

of K'lal Yisrael. The 24/7 news cycle with nearly instant access to information, the general tone of dismissiveness in our society, and our inability to even listen to those with whom we disagree, all played out on the world-wide public stage, has resulted in a fragmented and incendiary situation, and I worry if and how we are going to be able to come back.

I understand. There are folks with whom I don't want to dialogue. I fundamentally disagree with anyone who doesn't think Israel has the right to exist, and I accept that I won't convince them and they won't convince me, no matter how loud and heated the conversation gets. And yet if we can't talk to each other, how will the current situation ever be neutralized, let alone resolved? I don't have an answer, and I do have concerns. This year Tisha B'Av is going to require that I think about the cost of *Sinat Chinam*. And I can hope and pray that reasonable people will find a way to dial down the rhetoric, and find a way to listen even if we can't agree.

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Join PJ Library and Temple Israel Portsmouth for some Summer fun! Enjoy the Aqua Land Splash Pad in Newmarket, a Shabbat craft, songs and a popsicle.

**Aqua Land Splash Pad**  
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Friday, July 19th  
4:30-6:30pm

Register by scanning the QR Code below:



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## “Defying the Nazis” co-director speaks at Temple Beth Abraham’s Yom HaShoah event

By Sheryl Rich-Kern

When Artemis Joukowsky was in ninth grade, his teacher assigned the class an essay on moral courage based on a personal interview. Stumped for ideas, he asked his mom what to do. “Talk to your grandmother,” she told him. “She did some cool things during WWII.”

“Little did I know,” said Joukowsky, “that my doting grandmother had outwitted the Gestapo and saved thousands of people.”

This revelation launched a decades-long exploration into his grandparents' clandestine pasts. As Joukowsky told a packed crowd at Temple Beth Abraham's Yom HaShoah event on May 7 at Rivier University in Nashua, his grandparents were the Unitarian minister Waitsill Sharp and social worker Mar-

tha Sharp from Wellesley, Massachusetts. In 1939, they left their two young children behind in the care of other parish members to rescue Jews, refugees, and dissidents from Nazi-occupied Europe, risking imprisonment, torture and sometimes even death. Their mission was supposed to last for a few months. Instead, it stretched into two years. When they finally returned to the United States, their marriage fell apart.

Joukowsky said up until his freshmen year of high school, he never heard about their involvement in WWII espionage. He couldn't imagine his grandparents as OSS operatives. They married other people and never spoke about what transpired during their previous relationships. “I handed in my paper. My teacher gave me an A,” he said. “It's the only A I ever received in high school. It's not because it

was a perfect paper. The story changed my heart and soul because now I was a student of moral courage.” After his grandmother died in 1999, he discovered a trove of photos, letters, personal reports, calendars, hotel tabs and an unpublished memoir in her basement. Out of these personal artifacts, he began compiling a film.

Joukowsky became friends with famed documentarian Ken Burns at Hampshire College reunions; the two had graduated a decade apart. As Joukowsky collected footage, including interviews with some of the refugees his grandmother saved, he showed his preliminary footage to Burns. “And he [Burns] would say, yeah, it's really good. Do these five things and come back next year.” This went on for ten years. At a certain point, Burns agreed to watch the

entire film with his family. A day later, he called Joukowsky with an idea: “What would you think if Tom Hanks played your grandfather?”

“I was like, yeah. And the rest is history.”

Joukowsky's documentary feature about his grandparents, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, co-directed by Burns, premiered on PBS in 2016. Joukowsky also wrote a companion book to the film with the same title. Only five Americans are honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, a designation for non-Jews who saved Jews during the Holocaust. Two of them are Joukowsky's grandparents.

Temple Beth Abraham's Yom HaShoah event in Nashua was funded in part by the NH Jewish Federation. For more information about the documentary, visit [defyingthenazis.org](http://defyingthenazis.org).



Photo credit: Dean Shalhoup



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

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## Celebrate Shabbat outside in Portsmouth!

Please join Temple Israel Portsmouth for two summer Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Services led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman at Strawberry Banke on July 26 and August 23. Bring a picnic dinner (dairy/vegetarian) and your own chair. Security will be provided. The

outdoor service will be live-streamed on the TIP Facebook page. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in person in the sanctuary and accessible via the usual Zoom link. For more information, please contact the temple office, [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org).



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# In the Community

## Making a Torah, Baking Bread & Building Community in the White Mountains!

By David Goldstone

Double your Mitzvot, double your fun, by learning the art of baking challah and constructing a torah at Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation on Friday afternoon, July 19th! The event will take place in the BHC Community room at 39 Strawberry Hill Street, in Bethlehem New Hampshire.

BHC welcomes back Rabbis Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein, founders of the “Bread and Torah Project,” who offer interactive educational programs based on their scribal arts and bakery activities. Rabbi Motzkin is trained as a *soferet* — a scribe. She is currently writing a Torah scroll and leading the Community Torah Project, a long-term undertaking designed to involve a wide range of participants in



various steps in the hands-on process of making a Torah scroll, from the processing of deerskins into parchment panels to the proofreading of the completed text. Since 2004, Rabbi Rubenstein has been teaching bread making and operating a non-profit, charitable bakery, Slice of Heaven Breads, out of

the Temple Sinai kitchen. A volunteer program, Slice of Heaven Breads produces and sells a variety of breads and baked goods, with proceeds supporting hunger relief programs and other charitable causes. The bakery offers ongoing bread baking lessons, provides training and employment to individuals with disabilities, and donates and distributes challah on a weekly basis to nursing home residents, hospital patients, and the needy.

This is a hands-on activity! All participants will be able to prepare the challah dough with Rabbi Rubenstein. While the dough is set aside to rise, Rabbi Motzkin will demonstrate sewing together the parchments of the torah which she is

building with everyone's help.

Make a weekend of it! Drive up through the beautiful White Mountains to Bethlehem, participate in making your own challah, help to sew together a Torah and then stay for an evening Kabbalat shabbat led by our Bread & Torah Rabbis! Enjoy a kiddush with your freshly baked challah and social hour with fellow congregants and friends at BHC. On a clear evening, the sunset over the Presidential Range can be seen in all of its grandeur from the corner of Strawberry Hill and Main Street. This program is fully supported by BHC and JFNH and is free for all members and friends. For more information check our website at [www.bethlehemsynagogue.org](http://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org).

### Popsicles At the Playground

PJ Library  
and Congregation Ahavas Achim  
invite you to come hang out with us  
for a morning of fun in the sun!

Keene, NH  
Park location will be sent to  
registered guests.

Enjoy music, a craft and a cool treat  
with new & old friends.  
Don't forget the sunscreen!



Sunday, July 14, 2024  
10:30am-12:00pm

Free Program! Scan QR to register.

Questions? Contact Dinah Berch at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org)



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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

## Temple Israel Launches a New Terumah Membership Model

By Fran Berman

Temple Israel of Portsmouth is excited to announce that it has adopted a new, more flexible model for membership beginning with the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Under the new Terumah model, members will no longer receive a bill for dues based on their family size or makeup. Instead, they will be asked to set their own level of support, taking into consideration their level of commitment, their financial means, and the temple's sustaining number, which is the annual cost per person to operate the synagogue. All levels of financial support will be welcomed as expressions of members' investment in the temple and its many activities supporting Jewish life in the Seacoast.

"Temple Israel, at its heart, strives to create a welcoming and inclusive home for all Jewish people and their families in our diverse community," said Jared Na-



A flexible approach to  
Temple Israel membership

bel, president of Temple Israel. "This new model will help us better live up to our principles of inclusion, fairness, and openness and should help us open our doors to new members."

The road to the new Terumah model began when Temple Israel treasurer Richard LeSavoy researched dues models in 2022 and learned that voluntary sustaining models were increasingly prevalent – and successful – in many U.S. syna-

gogues. A small committee set out to research the topic further, including interviewing representatives of congregations in neighboring states that have successfully adopted a flexible membership model. The committee unanimously voted to recommend the Terumah model to the temple Board of Directors, which adopted the plan.

Why call it Terumah? *Terumah* is a Hebrew word that appears many times in the Torah to describe free-will offerings made by the people to support the ancient temple. The new model relies on generosity and responsibility. It encourages giving from the heart to keep the temple viable as a center for Jewish learning, religious practice, activism, and social life.

Temple Israel, located in downtown Portsmouth, was established as a congregation in 1910 and is the first permanent Jewish house of worship in New Hampshire. An egalitarian congregation affiliated with United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, Temple Israel welcomes members and families of all types and

from all backgrounds. The synagogue, led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman since 2020, offers opportunities for Shabbat prayer, holiday and life-cycle celebrations, social action, and many types of adult and family learning and engagement. The synagogue also offers a thriving religious school for grades K-7 and a Montessori-style preschool.

In September, the synagogue will hold an open house at which prospective members can tour the historic building, meet Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and other synagogue leaders, and learn about the temple's many programs, activities, and services. To join the guest list for the open house, sign up to receive weekly emails about Temple Israel's weekly programs and services, or request information about the preschool, religious school, or temple membership, complete a short form at <https://bit.ly/TIP-Interest>. Information is also available by emailing [membership@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:membership@templeisraelnh.org), calling 603-436-5301, or visiting [www.templeisraelnh.org](http://www.templeisraelnh.org).

## Temple Israel Hosts Annual Fundraiser "Schmooze and Booze"

By Aida Koocher

Temple Israel held its annual fundraiser, Schmooze and Booze, on Wednesday evening, May 29, 2024, from 6pm to 10pm at the Rex Theater on 23 Amherst St. in Manchester, NH. The purpose of this event was to raise money to support the vital initiatives and programs at Temple Israel. Everyone's generous contributions played a crucial role in achieving our goal and ensuring the continued success of our temple. Every dollar raised brings us closer to our objective and strengthens the foundation of our Temple Israel community. We deeply appreciate all the support we received towards reaching our target fundraising goal.

A significant portion of financial support came from sponsorships. We owe a special thanks to Norri Oberlander and Stephen Singer for their hard work and dedication in securing donations from over 52 sponsors. The success of this fundraiser would not have been possible without their efforts. Additionally, Aida Koocher was able to add six more sponsors to this year's list. Each level of sponsorship came with various benefits, including prominent recognition on our marketing materials, logo placements on

signs throughout the venue, media shout-outs, and more. Ticket sales from individuals attending the dance party also helped us reach our target goal. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who generously donated to this year's Schmooze and Booze.

The night was lively and entertaining, filled with mingling, schmoozing, eating, drinking, and dancing. The music from an 8-piece band called Clockwork energized the evening. Kosher food, brought in from The Butcherie of Brookline, Massachusetts, was plentiful and delicious. The overall ambiance was warm, friendly, and uplifting.

The first highlight of the night occurred on the podium when the annual fundraiser chairs—Norri Oberlander, Linda Sinkow, and Aida Koocher—were introduced. Norri welcomed everyone to the event and gave a special thank you to Stephen Singer, our Angel Sponsor and Fundraising Co-chair. She also thanked Linda, Aida, and Valerie for their hard work in preparing for the event. Aida led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Linda introduced Rabbi Marc Philippe, who followed with an invocation. Harry Shepler then shared his Temple Israel

*Schmooze continued on page 15*

## Summer Fun in The Lakes Region with Temple B'nai Israel

What could be better than a cruise on Lake Winnepesaukee in the summer? A "Havdalah Cruise" sponsored by Temple B'nai Israel (TBI) in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH)!

On Saturday, August 3rd, set sail with the members of TBI on the Winnepesaukee Spirit, the newest ship in the Cruise NH fleet. As the sun sets over the lake, Rabbi Jan Katz and Cantorial Soloist Melody Funk will lead a Havdalah service, the traditional ceremony marking the end of Shabbat. Enjoy delicious homemade desserts prepared by TBI members, along with coffee, water, and a full-service bar offering soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (available for purchase by credit card). Adding to the festive atmosphere, TBI's very own John McArthur will provide live music with his guitar, leading a

sing-along of traditional Israeli melodies and familiar songs.

The Winnepesaukee Spirit will leave from Weirs Beach in Laconia at 6:45 pm. Tickets for the Havdalah Cruise are \$25

per person. Visit the TBI website, Temple B'nai Israel | Reform Congregation in Laconia, NH ([tbinh.org](http://tbinh.org)) to register and pay online. Space is limited so don't wait to register. This Havdalah Cruise is a

wonderful opportunity to celebrate the beauty of Shabbat, enjoy the breathtaking scenery of Lake Winnepesaukee, and connect with fellow members of the Jewish community.

### Schmooze and Booze

*continued from page 14*

story and introduced Mayor Jay Ruais, who gave a short speech punctuated with a few Jewish words like mensch and mazel tov! Temple Israel's president, Jeff Klein, spoke and segued into the second part of the evening, beginning with the band playing the hora, during which attendees joined hands and danced to this familiar tune. After all, what is a Jewish gathering without the hora? The band continued playing through 10pm.

The second highlight of the night was when our very own Vanna White impersonator, Linda Sinkow, auctioned off a Sister Sands Vacation getaway generously donated by Norri Oberlander. It was thrilling to watch the bidding climb higher and higher until it was "Sold to the person in the white outfit." A digital photo booth also added fun to the night.

To all our generous sponsors, thank you. To all those who bought tickets and partied with us at the Rex Theater, thank you. To all who generously donated but were unable to attend, we missed you. To everyone who helped on this committee, and to all our families, friends, and supporters of Temple Israel's Annual Fund-raiser, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Temple B'nai Israel's**  
**Havdalah Cruise**  
**On Lake Winnepesaukee**  
**Saturday, August 3, 2024**  
**Aboard the Winnepesaukee Spirit**

**Havdalah Under the Stars**  
**Song Fest and Schmooze Fest**  
**Desserts and Drinks\***

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**\*Coffee and cold water included**

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**WEIRS BEACH**  
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## Celebrating Rabbi Beth Davidson's 20 Years at TAY

By Eric Ratinoff, TAY President

On Saturday, May 18th, the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood helped recognize Rabbi Beth D. Davidson's 20 years at TAY with a celebration that also marked the return of Brotherhood's famous Deli Night, back in person for the first time since before the pandemic. Hosted by master of ceremonies and long-time Deli Night leader David Penchansky (who donned a Sgt. Pepper outfit for his opening number), the 170-plus attendees enjoyed a delicious New York Kosher-style deli spread with all the fixings (plus a healthy serving of deli-related jokes), and entertainment from magician Andrew Pinard. But the focus of the evening was the tribute to Rabbi Beth.

Photos from her two decades at TAY were featured throughout the social hall, and in a video presented at the beginning of the evening program. A tribute book included greetings and congratulations from members of the congregation;



friends and fellow rabbis; local businesses and non-profit organizations; elected officials including the entire New Hampshire Congressional delegation, Governor Chris Sununu, Mayor Jay Ruais, and President Joe Biden; and the New York Mets.

Several guests also spoke to the impact Rabbi Beth has had not only on Temple Adath Yeshurun, but on the entire New



Rabbi Beth Davidson shares her reflections on her 20 years at TAY

Hampshire community. "For 20 years Rabbi Beth has been an inspiration for her empathy, her commitment to inclusion, and her selflessness," said Senator Maggie Hassan. "The work that Rabbi Beth and others like her do to strengthen our bonds of community is not only noble and altruistic, but it helps sustain our democracy itself. You are truly an indis-

pensable leader in the Manchester community, and our state is a better place because of you."

Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Dean of the Cincinnati Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and a classmate of Rabbi Beth's when they were students at HUC, said, "In our world today, where nationalism, antisemitism, hate speech, personality assassination, and attacks on basic human and political rights are on the rise, we need leaders who act with courage, kindness, good and exceptional knowledge, and ethical clarity ... We are honoring you tonight, Rabbi, for 20 years that you have guided and comforted and celebrated with this congregation."

Rabbi Beth thanked all in attendance for being a part of her special night, including her sister Wendy, who traveled all the way from California to celebrate with her. She also thanked the congregation for helping her in her rabbinic journey. "It takes a congregation to raise a rabbi," she said.

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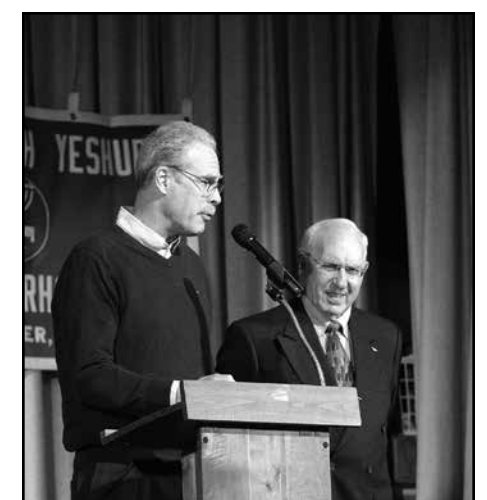
Rabbi Jonathan Hecht reflects on his friendship with Rabbi Beth



Deli Night host and master of ceremonies David Penchansky entertains the crowd



Senator Maggie Hassan talks about Rabbi Beth's contributions to the Manchester community



TAY Brotherhood Chair Mark Granoff and Deli Night Co-Organizer Dr. Alan Kaplan

# In the Community

## Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: Last Week to Order from The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival!

Sunday, July 7th is the last day to order from The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival before it closes until next year. There is still time to order fresh deli meats, corned beef, pastrami, and beef tongue. All deli meats are sliced and packaged to order in the TBI kitchen. For the best option order a "Lunch Pack" for 2-3 people that includes your choice of 1 lb. of deli meat, 1 loaf of "When Pigs Fly" rye bread, coleslaw, pickles, real deli style mustard, and homemade rugelach. Order now and pick up curbside from the temple in Laconia on your way to the beach, the park, the boat, or your own backyard

on July 19 or July 20. The folks at TBI do all the work and bring it right to your car.

The rest of the 2024 menu boasts a tempting array of crowd-pleasing dishes, including sweet cheese blintzes or noodle kugel, crispy potato latkes or delicious challah bread. Indulge in homemade rugelach, strudel, and traditional hamantaschen. There are flaky knishes, filled with potato or meat, big enough for a meal itself. Stock up on soothing matzah ball soup and brisket made with a slightly sweetened gravy. These homemade items are sold frozen, to be enjoyed right away or saved for a holiday or special oc-

casation. Also on the menu is freshly prepared chopped chicken liver and chopped herring, traditional Jewish delicacies that are hard to find except if you are on the Lower East Side in New York.

Don't miss out or you will have to wait until next year! Visit the TBI website today ([www.tbinh.org](http://www.tbinh.org)) to place orders and select a day and time to pick up your order. You won't be sorry!



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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

“Judaism is About Love” and “Twisted Allies”

As our country and the world continues to try and work through the partisan and contentious quarreling that has gripped so many, maybe it is time to remember the basic tenets of the Abrahamic religions: love your fellow person, treat your neighbor as you would want to be treated. The timing of a new book titled *Judaism is About Love*, is perfect. In the book, Rabbi Held explains it is time for people to put down their weapons, whether they are physical or psychological, and to come back to one of the most basic commandments of both Judaism and Christianity: love your neighbor as yourself.

The perfect way to help change your way of thinking is to read this fabulous book by philosopher, theologian, Bible scholar, and author Rabbi Shai Held. Held explores in depth the concept of love. In each chapter Held calls on us all to reexamine our behavior and thinking to embrace the stranger, the widow, the orphan, and the downtrodden. Jewish belief has altered over the years to thinking of Judaism as the religion of law and Christianity as the religion of love. Held argues that Judaism is about love, that GD has implanted in us the capacity to love. GD believes in us and wants us to love. We have individual



agency though and he will not force us to love. To quote Held, “To return to where we started, all this talk about divine love may strike some readers as...well, un-Jewish. And that’s precisely why I’ve written this book: to help us overcome impoverished and distorted understandings of the Jewish tradition. Judaism tells us of a GD of love who summons us to lead lives of love; both for one another and for GD.”

The philosopher Midge Midgley is quoted in the book saying, “We are not self-contained and self-sufficient, either as a species or as individuals, but live naturally in deep mutual dependence.” Therefore, Held concludes, if GD loves us unconditionally, and we are created in the image of a relational GD, then we are always in need of relationships. We need one another, family, friends, and the greater community and all humanity. We need to work to overcome our yetzer hara, our evil inclination. Held asserts that we all have the capacity for love but

also have the opposite ability that can be fostered by fear and unhealed hurts.

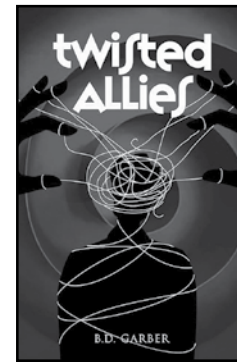
Take a step toward a better understanding of love in Jewish thinking both through Torah and tradition to

live a good life. The author is hoping that *Judaism is About Love* will be inspiring to non-Jewish readers as well, learning about Judaism and its relationship to Christianity.

Shai Held is President and Dean at the Hadar Institute, a center of Jewish life, learning and practice that builds vibrant egalitarian communities in North America and Israel.

On a lighter note, I would like to recommend *Twisted Allies*. This book was written by a friend and local author Ben Garber. This is a novel about family dynamics, divorce, and parent /child relationships.

It’s an exciting narrative: A mother found dead, a son found later in a neighbor’s garage with bloodied clothes – the press is calling him the “Mommy Mur-



derer” and his father, a psychologist, claims the mother was abusive and the son is now suffering from traumatic shock. True crime writer Ted Bennett involves himself when he requests to write a book about the case. Hoping to expose the true story he becomes embroiled in the complicated, digital world of gaming. As the plot thickens we learn about Ted Bennett’s relationship with a divorcee with a young daughter. As Bennett is interviewing Samuel Abrams about his marriage to Suki Kohler, and how he thinks it all affected their son and led to murder, we watch Bennett negotiate his own relationship. All this makes for a fast-moving, disturbing, always twisting look at how far a parent will go to protect what they decide is the best interest of their child.

Ben Garber is a New Hampshire licensed psychologist, an internationally respected speaker, and an avid writer. *Twisted Allies* is his first (published) novel and a long overdue look inside the chaos, conflict, and confusion that is family law. Ironically, Dr. Garber is happily married, longs for more time playing with his adult children and their children, and escapes now and then alone into the northern wilds of New Hampshire and Maine to think, write, and catch largemouth bass.

Best of the Fest

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee Member

Our “Audience Award: Best of the Fest” votes from the 2024 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival are in! We are happy to announce winners in two categories this year: Best Feature Film and Best Documentary.

For Best Feature Film, the French drama *The Story of Annette Zelman* received the most votes. Based on an incredible and harrowing true story about forbidden love

during the rise of Nazism, this poignant and well-acted story was only available virtually, but it won over our audiences during the Festival and bonus week.

It says a lot about a film taking the top prize when there were so many outstanding dramas and comedies that were very well received in our line-up this year. The conversations in the lobbies of our venues, discussions via personal networks, and on our social media pages made for a lot of engaging dialogue about our variety of titles. We congratulate the whole

acting, directing, and production teams behind *The Story of Annette Zelman* for this amazing honor!

For our Best Documentary award, we are pleased to announce that *Call Me Dancer* was the victor of the five outstanding films we screened in this category. *Call Me Dancer*, which was shown at Red River Theatres in Concord, played to an audience who could not stop raving about the inspiring story of Manish Chauhan, an Indian dancer who rises from his working class upbringing all the way to New York City, and Yehuda Ma’or, a revered Israeli teacher and former ballet dancer, who helps Manish on his journey. A “feel good” story with so much to love, this

beautifully made film drew one of our largest crowds. We were so pleased that Manish could join us following the screening and to have Yehuda and co-director Leslie Shampaine in a pre-taped Zoom discussion. It was such a pleasure for me to facilitate these insightful conversations!

We were so fortunate to have another great lineup of movies this year and to have brought you one of our best festivals yet! Thanks to readers like you, donors, our enormous volunteer team, sponsors, friends, and the staff at the Federation, we continue to thrive. We look forward to seeing you at the movies again in 2025, and we hope you continue to follow us in the year ahead!



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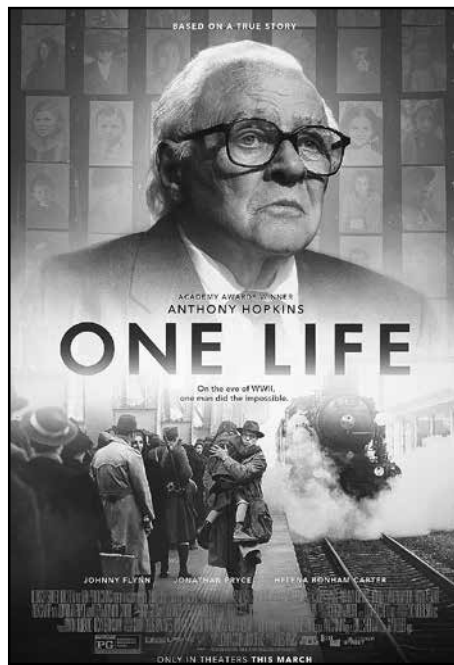
Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

Anthony Hopkins in *One Life*

Inspiring stories are hard to come by in our current world as conflicts abound and our news cycle focuses on the hardships we encounter. When it comes to World War II, despite the enormous suffering and hardship, there are many inspirational stories to tell. This is very much true about the new Anthony Hopkins film *One Life*, which recounts the amazing tale of Sir Nicholas Winton and his efforts to save 669 children from the horrors of the Holocaust.

A little-known tale until about 35 years ago, the backstory that is created in the narrative is truly amazing. Using flashbacks to the late 1930s and a current setting of the late 1980s, an incredibly fascinating story is told about both the young Winton's motives for helping others and his challenges calling attention to it nearly 50 years later. His humble manner and audacity are apparent in both stages of his life, particularly in the way that Johnny Flynn and Anthony



Hopkins portray Winton so similarly yet also so uniquely.

Flynn embraces Winton's zest for change and the bold choices he makes in his characterization of him. He shines in several scenes with his ability to show both the deep personal feelings and the intense passion for the cause.

Anthony Hopkins shows that age has no bounds when it comes to performing well. At 87, he can still act just as well as he did in his 50s. In fact, his ability to portray intensely personal emotion and grace filled me with awe in his own characterization of the elder Winton. He captures the evident selflessness that was a core part of Winton's being so well that you actually forget you're watching Hopkins himself. Ultimately, it's another mesmerizing performance by a man who will surely keep entertaining audiences as long as he is able to.

Like many of our readers, I've seen quite a few Holocaust films through the years, but this one may be the most

touching in some ways. Without giving away what really makes it shine and the scenes that are still leaving me with goosebumps days later, I will just say that there are some deeply heartfelt and authentic moments showcasing Winton's amazing work for young children.

If anything, this film reminded me that there are so, so many good people and stories out there in our world, both past and present. It took far too long for Winton's story to be told, in large part because of his humble attitude, but also because people did not seek to tell it. But since the 1980s, there has been a clear and evident effort to spread the power of what he did for all the world to hear. There's no better time than now to start doing that for other stories.

Be sure to check out this incredible piece that is accompanied by other strong performances, beautiful music, and vivid examinations of times past. You will not be sorry.

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## The “Little Shul That Could” in Bethlehem Offers an Overflowing Summer Season

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation is looking forward to its 104th summer! We'll return to our sanctuary in July, where Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum will lead Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations, Saturday morning services and Torah Study, and holidays through Simchat Torah. Visitors to the Bethlehem area are welcome. All services will also be available simultaneously on Zoom. Please see our website, [www.bethlehemsynagogue.org](http://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org) for more information.

“BHC is very much a bricks-and-mortar synagogue (although clad in clapboard) and has been a part of the landscape of downtown Bethlehem since 1920,” notes Rabbi Kirshbaum. The congregation contributes to the surrounding towns, as well as to the New Hampshire Jewish klatsch, by hosting summer “Building Community Through the Arts” programs: the Sounds in the Sanctuary classical music concerts; the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival; and the Books of Jewish Interest discussion group.

**Sounds in the Sanctuary** opens its season on Friday, July 12, welcoming back pianist Bernard Rose, who will perform Bach’s “Goldberg Variations.” The “Odesa Boys,” Julian Milkis on clarinet and Maxim Lubarsky on piano, will entertain July 26 with a fun-filled program of jazz and classical duets. The Lysander Piano Trio – formed when its members were students at Julliard – will join us on August 9. The season will finish on August 23 with pianist Michael Arnowitt, who was featured in the documentary “Beyond 88 Keys.” All concerts are held in the BHC sanctuary at 39 Strawberry

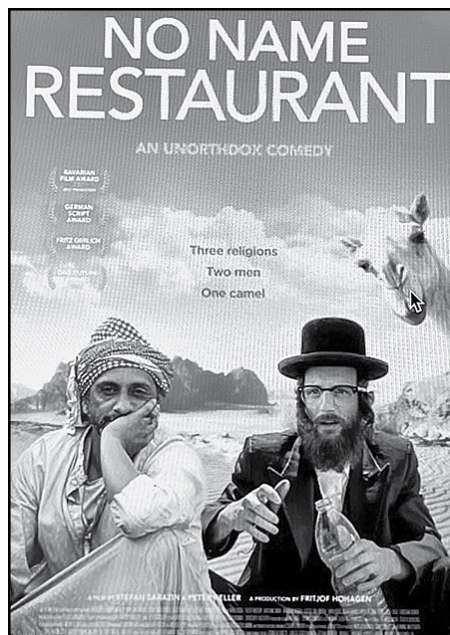


The “Odesa Boys”—Julian Milkis and Maxim Lubarsky—are among a host of world-class musicians performing in our *Sounds in the Sanctuary* series.

Hill Road, Bethlehem, on Fridays at 5 pm with a reception following. Information on the performers, programs, and tickets is available on the BHC website.

**The White Mountain Jewish Film Festival** plans to fill Bethlehem’s Colonial Theatre with laughter, particularly needed to these troubling times. Included in the five selected comedy films are two new, independent productions, *Yaniv* (July 18) and “*No Name Restaurant*” (August 29). In *Yaniv*, when a Bronx high school slashes its arts funding, the affected teacher concocts a scheme to save the department and its production of *Little Shop of Horrors* by entering the dangerous world of Yaniv... a card game played “behind closed doors” by Orthodox Jewish gamblers. This madcap and absurd comedy unpacks Jewish identity, male friendship, and public education, all in one lighthearted package. The film’s director, Amnon Carmi, and screenwriter, producer and actor, Ben Ducoff, will be with us to talk about their film and teach us how to play and score and win at Yaniv!

In *No Name Restaurant*, the synagogue



Join us at the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival for a summer of Jewish comedy!

of the once largest Jewish community in the world is in danger of shutting down. Ben, an ultra-Orthodox Brooklyn Jew visiting Jerusalem, is sent to Egypt to be the desperately needed tenth man for the ceremonies of Pesach. Having missed his plane and been kicked off the bus in the Sinai Desert, his last hope is Adel, a grumpy Bedouin looking for his camel.

These new movies will be complemented by three classics: *Frisko Kid*, starring Gene Wilder (August 1); Woody Allen’s *Broadway Danny Rose* (August 15); and Mel Brooks’ *The Producers* (September 5).

The films will be screened on Thursday evenings at Bethlehem’s Colonial Theatre. A reception and talk by a guest

speaker will open each event beginning at 6 pm. The film showing starts at 7pm and will be followed by a Q&A with the guest speaker. Ticket information is available on the BHC website.

The comedic theme continues with the selection of titles for this summer’s **Books of Jewish Interest** discussion group. We’ll be reading *Sick in the Head* by Judd Apatow (discussion on July 10); *Even This I Get to Experience* by Norman Lear (discussion on July 24); *Yes I Can Say That* by Judy Gold (discussion on August 7); and *All About Me* by Mel Brooks (discussion on August 21). The book club discussions take place on Wednesdays from 4-5 pm, in-person at the Bethlehem Public Library and simultaneously on Zoom.

Please see the BHC website, [www.bethlehemsynagogue.org](http://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org) for more information on Books of Jewish Interest and all our summer events.



Link to the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation website for more information on our summer services and programs.

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## Hadassah: Advancing Hospitals in Israel

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah recently met over dinner to discuss the book, *Small Great Things* by Jody Piccoul. The book club is now reading *House on Endless Waters* by Emunah Elon and will have a luncheon discussion on July 10. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Helen Arnold at helenarnold@comcast.net. The next chapter meeting will be on August 8 at 6:30 PM. Please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

The Hadassah Medical Organization encompasses two major medical centers. **Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem** shares a large campus with the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, with scientists collaborating from both institutions. The 19-story inpatient Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, Hadassah's gift to the people of Israel on its centennial, dominates the Ein Kerem campus. The underground state-of-the-art surgical suites are sheltered deep in the Jerusalem hillside and fortified against conventional, biological, and chemical warfare. Hospital gardens provide green space for emotional sustenance of patients and staff. The iconic Round Building, opened in 1962, is be-

ing modernized and expanded to meet the city's growing needs. Research and clinical trials draw patients from around the world.

**Hadassah Hospital Mt. Scopus** is fourteen miles from Ein Kerem on panoramic Mount Scopus, Hadassah's hospital serves both as a top-tier community medical center and addresses special needs of the greater Jerusalem area. Families rely on the pediatric chronic disease center, a hospice and the region's rehabilitation center. A new comprehensive rehabilitation center will bring cutting-edge robotics to soldiers and civilians, stroke, and terror survivors, as expansions and improvements bring advanced care to busy adult and pediatric emergency rooms, including at a new shock trauma center. Women giving birth continue to trust the outstanding care provided at the Rady Mother and Child Center. A cardiac catheterization lab provides immediate heart repairs 24/7.

"The need to establish a new and advanced rehabilitation center in Jerusalem has existed for a long time, and the need became paramount in light of the war, for many soldiers and citizens in Israel," Hadassah National President Carol Ann Schwartz said. Thanks to large-scale fundraising by Hadassah, Schwartz continued. "This is part of the

organization's 112-year commitment to the State of Israel in general and to Jerusalem in particular. **"The Gandel Rehab Center at Hadassah Mt. Scopus** was recently completed and will care for 10,000 patients annually. The center will have 140 in-patient beds and the outpatient clinic will serve 250 patients a day. Treatments will include physical and occupational therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, and respiratory and orthopedic rehabilitation. There will be a PTSD center and rehabilitation for

neurological problems caused by brain, spinal cord, and nervous system injuries. Among the state-of-the-art advances the Gandel Center will offer are walking labs (called gait labs), which use computers to analyze motion and detect problems not always apparent in clinical exams, and a therapeutic swimming pool with a modular floor that adapts to each patient's requirements.

For information about Hadassah, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com.

## Israel: Did You Know?

By Richard England

Two thirds of Israel's people live in a highly urbanized region stretching from Jerusalem through Tel Aviv to Haifa. This metropolis is slightly larger in area and population than Cook County, Illinois (Chicago and its suburbs). The far north of Israel and its southern Negev region, on the other hand, contain 86 percent of its land area but only a third of its people. Many Israelis live in major cities such as Netanya, Petah Tikva and Rishon LeZion that are unfamiliar to many Americans. Rehovot, a city of 150,000 just south of Tel Aviv, is home to the Weizmann Insti-



tute of Science, a world-famous research institution. When you visit Israel, try to explore what the country has to offer outside Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

## Mitzvahs

### TBA's Daffodil Project

Five hundred daffodils, obtained as part of Am Yisrael Chai's Daffodil Project, were planted at our newly created memorial garden at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on October 9, 2023. Congregants, neighbors, local and state public figures, including Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess, planted the bulbs. A mere two days after October 7, this was a meaningful way for a still reeling community to come together, grieve, and note that the Jewish people still live on in the vibrant flowers that will multiply and flourish year after year.

According to the Daffodil Project's website (www.daffodilproject.net), it aspires to build a worldwide Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million daffodils in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust and in support for children suffering in humanitarian crises in the world today. Why daffodils? The shape and color of the daf-

fodils represent the yellow stars that Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. Yellow is the color of remembrance. Daffodils represent our poignant hope for the future. They are resilient and return with a burst of color each spring, signifying hope, renewal and beauty. The daffodils also honor those who survived the Holocaust and went on to build new lives after this dark and difficult period.

The October event began with a presentation by our member Carol Gorelick, who explained the background of the project followed by directives for planting by Ellie Schwartz. City of Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess planted the first ceremonial bulb, after which everyone else joined in and did their part. In addition to mayor Donchess, attendees included Sherry Dutzy (NH State Rep), Trish Klee (Nashua Alderman, Ward 3) and many TBA members.



TBA has a long history of Holocaust education, through annual Yom HaShoah events and book discussions. For the last few years, a dance performance was presented by a touring group of highly

trained New England Dance Ensemble (NEDE.org) members ranging in age from 6-18. The 40-minute production of "A Child's View of the Holocaust" por-

*Daffodil Project continued on page 22*



## JFNH Tributes

Received by June 10, 2024

### Campaign

In honor of Sharon Weiss' 60th birthday – Deborah Halpern  
Mazel Tov Ken on your second Bar Mitzvah at 83 years old. – Judith Jolton

In honor of my friend Rachel Spierer – Get well soon! – Anonymous  
Praying that Rachel Spierer gets home soon! My friend is a fighter, and she deserves all the love, we as a community, can give her! -- Anonymous

### Campership

In memory of Jan – RJ Shapiro

### Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

Wishing you a happy 50th wedding anniversary. May you celebrate many more happy and healthy years together – Love Arlene and Leon

In honor of your grandson Matthew becoming a Bar Mitzvah. A hearty Mazel Tov! – Love Arlene and Leon

In honor of your grandson Matthew becoming a Bar Mitzvah. – With Love Jane and Joel

### 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.

### Daffodil Project

*continued from page 21*

traying children's experiences under Nazi rule was a moving and meaningful experience. The TBA community regularly partners with Rivier university and the Jewish Federation of NH to observe Yom HaShoah in well attended events with notable speakers, music and displays. Each year on Yom HaShoah members of the community meet at the Nashua Holocaust Memorial on Main Street for a ceremony and reflection time. For our community, the Daffodil Project offered everybody — regardless of age or personal history — a chance to participate in making our already beautiful campus even lovelier and have a deeper

meaning for our heritage.

In April 2024 the group who initiated the program gathered at the garden as the blooming daffodils became a welcoming and bright statement that spring had finally arrived and reminded us that hope can accompany the sorrow and memory of those who suffered so. As antisemitism rises in the US and around the world, the daffodil garden stands as a reminder of what is possible.

Currently, 978,500 bulbs in 465 locations worldwide have been planted, and 500 of them are at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua! To visit the memorial daffodil garden at Temple Beth Abraham, come to 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, and walk to the back of the building on Chester Street side.

## 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.

Your JFNH tribute card serves double duty by helping to support the vital programs serving the New Hampshire Jewish Community.

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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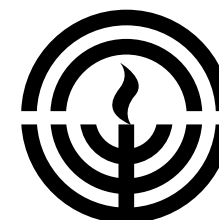


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