

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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 New Hampshire

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June - July 2025

Sivan - Tammuz - AV 5785



SUMMER FUN



Tom Henell, Unsplash

What's Inside

Federation Voices	3
Calendar	4
Your Federation at Work	6
From the Bimah	8
In The Community	9
Arts & Entertainment	13
Book Review	13
Mitzvahs	16
Israel News and Events	17
Tributes	18
Business & Professional Services	19
jewishnh.org	

With Gratitude and Love: A Farewell Letter to the New Hampshire Jewish Community

As I prepare to close this chapter of my professional journey at the end of the month, I find myself filled with gratitude, reflection, and a deep sense of pride. Serving as the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for the past four years has been the honor of a lifetime, but my journey with Federation started long before I ever sat in this chair.

I grew up in this community — not only professionally, but personally. Years ago, I began my path as a preschool teacher, focused on nurturing young minds and planting seeds of Jewish identity. That

Allyson Guertin

JFNH Director



role led me to PJ Library, where I had the privilege of bringing Jewish books, stories, and family programming into homes across the state as the PJ Library Coordinator. From there, I served as the Director of Outreach and Engagement, meeting


community members where they were, helping connect them more deeply with Jewish life in New Hampshire.

Each role was a building block, and each experience shaped my understanding of what our community needs, values, and dreams for. When I stepped into the role of Executive Director, I did so with a deep love for this community and a profound respect for the responsibility ahead. Together, we navigated some of the most challenging moments in recent Jewish history—from rising antisemitism

Farewell continued on page 5

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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 8

JUNE - JULY 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 July issues. All items, including calendar events, for the December-January or June-July newspaper must be submitted by Nov. 10 or May 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.

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut please consult your rabbi.

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

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



June 6	8:04 PM
June 13	8:08 PM
June 20	8:10 PM
June 27	8:11 PM
July 4	8:10 PM
July 11	8:07 PM
July 18	8:03 PM
July 25	7:56 PM

Sunscreen & S'mores: Summer Fun for Jewish Families in New Hampshire

By the time June rolls around in New Hampshire, I'm running full-speed toward sunshine, sprinklers, and trying to remember where I put the bug spray and the baby-safe sunscreen. My three children are constantly moving in different directions and needing things (or me) while also just wanting to play on their devices and drip ice cream or candy on the floor. *Kavod* (respect) seems to be hiding under a pile of wet towels and sibling squabbles. Jewish family life: Chaos and joy. Fortunately, with two out of three kids heading to camp, I'm hoping to rediscover that elusive Jewish value: *menuchah hanefesh* – soul-level calm... or at least enough quiet to drink my iced coffee before all the ice melts.

If you're like me, you're already stressing about how to keep the kids busy (read: not arguing) and maybe even sneak in a few moments of "doing Jewish" along the way. Enter PJ Library, like Jewish Miriam Poppins-eitzky with a tote

Dinah Berch

JFNH
Program
Coordinator



bag full of magic tricks, a spoonful of chicken soup and a catchy tune to get us all practicing *savlanut* (patience).

First trick to pull out of the bag? PJ Library podcasts and playlists! On long car trips my kids agree on "PJ Library Presents: Beyond the Bookcase". This podcast was featured recently in *Kveller* for defying stereotypes and introducing an autistic Jewish character that neuro-spicy kids can relate to. Read the full article at the QR code. Parents – You'll enjoy the silly, touching stories too!



Summer Fun continued on page 5

It's Time to Say THANK YOU

After 11 years of dedicated service to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, it's time to say thank you to Allyson Guertin as she prepares to begin a new chapter in her career at Dartmouth Hillel. From the beginning, we have said this is not a goodbye — Allyson will continue to be part of our community, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Allyson's last official day as Executive Director will be Friday, June 20th. We welcome all members of the community to stop by the Federation office on Thursday, June 19th, between 12 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. for sweet treats and an opportunity to say thank you in person. Watch your email for more information.

The true send-off, however, will take place during our *Annual Meeting* on **Sunday, August 17th**. In addition to honoring our Shem Tov Award winners from across the state, this event will give us all a meaningful moment to celebrate Allyson and her remarkable contributions to Jewish life in New Hampshire.

In her honor, we are launching a new **PJ Library Fund** to support PJ Library and family engagement programs. PJ Li-

Tracy Richmond

Board Chair
JFNH



brary holds a special place in Allyson's heart — it was one of the very first programs she ran during her time with the Federation. By donating to this fund, you are not only helping to continue the vital work of PJ Library but also creating a legacy that will honor Allyson's impact for years to come. We invite community members to join the Federation board in making a gift to this special tribute. If you would like to donate, please go to www.jewishnh.org/donate. Then you will have the option to select the PJ Library Fund.

Also, we hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting. This year, we are requesting a small donation to attend the Annual Meeting in person to help cover event costs. We're thrilled to be serving heavy kosher *hors d'oeuvres* and dessert.

THANK YOU continued on page 5

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or info@investwithcohen.com

264 South River Road, Suite 414,
Bedford, NH 03110
www.investwithcohen.com

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.

Thursday, April 17- Monday, September 1

The Art of 20th Century Yiddish Poster Design

10AM-4PM, Sunday to Friday, Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst, MA

If you were to take a walk through the crowded Jewish neighborhoods of New York, Warsaw, Buenos Aires, and other centers of Yiddish life in the early twentieth century, you would have come across streetscapes full of posters. Theatrical extravaganzas, political discussions, public health talks, literary celebrations—all were publicized in elaborate and striking displays of graphic art. These posters, now on view at the Yiddish Book Center, tell the story of the yidishe gas—the slogans, sounds, and laughter of the Jewish street. <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/visit/now-view/art-20th-century-yiddish-poster-design-theaterpoliticslectures>

Plan your visit: <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events-and-store/plan-your-visit-hours-and-directions>.

Sunday, June 1

Shavuot Learning and Blintzes

6:30 pm-9pm at Temple Israel Portsmouth. Please join us for Shavuot celebration. There will be a tikkun leil Shavuot with Rabba Kaya reading from mystical texts. There will be a blintz buffet with homemade blintzes made in our kosher kitchen. On Monday morning join us at 10 am for a Torah service with yizkor and reading from the book of Ruth. Catered lunch to follow.

Shavua Tov Story Time- Shavuot

8:30AM-9AM, 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.

Each month will have a different theme! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program.

The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.

Email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions.

To register <https://forms.gle/XknJuPEVCPkJPnk9>

SFY: A Chorus Line at the Palace Theatre

2PM-6PM, The Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH

<https://palacetheatre.org/events/a-chorus-line/Seniors!> Join us on Sunday, June 1, 2025, for a performance of "A Chorus Line" at The Palace Theatre in Manchester, followed by an optional dinner. Meet at The Palace Theatre at 1:45 pm. The show starts at 2pm and runs till approximately 4:30pm. Following the performance, join us for an optional dinner (cost not included) a short walk from the theatre. Transportation is not provided.

Tickets are \$40/pp. Please register by May 18th to ensure seats together, here: <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar/sfy-chorus-line-2025>.

Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org.

UVJC Shavuot Picnic

5PM-7PM, the Byrne Pavilion at Storrs Pond, Hanover Upper Valley Jewish Community Shavuot Picnic will take place at the Byrne Pavilion at Storrs Pond and will feature Israeli dancing, a veggie potluck, ice cream making, and songs.

Contact Roberta Berner at 603-646-0460 or email abelberner@gmail.com. <http://www.uvjc.org>.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates Shavuot

6PM-8PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

Join us to celebrate G-d giving us the Torah and Commandments at Mount Sinai. The evening will include "Chai Shavuot," a series of 18-minute seminars - pick one, pick all. 6:00-6:18 Dairy Dinner; 6:18-6:36 Mezuzah Art Project; 6:36-6:54 Torah: Genesis Creation in 10 Phrases; 6:54-7:12 Shavuot Service; 7:12-7:30 and 7:30-7:48 When Jacob Became Israel: A Turning Point. This is a free family event! All ages are welcome! Reservations are required for both the dinner and art project.

RSVP to office@etzhayim.org, or contact Connie at 603-432-0004. Visit us at <http://www.etzhayim.org>.

Friday, June 6

Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Pizza Shabbat

5:30PM-7:30PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

Join us for a free pizza dinner followed by potluck desserts. At 6:15 PM, our Book Bubbe, Leslie Kirshman, will read a story. By 6:30 PM, we will start the family Shabbat service. All are welcome! Please RSVP at office@etzhayim.org by June 2, so we can plan on how much pizza to have, or call Connie at 603-432-0004. See you then and there! Visit us at <http://www.etzhayim.org>.

Temple Adath Yeshurun Family Shabbat Service

6PM-8PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St., Manchester, NH

Family Shabbat Service at 6pm

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

<http://www.taynh.org>

Saturday, June 7

Beth Abraham's Young Family Shabbat

9:45AM-10:30AM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH

Join Beth Abraham for a Young Family Musical Shabbat with Cantorial Soloist, David Rothberg.

Play time and snack to follow. Open to all!

Please register, so we know how many to plan for, <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/Young-Family-Shabbat>.

Contact Rebecca White at 603-883-8184 or email office@tbanashua.org.

Beth Abraham's Soul Shabbat

11AM-12PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH

Join Temple Beth Abraham for an interactive Shabbat experience featuring music, mindfulness, and accessible prayer, to get in touch with our Jewish souls. Led by Cantorial Soloist and Jewish music recording artist, David Rothberg.

Open to all! No registration necessary.

Contact Rebecca White at 603-883-8184 or email office@tbanashua.org.

Sunday, June 8

Celebrate Israel: A Community Yom Ha'atzmaut Program

2PM-5PM, Camp Tel Noar, 167 Main Street, Hampstead, NH

Join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and synagogues from around NH to celebrate Israel's 77th birthday! Experience the wonderful culture of Israel through song, food, art, and more! Children's and adult activities, Free In-Person event, convenient location, Kosher food and security provided. Register here: <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar/celebrate-israel-a-community-yom-haatzmaut-program>.

Melinda Rosenblatt Lecture I The Yiddish Book Center at 45

2PM- 4PM, Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St., Amherst, MA

Join us for this year's Melinda Rosenblatt Lecture with Aaron Lansky, president and founder of the Yiddish Book Center, as he shares his recollections, reflections, and predictions for the Center's future ahead of his retirement.

A reception with light refreshments will follow the talk.

Contact Eva Gellman at updates@yiddishbookcenter.org or call 413-256-4900.

<https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/upcoming-public-programs/melinda-rosenblatt-lecture-yiddish-book-center-45-aaron-lansky>

Thursday, June 12

Schmooze & Booze 2025 at Temple Israel-Manchester- Annual Fundraiser

6PM-9PM, Temple Israel - Manchester, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH

Cost is \$36.00/pp

A Night with Mentalist Craig Karges, music by DJ Darwin Almonte!

Come join us for a mind-blowing evening with the renowned mentalist Craig Karges at Temple Israel Manchester! Prepare to be amazed as Craig dazzles you with his incredible mind-reading abilities and mesmerizing performances. This in-person event promises to be a night full of mystery, laughter, music, and unforgettable moments. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to experience the magic of Craig Karges up close and personal and dance to the tunes of DJ Darwin Almonte! Cash bar and kosher hors d'Oeuvres provided by The Butcherie and a fun surprise at the end of the night!

Order of Events:

Cocktail hour and hors d'Oeuvres, music provided by DJ Darwin Almonte: 6pm - 7pm

Illusions of Grandeur - A night with mentalist Craig Karges: 7pm - 8pm

Auctions and music provided by DJ Darwin Almonte - 8pm - 9pm

Grab your friends and get ready for a night you won't soon forget while supporting Temple Israel - Manchester!

Contact Linda Kropp Sinkow at 508-561-3740, email Lindasinkow@gmail.com, or contact the office at 603-622-6171, email office@templeisraelmht.org. The cost is \$36.00.

Etz Hayim Synagogue - This is Wonder in Storytelling

7PM-8PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

THIS IS WONDER IN STORYTELLING presented by Leslie Kirshman.

The title captures the beauty in and of storytelling.

Storytelling has been one of the most essential forms of communication throughout the ages. Leslie Kirshman has devoted a lifetime to perfecting her skill as a storyteller, beginning with her career as a preschool teacher and later a preschool principal. For the last five years, Leslie has also been the "narrator" for a Londonderry theatrical group, Off Our Rockers. She will share her techniques of expressing herself in storytelling with youngsters. Storytelling is a great way to present history. Join us for a talk with the "Book Bubbe." There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. 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.

Monday, June 16

Inside Israel with Ra'anán

1PM- 2:30PM, JFNH office, Bedford and via Zoom 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 for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid - bring your dairy 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.

Tuesday, June 17

Jewish Spirituality for Wellbeing: Meditation, Breathwork & Sound Bath

Cost is \$20.00/pp

6:30PM-8PM, Manchester, NH: exact address to be given upon registration.

Contact Rabbi Marc-Philippe and Valerie de Roca at 305-409-2611 or email rabbimarc@kodeshouse.org. <http://kodeshouse.org>

Wednesday, July 9

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation presents Books of Jewish Interest Club

4PM-5PM, Bethlehem Public Library and Zoom So, who doesn't really like to go shopping? Join the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation this summer as we read about the shopping experience and the Jewish merchants who changed retail forever. First up on July 9 is "A Girl Named Carrie" by Jerrie Marcus Smith, a biography of Carrie Marcus Neiman, co-founder, in 1907, of the Neiman Marcus department store in Dallas, Texas. Carrie played an integral role in the store's success, despite having three strikes against her: she was a woman, she was Jewish, and (after her husband's illicit relationship with a second-floor saleswoman) she was divorced. Yet with impeccable taste and exemplary manners, she "was nobody's pushover."

We meet simultaneously in-person at the Bethlehem Public Library and on Zoom. For more information, visit our website at <https://www.bethlehem-synagogue.org/books-2025>.

Thursday, July 10

White Mountain Jewish Film Festival

6PM-9PM, Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem, NH Filmgoers can again enjoy the magic of watching

Calendar continued on page 5

Statewide Calendar of Events

Calendar

continued from page 4

great theatrical presentations on the big screen of Bethlehem's historic Colonial Theatre, one of the oldest continuously operating movie theaters 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. The guest speaker will introduce the film and then stay for a Q&A as the houselights go on afterwards.

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

General Admission \$10; BHC and JFNH Members: \$9; Season Pass (5 Films): \$40

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

www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/films-2025

Friday, July 18

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation presents Sounds in the Sanctuary

4:30PM-6PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem, NH
Cost is \$25 General Admission/\$20 BHC Members. Season pass (4 Concerts) \$75 General Admission/\$60 BHC Members

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's 12th season of chamber music concerts opens with a performance by pianist Bernard Rose and violinist Sunghae Anna Lim. Their program includes sonatas by Bach, Ravel, and Prokofiev, and Debussy's "Suite Bergomasque."

A light reception with the musicians follows. Tickets are available online at <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/concert-series-2025> or at the door.

Wednesday, July 23

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation presents Books of Jewish Interest Club

4PM-5PM, Bethlehem Public Library and Zoom
So, who doesn't really like to go shopping? Join the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation this summer as we read about the shopping experience and the Jewish merchants who changed retail forever. Our second great read this summer is "You Need a Schoolhouse," by Stephanie Deutsch. This book charts the philanthropic and educational partnership between Booker T. Washington, who was born a slave and who became a founding leader of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and German-Jewish businessman Julius Rosenwald, who became an owner of Sears, Roebuck in Chicago and a trustee of the Tuskegee Institute. Rosenwald worked with Washington and others to construct nearly 5,000 schoolhouses for African American children in the deep South.

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-2025>.

Thursday, July 31

White Mountain Jewish Film Festival

6PM-9PM, Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem, NH
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 theaters in the country.

As always, your ticket includes our festival's famous patio party beginning at 6PM with complimentary refreshments and an assortment of beverages. The guest speaker will introduce the film and then stay for a Q&A as the houselights go on afterwards.

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

General Admission \$10; BHC and JFNH Members: \$9; Season Pass (5 Films): \$40

Tickets are sold at the door or can be purchased online: www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/films-2025

Farewell

continued from page 1

to the heartbreak of October 7th and its aftermath. We also celebrated countless simchas, milestones, and community triumphs. From growing statewide programs to strengthening our response to hate, from elevating Holocaust remembrance to deepening our Israel connections, I've watched our Federation grow in impact, reach, and resilience.

One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of during my tenure is the completion of our strategic plan — a thoughtful, community-driven roadmap that will guide the Federation's work in the years

to come. It reflects not only where we are, but where we aspire to be: more connected, more inclusive, more visionary. That plan represents the collective voice of our community and the promise of a vibrant Jewish future here in New Hampshire.

I could not have done this work without the incredible support of our small but mighty Federation staff, whose dedication, creativity, and heart are felt in everything we do. I'm equally grateful to the Federation Board of Directors for their steadfast commitment to the Jewish people of New Hampshire. Their leadership and partnership have been instrumental in every step forward.

Though I am stepping away from my

role at Federation, I am not going far. I am excited to be starting a new position as the Assistant Director at Dartmouth Hill-el, where I look forward to supporting the next generation of Jewish leaders. And most importantly, I will continue to be an active member of the New Hampshire Jewish community—a community that I love deeply and believe in wholeheartedly.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead, to learn, and to grow. Thank you for trusting me with your stories, your children, your challenges, and your hopes. I am forever grateful.

With deep appreciation and love,

Allyson Quartin

THANK YOU

continued from page 3

When you register, you'll see a suggested donation of \$18—though more or less is always welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on June 20th, August 17th, or both, as we say thank you to a truly extraordinary leader.

Summer Fun

continued from page 3

Then we've got the books to pack with the bug spray, goggles and extra flip flops in your beach bag. For PJ Library kids (aged birth to 8) *No Baths at Camp* by Tamar Fox is a tried-and-true favorite. Warning: your kids will laugh and then ask if THEY can skip showers at camp. I also love *Picnic at Camp Shalom* by Jacqueline Jules.

Are your 9-12-year-olds signed up for PJ Our Way? Go to www.pjourway.org and create a login – then go on every month between the first and tenth to choose from a selection of four books! *Small Medium at Large* (because what's summer without a tween who can suddenly talk to ghosts?) and *Red Menace* (for historical intrigue with a side of bar mitzvah nerves) are good summer reads, but my 11-year-old daughter Kira's favorite (seriously, I think she's read it five times) is *The Sun Will Come Out* by

Joanne Levy.

Are your books feeling a little stale? Bring them to me at the JFNH Office in Bedford or at any PJ Library program and trade them out for some new-to-you titles! Going on a long trip? Let me give you a special summer collection!

Did you know that Jewish Federation of New Hampshire wants to help you afford Jewish Summer Camp? Jewish overnight camp is magical—independence, Jewish pride, singing at the top of your lungs, and yes, learning to wear flip flops in the shower. If your child is heading to Jewish overnight camp for the first time this year, we're still offering *campership grants* to help make that happen. More info (and the application) is waiting for you at jewishnh.org/camp. **If you apply for a campership grant AND sign up for PJOW or show us your latest PJOW book you'll receive special JFNH swag!!!**

Come Say "Hi" This Summer!

We've got great events planned all over the state this summer and fall, and I hope

I'll see you and your family! Join the fun by taking advantage of the PJ Library Get Together grants and invite a few Jewish families to meet you for a cookout at the beach! Email me at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org or message me in the new PJ Library Whatsapp community (scan QR code to join!) with questions or to learn more and swap ideas.



One big event I'm especially excited about: **Celebrate Israel at Camp Tel Noar in Hampstead on June 8th!** It's a day full of Israeli food, music, dancing, activities, and community—it's falafel, friends, and fun rolled into one. And tie-dye. And s'mores.

So slap on that sunscreen, grab a Jewish book or two, and let's make this summer one full of meaning, memories, and maybe a little bit of matzah ball mishap (those happen year-round, right?).

L'hitraot (see you soon!) — and don't forget to hydrate!

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A Purim Pizza Party Get Together

PJ Library's Get Together program helps you host your friends for low-prep Jewish-themed gatherings. Sasha Corrado of Windham, NH used the PJ Library Get Together Grant program recently to hold her annual "Purim Pizza Party". She writes, "[Get Together Grants have] been a nice encouragement to plan something. Plus, the PJ Library resources for activities have been really inspiring. From gingerbread sukkahs to hamantaschen scavenger hunts, we have a lot of fun having everyone over!" Learn more about Get Together Grants and how your family can participate at <https://pjlibrary.org/gettogether>.



PJ OUR WAY.


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!

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



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




A gift from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire




Sign up your children ages birth through 12 years old and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and resources delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and culture through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions, and heritage.

Through the program your family will be enriched by experiencing the joys of Jewish life.

Funded by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, it's a gift that will nourish a Jewish life from the start.

Harold Grinspoon FOUNDATION

SIGN UP Ages birth through 8 pjlibrary.org
Ages 9 through 12 pjourway.org

 **Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
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See what's happening in the community at www.jewishnh.org

Shlichim B'Madim (Emissaries in Uniform) Visit New Hampshire

In partnership with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the IDF, the Shlichim B'Madim (Emissaries in Uniform) program brought active-duty Israeli soldiers to New Hampshire during Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Tair and Ben, two remarkable young soldiers, shared their personal stories of

October 7th and the difficult weeks that followed. Escorted by Yikrat from the Jewish Agency, they spent six days visiting communities across the state, fostering meaningful dialogue, answering questions, and deepening our connection to Israel. Their visit was a powerful reminder of resilience, service, and shared identity.



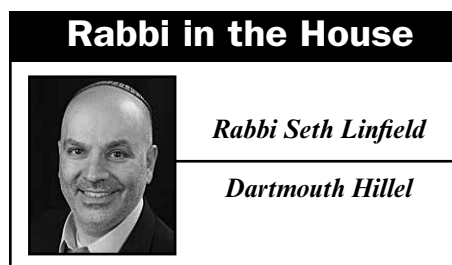
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Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund, The Paul and Fran Gordon Fund and The Singer Family Trust Fund

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

Harvesting Hope: Dartmouth's Sophomore Summer Invigorates Jewish Life

In our world of increasing polarization, an oasis of communal learning and growth comes alive each summer at Dartmouth College. As the Connecticut River sparkles under the New Hampshire sun, our campus undergoes a remarkable transformation: "Sophomore Summer," a distinctive tradition where rising juniors remain on campus while most students depart. Within this ecosystem, Jewish life at Dartmouth blossoms with renewed purpose.

In the Hebrew Bible, the word for summer, "*kayitz* (קייץ)", is used interchangeably with summer fruit (II Samuel 16:1-2; Jeremiah 40:12), reminding us that summer is not merely a season of warmer weather but one of abundant harvest. While headlines across America speak of campus tensions, Hillel at Dartmouth stands as a beacon of unity and strength. Our Jewish population on campus comes together weekly for Shabbat Dinner at the Roth Center for Jewish Life. In Kabbalat Shabbat ser-



vices preceding Shabbat Dinner, led by students for students, authentic Torah-true pluralism flourishes. And in our "Kabbalah and College" conversation cohort on Thursday evenings, students explore their spiritual identities through Jewish teachings that have sustained our people. In his Guide for the Perplexed, Maimonides argues that human perfection lies not in isolated contemplation but in cultivating communities where every person prospers through the moral fellowship of shared purpose and belonging (III:54, Pines tr at 635). Sophomore Summer becomes our laboratory for this wisdom.

But as the Book of Proverbs cautions, "[a] clever son stores up in the summer, a disgraceful son slumbers at harvesttime (10:5, Alter tr)." This juxtaposition of thriving Jewish life here against the backdrop of external pressures serves as a blessing and a reminder of responsibility. Summer represents a time to reflect on our values. And so we do, creating a community where students need not mute their identities but can explore them with laughter and pride.

Our students refuse to define themselves by the trauma of antisemitism. Hillel at Dartmouth offers a radical alternative: a Judaism that speaks through joy rather than fear, through construction rather than defense. "Summer fruit" takes on a fresh resonance here. Just as a single fig contains the promise of future orchards, the students of Hillel at Dartmouth, with the support of cherished partners like the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, hold the power to reshape our Jewish life of tomorrow.

I am excited for what this Sophomore Summer will bring. Students will debate ancient texts and modern dilemmas. They will recite Kiddush and ha'motzi together. They will swim in the Connecticut River and hike the Appalachian Trail, returning to the Roth Center to share their adventures. In this microcosm of Jewish possibility, our students discover how to nurture hope within the noise of a troubled world. Jewish vitality flourishes not despite contemporary challenges, but through transcendent commitments to learning, community, and stewardship. Here, on Dartmouth's patch of the Upper Valley, Jewish life becomes not a fortress against darkness, but a lantern-lit parade, a living celebration of what happens when Jews embrace our heritage as an invitation to help build the world as it ought to be. I expect the fruits harvested during this Sophomore Summer will nourish our Jewish future for many seasons to come.

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE ISRAEL

WITH RA'ANAN DE HAAS
MONDAY, JUNE 16



LAST SESSION!
All sessions use same Zoom link - no need to re-register.

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.



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



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

TBA Announces Prime Timers: Calling ALL Seniors!

By Carol Gorelick

Temple Beth Abraham is spearheading a new group of “Prime Timers” with our initial Informational event. Where? Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua. When? Thursday, June 26th at 2:30pm.

Our goal is to fight loneliness and isolation, which can affect health and well-being, as well as contribute to cognitive decline as we age. We aim to create a spiritual, emotional and physical community that supports the needs of the members through sharing, socializing, and giving mutual uplift. We will strive to do this through shared experiences, having programs for support, safety, and well-being, as well as creating a space for elder growth and connection with a dynamic TBA Jewish Community Association providing enrichment for mind, body, and spirit.

This program will be designed to keep seniors safe, independent, and interconnected while enjoying activity in daily life. It will focus on Jewish life, aging at home, camaraderie, connection, and consistent Jewish values and traditions that we all share. Come and share your ideas for programs, have a nosh, meet other like-minded seniors and be part of the group! At this inaugural event, we can share ideas for programming, and peruse some of the ideas in the works:

- Communications in modern times: Computers, phones, Apple Watches and Aura rings. What you need to know to use them!
- Senior living, what facilities are in the area, what are the costs and logistics from people who know the ins and outs!
- Games to keep our minds active, Rummikub, Mah Jongg, Bridge
- Social musical events, outings, walks, or coffees

These are just some initial ideas. If you would like to see something in particular, here is the forum! It takes a Village, and a strong, dedicated, “Senior Program Focus” is a wonderful place to start! Please

RSVP by following this link: <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/prime-timers-inaugural-meeting.html>.

Any questions, reach out to Temple Beth Abraham office at office@TBANashua.org, or 603-883-8184 We will be

sure to have enough refreshments for all. Let's get connected! We are waiting to see you!

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preschool.director@templeisraelnh.org
603-436-5301 Ext. 23

In the Community

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: Savor the Flavors of the 28th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival

Order Online and Pickup Curbside in Laconia

The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival began as a simple rummage sale in

1997 with the enticing aroma of knock-wurst sizzling on a grill that blossomed into a beloved Lakes Region tradition. 2025 marks the 28th year of an event that

has not only nourished the community with authentic homemade Jewish cuisine but has also served as a vital fundraiser for Temple B'nai Israel (TBI).



Summer Camp Packing List

Hello campers and welcome to Camp _____, _____

We hope you're ready for a jam-packed _____ full of _____ singing

_____ songs, and making _____ friendships that will last a lifetime.

To be sure you're fully prepared for camp, here are some essential items to pack in your bag. Don't worry,

we have an onsite store with _____, _____ supplies, and much more.

Packing List:

Two bottles of _____

LIQUID

SPF _____ sunscreen

NUMBER

Five pairs of _____

ITEM OF CLOTHING

_____ shirts

NUMBER

Five pairs of _____

DIFFERENT ITEM OF CLOTHING

_____ to sleep in

TYPE OF CLOTHING

Towel for _____

SPORT

Extra _____ for writing letters home

PLURAL NOUN

_____ for _____

PLURAL NOUN

ACTIVITY

_____ sanitizer

BODY PART

Shampoo and _____

NOUN

_____ for sharing

PLURAL NOUN

Sheets and _____

NOUN

**Please remember to wear _____ attire while at camp. Be sure to avoid any _____

ADJECTIVE

ADJECTIVE

_____ or clothing with _____ messages while at camp.

ADJECTIVE

TYPE OF CLOTHING

ADJECTIVE

Please do NOT bring your _____ or _____ or any other pet to camp on

ANIMAL

ANIMAL

opening or closing days. We do have camp _____ on the property.

ANIMALS

Can't wait to _____ you later this year!

VERB

To learn more about PJ Library and sign up for free Jewish storybooks, visit pjlibrary.org



The humble beginning of selling food while running a temple rummage sale paved the way for something



much grander; an annual celebration of homemade Jewish foods that became a highlight of the summer season in the Lakes Region. Over the years there have been many changes to Temple B'nai Israel's Jewish Food Festival, but the consistent component has always been the focus on the food. Almost every item sold is made by TBI members working in teams, chopping, slicing, rolling, and frying, all while schmoozing in the temple kitchen. They never lose sight, however, that it's about the food and if the products are not unsurpassed, then they haven't done their job. Their commitment to quality and an unparalleled customer experience ensures that each bite is a testament to tradition and care. The focus is clear: if the food isn't exceptional, the mission isn't complete.

Prepare your taste buds and don't miss the opportunity to partake in this delicious tradition. Choose from an array of authentic Jewish delicacies. Stock up on fresh corned beef, pastrami, and tongue from Evan's Deli (Marlborough, MA), and indulge in homemade favorites like brisket, matza ball soup, knishes, latkes, rugelach, and much more. The complete menu is available at <https://tbinh.org>, with orders accepted from June 8th through July 6th. Convenient curbside, drive-through pickup will be available on July 18th and 19th, by appointment.

In the Community

Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews - Sunday, August 17 in Nashua

Author and history professor Andrew Porwancher comes to Temple Beth Abraham (TBA) in Nashua on Sunday, August 17 at 9:30 am to discuss his new book, *American Maccabee: Theodore Roosevelt and the Jews*. A light breakfast will be served. Andrew previously gave an enlightening presentation at TBA in 2022 about his book, *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton*.



In *American Maccabee*, Andrew chronicles Theodore Roosevelt's deep connection with the Jewish people at every step of the president's dazzling as-

cent. The book also reveals a man of contradictions whose checkered approach to Jewish issues was no less conflicted than the nation he led. As a rising

political figure in New York, Roosevelt barnstormed the Lower East Side, giving speeches to packed halls of Jewish immigrants. He rallied for reform of the sweatshops where Jewish laborers toiled for pitiful wages in perilous conditions. And Roosevelt repeatedly venerated the heroism of the Maccabee warriors, upholding those storied rebels as a model for the American Jewish community. Yet little could have prepared him for the blood-soaked persecution of Eastern European Jews that brought a deluge of refugees to American shores during his presidency.

Andrew Porwancher is a professor of history at Arizona State University. His five books include *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton*, winner of the Journal of the American Revolution Book-of-the-Year Award; and *The Devil Himself*, which was adapted for the stage at Dublin's historic Smock Alley Theatre. He previously served as the May Fellow at Harvard, the Garwood Fellow at Princeton, and the Horne Fellow at Oxford. Andrew's writing has also appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*.

Summer Fun at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Summer has arrived on the Seacoast, and Temple Israel Portsmouth is buzzing with energy, music, art, and connection. Whether you've been part of our community for years, just moved to town, or are simply curious to dip your toes into Jewish life, this season is packed with exciting opportunities and ways to get involved.

Start your weekend with one of our lively **Friday night Shabbat services**, which range from traditional, to musical, to family-style. Each service offers a meaningful and accessible Jewish experience—no matter your background or level of observance. And when the service wraps up? Stick around for an oneg/kiddush to get to know some of our community members.

Be sure to join us for one of our beloved traditions here at Temple Israel, our monthly **Shabbat Potluck Dinners!** Nothing says community like homemade food, laughter, and shared stories around the table.

This summer also marks the return of our annual crowd-favorite, **Jewish Arts and Music Festival (JAM Fest) on August 24 at Strawberry Banke**. It's a full day of live performances, hands-on crafts, and delicious kosher-style fare from local vendors. It's open to all, and it's the kind of festival that makes you feel like you're exactly where you belong.

Art enthusiasts won't want to miss two summer **gallery openings—July 18 and August 8**—featuring the evocative photography of **Lotte Jacobi**, a groundbreak-

ing Jewish artist whose work captures the soul of the 20th century. Enjoy refreshments, conversation, and the chance to see this powerful collection up close.

Beyond the fun and food, Temple Israel is also a place of **learning and growth**. We offer engaging educational programs for children, teens, and adults. Whether you're looking to explore Jewish texts, enrich your spiritual life, or help your children connect to their heritage in a

nurturing environment, there's something for everyone here.

From spirited services and potlucks to festivals, art, and learning, summer at Temple Israel Portsmouth is about community, celebration, and joy. Come connect, relax, and discover what makes this place so special. *You're always welcome here.*

For more details and a full calendar of events, visit www.templeisraelnh.org.



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Shabbat on Pawtuckaway Lake

Etz Hayim' Synagogue's 15th Shabbat Service and Kayaking on Pawtuckaway Lake will be held Saturday, June 28, 2025, at 9:30 AM at the lakeside home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff – 32 Doll-off Dam Road, Nottingham, NH. This will be rain or shine. We will kayak and canoe to a lake island and hold a Shabbat Service. Bring your own watercraft, chair, and snack. There are a limited number of kayaks and one canoe to borrow.



Please RSVP to Steve Soreff by emailing soreffs15@aol.com or call 603- 895-6120 by Wednesday, June 25 by 6:00 PM

If you are bringing your own vessel, please come at 9:00 AM to get it in the water so we can start services at 9:30 AM.



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

CELEBRATE ISRAEL

A COMMUNITY YOM HA'ATZMAUT EVENT



Camp Tel Noar
167 Main Street,
Hampstead, NH

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

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

FREE community event.
Family-friendly. Kosher food

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

JUNE 8, 2025 | 2-5PM

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

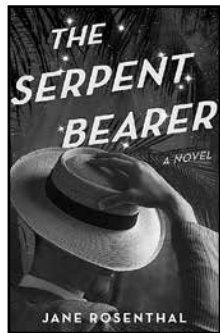


Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Serpent Bearer by Jane Rosenthal

A romantic World War II spy novel with buried family secrets, dangerous German criminals, and a love story... this is *The Serpent Bearer* by Jane Rosenthal. The author has created a novel that spans the time from the war years to present day, and in it, we learn the story of Solomon "Solly" Meisner, who travels from Spain to Mexico and ends up in a small Jewish community in North Carolina where he raises his daughter, Isabelle. Now in his dotage, Solly reminisces about the past revealing his family secrets and the exciting life he led as a spy during World War II. At the same time, Izzy is becoming aware that there was more to her father's history than she knew. The version of her parents' love story she had grown up hearing may not have been the whole story.



Sitting in his assisted living apartment, all the memories come flooding back to Solly. First, he remembers his narrow escape when the building he was in was bombed during the Spanish Civil War. Then, as a young Jewish lawyer, in South Carolina, he is recruited to go to Mexico during World War II to spy on suspected Nazi activity there. Sent by the COI, the newly created government department to gather foreign intelligence, Solly agrees to go, hoping to find his lost love interest and answers to what happened in Spain. This should

be a simple mission, or so Solly thinks: "He'd been so cavalier, so full of bravado, thinking *what the hell, Solly - go to Mexico, have a look around, listen in on some radio communications, report back, win Estelle's hand in marriage and come home, victorious, free. A hero. What a fool.*"

The mission brings him back in contact with people he worked alongside in Spain, who he'd thought his friends. What had happened to them? Why had they not tried to find him? Now he sees that the people he thought he knew may not be who he thought they were. He begins to wonder if the woman he loved really is who she says she is. As he encounters Nazi operatives and Jewish refugees, Solly is finding out who is a true comrade and who is a subversive.

Wonderfully detailed descriptions of the landscape, buildings, and locations bring the reader right into the action. *The Serpent Bearer* is a story of intrigue, danger and bravery. The book also offers some interesting history of Nazi activity in Mexico within a plot abundant in gripping action scenes, near-death experiences and unselfish love.

Former award-winning radio journalist, poet and teacher, Jane Rosenthal studied creative writing at San Francisco State University. She worked for NPR and California Public Radio before teaching English in public high schools in Oakland, California. She grew up Jewish and southern in Charlotte, North Carolina, and now resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband, astrophysicist David Hollenbach.

New Hampshire's "Destination" Synagogue Offers Ambience and Arts

The 105th summer season of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation opens in July. Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum will lead Erev 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.

"You've heard of destination weddings," observes Rabbi Kirshbaum. "We are a destination-adjacent synagogue. We serve a year-round population, a regular summer population, and others who stumble on us while in New Hampshire for a vacation, a wedding, a road race, a family reunion.... To me, the secret of our success in absorbing those who drop in is to keep our arms wide open, our cultural offerings enticing and diverse, our religious services serious, and our food tasty and plentiful."

BHC's long running "**Building Community Through the Arts**" summer program continues to thrive: the Books of Jewish Interest discussion group, the Sounds in the Sanctuary classical music series, and the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival all have exciting line-ups for 2025.

Books of Jewish Interest is going shopping this summer, with books about the Jewish merchants who changed retail forever.

First up (July 9) is *A Girl Named Car-*

rie, by Jerrie Marcus Smith, a biography of Carrie Marcus Neiman, co-founder, in 1907, of the Neiman Marcus department store in Dallas, Texas. Carrie played an integral role in the store's success, despite having three strikes against her: she was a woman, she was Jewish, and (after her husband's illicit relationship with a second-floor saleswoman) she was divorced. Yet with impeccable taste and exemplary manners, she "was nobody's pushover."

Our second great read this summer (July 23) will be *You Need a Schoolhouse*, by Stephanie Deutsch, who will participate in the discussion. Her book charts the philanthropic and educational partnership between Booker T. Washington, who was born a slave and who became a founding leader of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and German-Jewish businessman Julius Rosenwald, who became an owner of Sears, Roebuck in Chicago and a trustee of the Tuskegee Institute. Rosenwald worked with Washington and others to construct nearly 5,000 schoolhouses for African-American children in the deep South.

On August 6, we will delve into *The Joy of Costco*, by David and Susan Schwartz, a married Jewish couple who take their readers on a whirlwind tour of Costco warehouses around the globe. The Costco concept dates back to a Jewish San Diego lawyer named Sol Price,

who founded Price Club, Costco's predecessor. Jim Sinegal, Price's protégé, and Jeff Brotman, a Jewish Seattle retailer, went on to found Costco itself.

Our summer book club will conclude on August 20 with *Merchant Princes: An Intimate History of Jewish Families Who Built Great Department Stores*, by Leon A. Harris. This compelling history of America's famous Jewish shopkeepers shows how the Filene, Gimbel, and Marcus families, and others, created renowned retail empires out of small pushcart beginnings.

Books of Jewish Interest meets at the Bethlehem Public Library and simultaneously on Zoom. More information is available on the BHC website.

Sounds in the Sanctuary opens its season on Friday, July 18, welcoming back pianist Bernard Rose and violinist Sung-hae Anna Lim. Their program includes sonatas by Bach, Ravel, and Prokofiev, and Debussy's *Suite Bergamasque*.

On August 1, the Halcyon Chorale, led by Lucas Weiss, will perform Eric Whitacre's *The Sacred Veil*. A 12-movement work, and the most recent collaboration between Whitacre and poet/lyricist Charles Anthony Silvestri, *The Sacred Veil* is based on the experiences of Silvestri and his wife, Julie, who died of ovarian cancer at age 36 in 2005, leaving two young children. Including texts from Silvestri, Whitacre and Julie her-



self, the intimate, compelling score tells a story of courtship, love, loss, and the search for solace.

Our sanctuary will transform into an 18th century Viennese salon on August 15, for a special concert in honor of the Robinson and Mautner families. Dr. Andrus Madsen will perform on a period-appropriate pianoforte, along with soprano Anastasia Robinson and classical guitarist Gary Robinson.

Our season concludes August 15 with a return performance by Israeli-American cellist Amit Peled, along with pianist Martin Labazevitch, playing music by Weinberg, Bloch, and Chopin.

All concerts are held in the BHC sanctuary at 39 Strawberry Hill Road, Bethlehem, on Fridays at 4:30 pm with a reception following. Information on the performers, programs, and tickets is available on the BHC website.

This summer, the **White Mountain Jewish Film Festival** offers movies that explore Jewish experiences in culture

Destination continued on page 15

Film Club Event: 'Sabbath Queen'

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is pleased to announce another Film Club event! On Sunday, June 22 at

3 PM, we will screen the new documentary *Sabbath Queen* at Chunky's Cinema in Manchester.



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MOVIE CLUB

SABBATH QUEEN

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Chunky's in Manchester

SUNDAY,
JUNE 22, 3PM

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post-film discussion with Rabbi
Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth
Jacob in Concord and Rabbi
Beth Davidson of Temple
Adath Yeshurun in Manchester

\$10/person



Chunky's Cinema Pub: 707 Huse Road,
Manchester, NH



Call JFNH at 603-627-7679



<https://bit.ly/SabbathQueen>



info@jewishnh.org



The perfect film to close out Pride Month, *Sabbath Queen* follows Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie's epic journey over a 21-year period as the dynastic heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis, including the Chief Rabbis of Israel. Torn between rejecting and embracing his rabbinate, along the way he becomes a drag-queen rebel, a queer bio-dad, and the founder of Lab/Shul, an everybody-friendly, God-optional, artist-driven, pop-up experimental congregation.

In Amichai's lifelong quest to creatively and radically reinvent religion and ritual, he challenges patriarchy and supremacy, champions interfaith love, and stands up for peace in Israel/Palestine. The film interrogates what Jewish survival means in a rapidly changing world.

We are fortunate to have this film available to our New Hampshire community following our highly successful Film Festival line-up this year. Following the screening, I am pleased to join Rabbi Beth Davidson of Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester and Rabbi Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord for a discussion, which I can guarantee will be an enriching opportunity for everyone involved. Manchester True Collaborative is also a generous sponsor of this event.

Please feel free to register through the Federation's flyer, which has circulated through their email distribution list. It includes information on cost, how to make a donation to the Festival, and logistical details. We hope you will once again just us at the movies!

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Arts & Entertainment

Destination

continued from page 13

and politics. *Janis Ian: Breaking the Silence* (2024) tells the story of how the teenage singer-songwriter from New Jersey scored a 1966 hit, “Society’s Child,” about an interracial relationship. For the next six decades, Ian overcame homophobia, record industry misogyny, and a life-threatening illness to produce an indelible body of work that continues to draw large audiences around the globe.

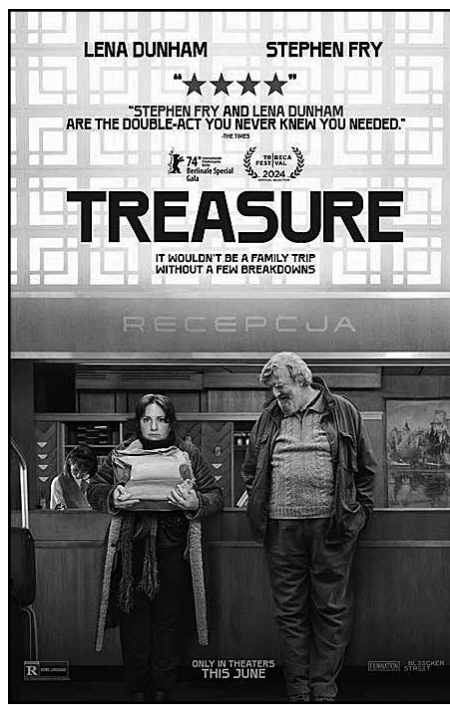
Midas Man (2024) tells the story of Brian Epstein, the mastermind behind The Beatles’ meteoric rise, a visionary who transformed music history. From running a Liverpool record store to shaping the sound of a generation, Epstein’s journey is a rollercoaster of ambition, passion, and the relentless pursuit of greatness.

Shoshana (2023) is a political thriller,

inspired by real events, set in the 1930s in Tel Aviv, a brand new European, Jewish city being built on the shores of the Mediterranean. Thomas Wilkin (Douglas Booth) is in love with the city and with Shoshana Borochoy (Irina Starshenbaum). Through their relationship, the film explores the way extremism and violence push people apart.

In *Daniel* (1983), a ’60s graduate student (Timothy Hutton) recalls his parents (Mandy Patinkin, Lindsay Crouse), who were executed in the ’50s for selling atomic secrets. The film, directed by Sidney Lumet, is based on E. L. Doctorow’s novel inspired by the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for espionage. Our guest speakers for this film are Robert and Ellen Meeropol. Robert is the Rosenbergs’ son.

Finally, *Treasure* (2024) features Lena Dunham as Ruth, a neurotic business-



woman from New York, who takes her father Edek (Stephen Fry), a charmingly stubborn Holocaust survivor, on a journey to Poland to make sense of her family’s history. Edek’s hesitation to confront his past and his often odd demeanor cause more than one dispute between father and daughter, weaving a tale of emotional drama and discovery mixed with humor.

As always, the film festival will be held on Thursday evenings at Bethlehem’s historic Colonial Theatre. Your ticket includes our famous patio party and guest speakers who introduce each film and lead a Q&A after the screening.

Please see the BHC website, www.bethlehemsynagogue.org for more information on all our summer events.



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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, helping others, 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+ years. It also functions much better.

In order to donate, living kidney donors get a careful and thorough evalua-

tion 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. First, you only need one kidney to live a long, healthy life. Also, the surgery for a donor is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions, and the recuperation period is fairly quick, generally only a few weeks. The cost of an evaluation and surgery would be covered by my insurance. Although my blood type is O+, you do not necessarily need to have the same blood type or tissue type to be a match. Finally, 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 call Randi's Transplant Navigator, Jullie Hoggan at Square Knot Health: 617-468-1382, or 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.

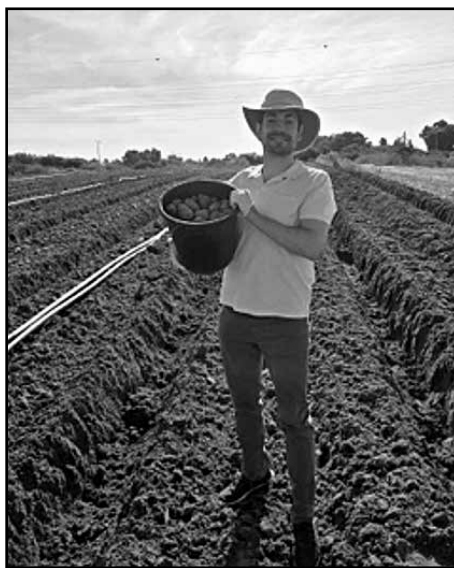
Thank you for taking the time to read my story. Major ways you can help me are to share it with your friends, family, and on social media.

With much appreciation,
Randi Gelfman
P.O. Box 178
Parsonsfield, Maine 04047

Social Action Shabbat at Temple Adath Yeshurun

The Union for Reform Judaism designates the Shabbat before Pesach as Social Action Shabbat. TAY commemorated it with a special guest speaker, Gilad Skolnick, from Leket Israel (leket.org) the leading food rescue organization in Israel. Its focus is rescuing healthy, surplus food and delivering it to those in need. *Leket* means "gleanings" in Hebrew and this is exactly what they have been doing for twenty years since the founder, Joseph Gitler, took the leftovers from a Bar Mitzvah to feed hungry people. The heart of Leket Israel is the complex logistical operation of sourcing, collecting, and transporting surplus food to where it is needed. Stringent food safety standards are maintained throughout the process. With Leket's fleet of 63 refrigerated trucks and vans, staff and volunteers transport thousands of tons of rescued food throughout the country. Rescued produce is brought to the logistics center or other cold storage facilities where it is sorted, stored, and prepared for delivery to one of 289 nonprofit partners. Rescued cooked food is either brought directly from where it was cooked to a recipient nonprofit partner or brought to one of the regional hubs to be stored overnight and reheated the following morning for timely service of a hot lunch.

In 2024, Leket enabled the rescue and purchase of 69.2 million lbs. of fresh produce from 810 farms and packing houses and the rescue and purchase of 2 million hot meals. A year and a half after the start of the war, Israel still finds



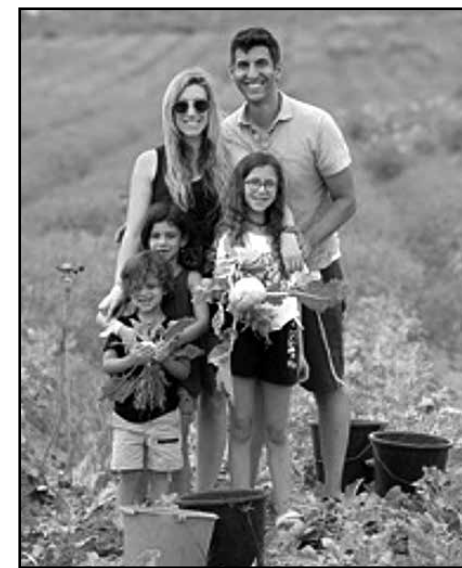
itself in a state of instability and hardship. Leket's weekly recipients have nearly doubled from 234,000 pre-October 7th to 415,000, and the increasing cost of living since has not relented. In response to this urgent need, they have strengthened their programs striving to return to pre-war food rescue levels while adapting to Israel's shifting realities. Leket has rescued 15.1 million lbs.



of produce and 490,000 meals since the beginning of the year.

In 2025, they have:

- Increased programs in schools in underserved communities from 7 to 10 providing vital nutrition education and fresh, surplus produce to thousands of students and their families.
- Opened a brand-new food distribution hub in Carmiel, which will help Leket



meet increased demand of rescued hot meals in Northern Israel for a total of nine distribution hubs.

- Continued to send thousands of volunteers from Israel and abroad to farms around Israel to assist with agricultural production and harvest. Leket's volunteer program has sent 11,599 volunteers in January and February of 2025 to farms around the country.

Leket serves Israelis of all backgrounds-Jewish, Muslim, Christian and all age groups from Holocaust survivors to young children. Please reach out to Gilad Skolnick if you have questions or would like him to speak to your congregation (Gilad@leket.us). Donations can be sent to: <https://www.leket.org/en/> or mailed to Leket Israel, PO Box 2090, Teaneck, NJ 07666



Hadassah Report June 2025

By Michele Bank

In time for Father's Day, have you considered making the men in your life Associate Members of Hadassah? While it is a women's institution, we could use their support.

Hadassah Associates are committed to the Hadassah mission of healing — making a vital impact. Their mission is to support the mission and vision of Hadassah by supporting our practical approach to Zionism, making lives better here, in Israel and around the world. Associates work to educate and engage everyone who identifies as a man in communities around the country, develop and support fundraising initiatives and events that advance medical breakthroughs at the Hadassah Medical Organization.

Associates will receive Hnew and Hadassah's national eNewsletter. They will have

also have access to online Hadassah programs and podcasts. They will have opportunities to show support for Israel and medical breakthroughs at the Hadassah Medical Organization. Associates receive exclusive Israel travel offers and tours and can join professional networking and programs.

Associates have raised millions of dollars over the years for Hadassah, both individually and collectively. Membership is \$36 annually or \$250 lifetime. Give the men in your life this opportunity to show their love and support for Israel.

In Hadassah Medical Organization news, at the Cystic Fibrosis Center at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, one patient's determination resulted in treatment for many other patients.

Yael, 18, suffers from cystic fibrosis (CF) with pancreatic insufficiency and CF-related diabetes. At 14, she developed a serious lung disease and required inten-

sive daily treatment. When the news of a new miracle drug called Trikafta came to light, it was disappointing that the drug was not approved for Yael's particular mutation under the Israeli health basket. The drug costs \$24,000 a month.

Undeterred, Yael started a national campaign to try the pills, asking for samples from patients whose mutations were approved for treatment. At the center, the doctors agreed to create a clinical trial for her. Within a few days, her coughing stopped, her weight improved, and she was no longer insulin dependent. When news of the trial went out from Israel, a doctor in France and another in the US started treating their patients who shared Yael's mutation. Eventually, the US Food and Drug Administration approved Trikafta for a further 94 mutations.

Rather than testing drugs on a patient — in this case, on the organs of a CF pa-

tient — Hadassah researchers can conduct the tests in a lab using organoids, miniaturized and simplified versions of cells or tissue produced in vitro in three dimensions that mimic the key functional, structural, and biological complexity of those cells or tissue.

As doctors at the Cystic Fibrosis Center continue delineating additional mutations for which the drug would be effective, trials can be carried out on these organoids. If their lab proves that Trikafta works for an individual patient, health funds will cover the cost of the drug, thereby changing their life forever.

Says Dr. Liron Birimberg-Schwartz, clinical director of the Organoid Center at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, "This is the ultimate personalized medicine."

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

Israel: Did You Know?

By Richard England

The Birthright Israel program was launched twenty-five years ago to bring groups of young Diaspora Jews on free ten-day visits to Israel. Since then, nine hundred thousand participants from seventy countries have taken part in the program. Twenty percent of American Jews 18-46 years of age have participated in Birthright tours.

Has the program been a success? "We have conducted dozens of studies," says



Professor Leonard Saxe, of Brandeis University. "The simple summary is that Birthright has an enormous impact ... The experience puts people's lives on a different trajectory of engagement with the Jewish people and Israel" *Source: Times of Israel.*

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

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In memory of Jan – Richard Shapiro

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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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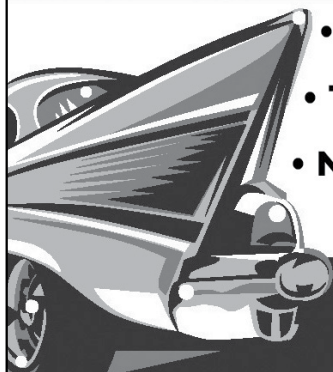
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All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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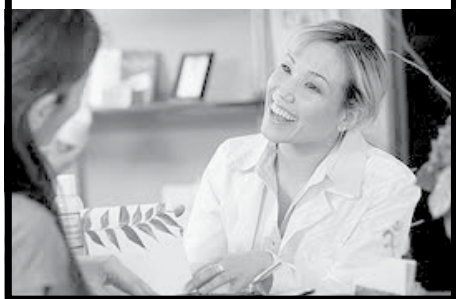
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