

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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New Hampshire

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FILM FESTIVAL

17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Schedule

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee Member and Screener

This year, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 17th season! We will once again offer a multi-access event with in-theater screenings, as well as opportunities to watch some films virtually. The Festival will run from Sunday, March 23 to Sunday, April 6. Virtual screenings will happen during our Bonus Week, which continues until Friday, April 11. Additionally, there will be a pre-Festival event on Sunday, March 16 at the Currier Museum in Manchester.

This year, we are excited to present 15 feature length films in the documentary, drama, and comedy genres in several communities throughout the state. The titles come from all over the world with something for each member of the family to enjoy! There will also be a free PJ Library sponsored screening of the animated film *The Prince of Egypt* on Sunday, April 6 at 2:30 PM at Red River in Concord.

The Film Festival is supported by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, a

grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, numerous corporate sponsors, and many Friends of the Festival. We extend a huge “thank you” once again. Without the generous support of these folks, we would be unable to offer this incredible cultural program.

Sunday, March 16: Special Pre-Festival Event at the Currier Museum

We are excited to host a special screening of the new documentary *Technion 10²* a week before the Festival officially begins! With thanks to the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester and our special guest Dean Kamen, we will be showing the film and then follow it with a dessert reception.

This film chronicles the hundred years of Technion’s pioneering research, which began with its first class in Haifa in 1924. From modest beginnings to a now leading technological research institution with strong focus on economics, science, and technology, it is hard to believe in an Israel without Technion. The film traces the pre-state years, dramatic wars, and major breakthroughs over the last several decades. The American Technion Society and the Federation’s Israel Engagement and Education Committee are sponsors of this film and event.

Sunday, March 23: Opening Reception and Film Screening at The Rex in Manchester!



The Film Festival will officially kick off with an opening reception on Sunday, March 23 at noon in the Spotlight Room at the Palace Theatre on Hanover Street. We hope that you will join us for this fes-

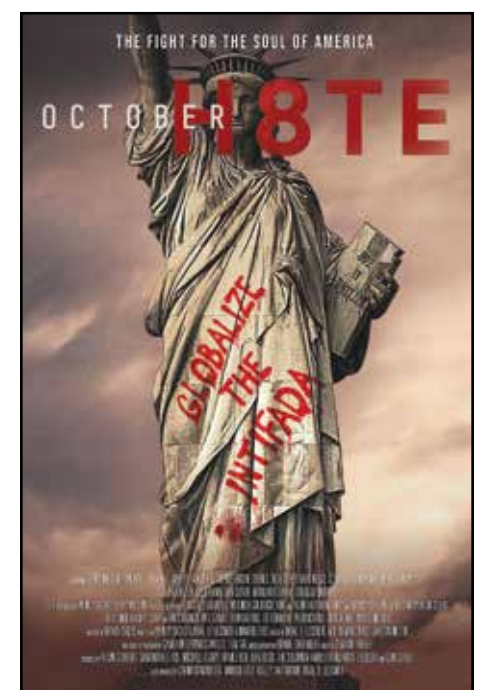


tive occasion and then head over to The Rex on Amherst Street for a 2 PM screening of the new documentary *Shari and Lamb Chop*. Please note that separate tickets are required for these events.

Shari and Lamb Chop traces the life of Shari Hurwitz Lewis, born in the Bronx to a Jewish family in 1933. From a modest start in the 1950s on children’s variety shows to the debut of her beloved sock-puppet Lamb Chop on *Captain Kangaroo*, Lewis amassed impressive accolades throughout her more than 40-year career. A master ventriloquist and talented singer, she won 13 Emmys and eventually hosted successful children’s television series on PBS in the 1990s before her untimely death from cancer. This piece will undoubtedly tug at the heartstrings for all generations, including those who remember Lewis in her early years and those like me who voraciously watched her PBS show as a youngster.

Tuesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 27: Two films Make their New Hampshire Premiere, one at SNHU and one at The Rex

The Walker Auditorium at Southern New Hampshire University will be our site for another documentary film on Tuesday, March 25. Also making its New Hampshire premiere, *October H8te* details the exploding rise of antisemitism on college campuses, through social media, and on the streets of America fol-




lowing the deadly attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023. From actress Debra Messing, who was one of the film’s executive producers, comes a highly insightful and disturbing account of the effect that this moment has had on Jews and supporters of Israel all around the world. Featuring US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, US Representative Ritchie Torres, actress/author Noa Tishby, journalist Bari Weiss, and a survivor from the Nir Oz Kibbutz, along with many others,

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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER

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

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

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

NEWINGTON

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Kaya Stern-Kaufman
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 10 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

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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)

March 7 5:25 PM
March 14 6:33 PM
March 21 6:42 PM
March 28 6:50 PM



Lights, Camera, Community: The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Returns

For over a decade, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival has brought our community together through the power of film. This beloved annual event is more than just a series of screenings—it is a celebration of Jewish stories, culture, history, and resilience.

Each year, our dedicated Film Festival Committee carefully curates a selection of films that reflect the diversity of Jewish experiences. From gripping documentaries that shine a light on historical and contemporary issues to heartwarming dramas

Allyson Guertin

**JFNH
Director**



that explore family, identity, and tradition, the festival offers something for everyone. These films serve as a mirror, reflecting our past and present, while also challenging us to think critically about our future.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the festival is the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions. Whether through filmmaker Q&As or post-screening conversations, these films inspire dialogue that extends far beyond the theater. They encourage us to explore our shared heritage and confront the complexities of our world with empathy and insight. The festival also offers the opportunity to connect with community members, strengthening the bonds that unite us.

At a time when stories of Jewish life

and history are more important than ever, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival stands as a beacon of cultural celebration and education. It is a chance to come together as a community, to laugh, to cry, and to be moved by the incredible power of storytelling.

I invite you to join us for this year's festival, to experience the magic of Jewish cinema, and to be part of an event that continues to enrich and unite our community.

See you at the movies!

The Category, for 500: Jewish films that shaped your life. And... Go!

I remember watching *Monty Python's Life of Brian* at a youth group sleepover at my synagogue. Yup, that's every bit as weird as it sounds—particularly since I knew absolutely nothing about the story of Jesus before then.

My family had *The Ten Commandments* (1956) on VHS, and I watched it over and over. I hungrily absorbed the commanding presence of Yul Brynner as Pharaoh and the resolute, prophetic conviction of Charlton Heston as Moses, as if their clash held the key to successful leadership in the juxtaposition between personal ambition and divine authority.

By 1998, when *The Prince of Egypt* was released, I knew the Passover story backward and forward, but Ofra Haza's "Deliver Us" made me feel the story in a way I never had before. *Ashira l'Adonai ki ga'oh ga'ah, Ashira! Ashira! Ashira!*—as Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey croon When You Believe—only needs to be heard while eating matzoh ball soup to be a true miracle cure.

This April, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's PJ Library Program and the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival are partnering for a special showing of *The Prince of Egypt* at Red River Theatres in Concord. Registration opens soon—watch your email for more information!

As a parent, I wish we had more Jewish

Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



movies to share with our kids. I love how TV is offering more Jewish representation—my family cycles through *Shaboom!*, LEGO holiday stories, and Jewish-themed specials from *Blue's Clues*, to *Spidey and His Amazing Friends*, to *Elena of Avalor*. But when it comes to full-length films? The list is thin. My kids enjoyed *The Frisco Kid*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* is on our list. *Full-Court Miracle* is 20 years old, and *An American Tail* is even older.

Recently, my daughter Kira introduced us to *13: The Musical*, a movie about a kid navigating his bar mitzvah and middle school drama. Think *High School Musical*, but with a cool rabbi. Kveller even called it "the perfect Jewish family night movie." We've seen it three times. I might need an intervention—or at least more popcorn.

Jewish tradition teaches *kehillah* (community)—the power of coming together. Movies create shared experiences, whether they're about ancient Egypt or modern-day bar mitzvah mishaps. Want to

host your own meaningful movie night? Try "Hollywood & Havdalah" or "PJ, PJs & Popcorn" with friends, and let Harold Grinspoon buy the popcorn! PJ Library Get Togethers offer funding to

help you host a Jewish-themed watch party with your community. Apply at pjlibrary.org/gettogether or email me at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions. Roll credits.

WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE ISRAEL



WITH RA'ANAN DE HAAS
MONDAY, MARCH 17

Upcoming dates are April 21st and May 18th
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.



Keeping you connected

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

Sunday, March 2

Temple Adath Yeshurun- A Tale of Two People and how they can find pathways to Peace

2PM-4PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Navigating nuance and narrative in the current conflict, to find hope within the darkness. The series is presented in hybrid mode (in person at TAY and on zoom). Those on Zoom will be able to submit questions with the chat function. The series is free and open to all, however pre-registration is required by completing the online form (QR code on the poster or requested from the Temple office). Zoom credentials will be provided to registered participants.

Temple Adath Yeshurun is a safe zone for ideas and discussion as well as security consciousness. You will be asked for identification on admission to confirm your pre-registration. We request you leave backpacks and large bags in your car as any brought to the door will be subject to inspection. Israel and Palestine: A Tale of Two People and how they can find pathways to Peace.

Meet the Speaker: Jared Goldfarb
Temple Adath Yeshurun in partnership with the Jewish Federation of NH is excited to welcome Jared Goldfarb, Jewish educator and licensed tour guide, who lives in Israel. He grew up in Concord, NH and graduated from Brandeis University with a major in Russian Theater. He comes from an acting family - his mother performed in many NH theater productions including Golde in the MCTP production of "Fiddler on the Roof". He is a gifted educator and talented speaker. In 1996 he became an *oleh* (a Jew who immigrates to Israel). He worked as a teacher and licensed tour guide at Tantur Ecumenical Institute and currently works as a freelance Israel educator. He has been leading discussions on the history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, biblical geography, as well as the Body geopolitical history of Israel and Palestine to religious communities across the US for the past 25 years. He is committed to improving the relationship between Jews and Arabs and counts many colleagues in the Arab world as friends and co-teachers.
Contact Temple Adath Yeshurun at office@taynh.org

Friday, March 7

Massachusetts / New Hampshire Scout Shabbat 2025

7PM-8:30PM, Temple Emanu-El, 514 Main Street, Haverhill, MA
This Scout Shabbat service will be both in person and via Zoom allowing Scouts and Scout Leaders to participate remotely if desired. Scout Shabbat offers an opportunity for Scouts to show their duty to God, an integral part of the Scout Oath/Promise, and allows worshipers to honor

Scouts and Scout Leaders in the community for their achievements and service. This is done as part of the standard Jewish Friday Night Service. In previous years, over 100 Scouts from the area participated in this event. The event is open to all Scouts and their families, regardless of religious affiliation. In past years, we've had Scouts participate from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, New York & New Jersey!

For more information on Scout Shabbat, please visit the National Jewish Committee on Scouting's web site at <http://www.jewishscouting.org/> or the National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting's web site at <http://www.njgcs.org/>

There is no charge for this event and all Scouts who attend will receive a commemorative patch.

Sponsored by Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Committee on Scouting
Open to all Scouts BSA, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers, Girl Scouts (Daisies through Ambassadors), STEM Scouts, Sea Scouts, & their families. Additional Information:
Please pre-register for this event before February 28, 2025, by sending email to neregion@jewishscouting.org

For those participating via Zoom, the link will be sent to you after registering
Contact Barry Hantman, Jewish Committee on Scouting at scouting@hantman.net.

Saturday, March 8

Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Bingo Night

7PM- 8:30PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry
Admission: \$5 per Bingo Card, Kids Under 12 get a free card.

Join us for a fun-filled evening of Bingo and prizes for all ages! Snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information, contact Jay Madnick at 603-432-0004 or email Jay@Madnick.info. <http://www.etzhayim.org>

Sunday, March 9

Shavua Tov Story Time- Purim

8:30AM- 9AM, Zoom
Cost - \$18.00
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Alane at alane.sabel@jewishnh.org.

The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.
Email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions.
To register <https://forms.gle/XknJuPEVCPkJPnk9>

Purim Festivities for kids and families with Temple Israel Manchester

8:30 9:30AM-12PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Community wide Purim festivities for kids and families with Temple Israel Manchester.
Join our family as we make hamantaschen and meet soferet Rachel Jackson who will do Megillah art with the kids. Everyone is welcome!
Please RSVP on our website: <https://templeisraelmht.org/>, contact Linda Sinkow at 603-622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org.

Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Purim Carnival

11AM- 2:30PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Fun and Games and Food for the Family!
Contact Karen Rothstein at office@taynh.org.
<http://www.taynh.org>

Building Resilience and Community in the Face of Antisemitism

1PM-5:30PM, Shir Shalom, Woodstock Area Jewish Community, 1680 West Woodstock Road, Woodstock, VT

Symposium on Building Resilience and Community in the Face of Antisemitism is cosponsored by Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, Haverhill, NH, and Shir Shalom, Woodstock, VT, with support from Jewish Communities of Vermont and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Dr. Susannah Heschel is keynote speaker. Workshops will follow her address.

Contact Roberta Berner at 603-790-8365 or email at abelberner@gmail.com.

Purim Pastry Party: Bridging Generations with Hamantaschen

2PM-3:30PM, Chabad of New Hampshire, 1234 River Road, Manchester
Cost- 18.00/person | CTeens Free
Seniors Forever Young Hamantaschen Bake with Chabad's CTeens

Join us for a Purim bake-along!
Learn to make your own Hamantaschen with Chanie and the CTeens!
In-Person Only. All supplies provided.
Light refreshments will be served.
Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Monday, March 10

Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Chapter Meeting

1PM-3PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, Bedford
Update on chapter events and Hadassah successes.
Contact Michele Bank at 603-488-5657 or 718-795-7891 (cell) or email michele.bank@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 13

Purim with Temple Israel Manchester

6PM-8PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH 03104
Contact Linda Sinkow at 603-622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents How to Pray with Your Whole Body

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

There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. Join us for How to Pray with Your Whole Body, an experiential program led by Arielle Welch, owner and lead instructor of Nahar Yoga and Hebrew School teacher at Etz Hayim. Explore alternative ways to connect with G-d beyond traditional prayer, including meditation, movement, and connecting with nature. Through guided meditation, breathwork, and simple yoga postures, we will cultivate a deeper, embodied sense of spiritual connection. Participants will also have the opportunity to share personal experiences of connecting with the Divine in everyday life.

The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. Please visit

<https://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.

Temple Adath Yeshurun Adult Megillah Reading on Zoom

7PM-8:30PM, Zoom
Please contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or email office@taynh.org for Zoom information.

Saturday, March 15

Temple Adath Yeshurun Sephardic Jewry & Breakfast with the Rabbi

9:30AM-11:30AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Please join us for a program on Sephardic Jewry and Breakfast with the Rabbi.
RSVP by March 10th required. Contact Karen Rothstein at office@taynh.org.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents Shushan Night Fever

7PM-9PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry
Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Never Ready for Prime Time Spielers presents Shushan Night Fever! Join us for Purim at the Disco, Shushan Night Fever! Get ready to boogie, because this Purim we're turning Etz Hayim into Shushan 54, where sequins, bell-bottoms and misplaced wigs collide in a joyous mash-up of biblical proportions! It's a story of love and deceit and dastardly deeds and bravery! Will the heroine defeat the evil plot? Join us and find out! The program is free to the public.
Contact Jay Madnick at 603-432-0004 or email jay@madnick.info. <http://www.etzhayim.org>.

Saturday, March 15 and Sunday, March 16

Temple Beth Jacob presents: The Megillah According to Diamonds and Stones

Performances on Sat., March 15 at 8PM and Sun. March 16 at 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord
Get prepared to rock as the TBJ Purimshpiel cast creatively retells the story of Esther. This year's musical extravaganza is inspired by the music of Neil Diamond and the Rolling Stones, and you might even see some other familiar musical artists make their way to the stage to help tell this ancient tale. This annual event has been playing to sold out audiences for almost 3 decades: come see what the hubbub is all about. Please join us on "Broadway" for an entertaining night. Guaranteed, it will be the Megilat Esther you have never seen before.
The Temple Beth Jacob's 28th annual Purimshpiel, The Megillah According to Diamonds and Stones, an original script written by Dr. Alan Gaby. The TBJ cast has refined the Purimshpiel performance art form over the years and promises a wonderful and entertaining evening for all. Open bar and snacks. To reserve your seats for the Saturday or Sunday performances, call Sue Peterson at the TBJ office (603-228-8581) or to access the Livestream of the Saturday evening's performance purchase tickets on the TBJ Website (<https://www.tbjconcord.org/>).

Sunday, March 16

Temple Israel Purim in Oz Carnival

12PM-2PM, Temple Israel Portsmouth, 200 State Street, Portsmouth
Save the date for a Wicked Purim Carnival! Join Temple Israel Portsmouth as we journey down the

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Statewide Calendar of Events

Calendar

continued from page 4

yellow brick road for an enchanting day filled with costumes, games, music, and fun for all ages. From Oz-inspired treats to wickedly exciting activities, there's no place like this celebration! Be a brave lion, a good witch, or even a flying monkey and come ready to laugh, play, and celebrate the joyous spirit of Purim. Stay tuned for more details, this is a carnival you won't want to miss!

Contact Erik Martin at 860-372-2498 or email headofschool@templeisraelnh.org.

PJ Library Presents: Pippa's Passover Plate
2PM-4PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH

PJ Library, Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Israel present: Pippa's Passover Plate

A Passover-themed afternoon and story time with the author Vivian Kirkfield and illustrator Jill Weber. Enjoy story time, craft projects and chance to meet the author and illustrator and ask them all of your questions! Then make your own chocolate matzoh to enjoy as a snack.

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

Monday, March 17

Inside Israel with Ra'anah

1PM- 2:30PM every month on the 3rd Monday until June 16, 2025, JFNH office, Bedford and via Zoom. Join former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anah de Haas to discuss news and hot topics in Israel.

Ra'anah will cover everything from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics. Oc-

asionally pertinent articles will be shared in advance, and each session will end with time for questions.

This program will meet on the third Monday of each month for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid - 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

Friday, March 21

Hadassah Shabbat Service

12PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester

Hadassah members will participate in the Shabbat Service and sponsor the Oneg. Open to the community.

Contact Gail Ellis at 603-303-3514 or email Gallellis49@comcast.net

Saturday, March 22

Temple Israel presents Tot Shabbat

11:15AM-12:15PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester

Temple Israel presents Tot Shabbat followed by a kiddush lunch.

Contact Linda Sinkow at 603-622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org. <https://templeisraelmht.org/>

Sunday, March 23 –

Friday, April 11

17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

Films will be shown in theatres around the state

and virtually.

Please join us at the 17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival in theatres across the state and from the comfort of your home. Film Schedule to be released Feb 21st. Check out more information on our website- <http://nhjewishfilmfestival.com>, or contact Pat Kalik at filmfest@jewishnh.org.

Friday, March 28

Kabbalat Shabbat and Taco Dinner with Temple Israel Manchester

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

Manchester

Cost is \$18.00

Contact Linda Sinkow at 603-622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org. <https://templeisraelmht.org/>

Sunday, March 30

Temple Adath Yeshurun Passover Recipe Swap and Tasting

1PM-4PM, TAY, 152 Prospect St., Manchester

Join us for a Passover Recipe Swap and Tasting. RSVP to Karen Rothstein at office@taynh.org.

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Holocaust Remembrance Day

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire hosted another meaningful L'Dough V'Dough event in partnership with the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies. Together, we braided challah, shared stories, and remembered the resilience and courage of those who came before us.

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible storytellers who shared their family histories and inspired us all, as well as Millspace: Center for Art, History &

Culture in Newmarket for so generously donating their beautiful space for the program. An additional thank you to Rabbi Berel Slavaticki for his thoughtful words and blessings, and The Brooklyn Cafe for the delicious food and dough that nourished us during this special gathering.

We are so grateful for the community that came together to make this day so powerful. Through remembrance, storytelling, and tradition, we continue to honor the past and strengthen our future.



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.

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



Notifying Schools and Sports Organizations of Major Jewish Holidays


We wanted to let you know that, as it has done previously, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire notified Commissioner Frank Edelblut of the New Hampshire Department of Education of the dates of major Jewish holidays occurring during the 2025-2026 academic year.

If your student's school scheduled an important event (testing, parent-teaching conferences, and so forth) during a significant Jewish holiday this academic year, please consider having a conversation now with the principal, school superintendent, school board, and/or PTA to avoid similar conflicts next year. Even if conflicts at your student's school have not occurred previously, it may be helpful for you to pass this information along to school officials. Thank you!

The calendar was also sent to the following people and organizations:

1) Bridey Bellemare, Executive Director

- New Hampshire Association of School Principals
- 2) Barrett M. Christina, Esq., Executive Director
New Hampshire School Boards Association
- 3) Dr. Mark Maclean, Executive Director
New Hampshire School Administrators Association
- 4) Megan Tuttle, President
New Hampshire State Teachers Association
- 5) Kevin Bishop, President
The New Hampshire Youth Lacrosse Association
- 6) Jeffrey Collins, Executive Director
New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association
- 7) Matt Roy, NHAHA President and NHAHA Regional Tournament Director,
New Hampshire Amateur Hockey Association



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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January 8, 2025

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Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett
Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

Executive Director
Allyson Guertin

A Member of The Jewish Federations of North America

Mr. Frank Edelblut
Commissioner
State of New Hampshire Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

We are writing to emphasize the importance of ensuring that school schedules and activities are inclusive of all students and employees, particularly when it comes to observing significant religious holidays.

As school districts begin developing their calendars for the 2025-2026 academic year, we want to remind you of the dates of key Jewish holidays. Enclosed, you will find a calendar for your reference.

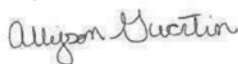
We respectfully request that you share this letter and the attached calendar with all school administrative units and encourage them to distribute these materials to school principals.

It is our hope that schools will consider these dates when planning important events such as exams, assemblies, tryouts, auditions, field trips, sporting events, school dances, and graduations. Thoughtful scheduling can help ensure that Jewish students, parents, faculty, and staff are not placed at a disadvantage or discouraged from fully observing these holidays.

For many Jewish individuals, abstaining from work, school, and secular activities is a fundamental aspect of observing certain holidays. This is especially true for the "High Holidays" of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as the first two days of Passover.


If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out. We deeply appreciate your collaboration in fostering an inclusive environment for all.

Sincerely,



Allyson Guertin
Executive Director
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110 P: 603-627-7679 www.JewishNH.org



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2025-2026 Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays

Abstaining from school, work, and secular activities is a critical part of the observance of some of the Jewish holidays. On some occasions, a fast is required. As a result, Jewish individuals may be absent from work and school.

This calendar has been prepared to assist you in scheduling business, school, and community events to avoid conflicts that place Jewish students and employees in a difficult situation or at a disadvantage. We ask that you consider these dates when scheduling examinations, assemblies, parent-teacher conferences, sports and theatrical tryouts and events, field trips, major assignments, school photographs, and graduations, as well as school-related programs for parents and teachers and other school officials. If conflicts cannot be avoided, we ask that arrangements be made that will place Jewish students and workers on an equal footing with their peers.

HOLIDAY	DATES
Rosh Hashanah , the first of the High Holidays, is the Jewish New Year.	Begins sunset of Monday, September 22, 2025; Ends nightfall of Wednesday, September 24, 2025. No work is permitted.
Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.	Begins sunset of Wednesday, October 1, 2025; Ends nightfall of Thursday, October 2, 2025. No work is permitted.
Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles).	Begins sunset of Monday, October 6, 2025; Ends nightfall of Monday, October 13, 2025. No work permitted on October 7 - October 8.
Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah	Begins sunset of Monday, October 13, 2025; Ends nightfall of Wednesday, October 15, 2025. No work is permitted.
Chanukah	Begins sunset of Sunday, December 14, 2025; Ends nightfall of Monday, December 22, 2025. Work is permitted except on Shabbat , i.e., the Sabbath (which begins Friday 18 minutes before sunset and ends Saturday at nightfall).
Passover	Begins sunset of Wednesday, April 1, 2026; Ends nightfall of Thursday, April 9, 2026. No work is permitted on April 2 - 3 and April 8 - 9.
Shavuot	Begins sunset of Thursday, May 21, 2026; Ends nightfall of Saturday, May 23, 2026. No work is permitted.

Jewish Holiday Descriptions

Rosh Hashanah - Rosh Hashanah is considered the anniversary of the creation of humankind and is celebrated as the Jewish New Year. This is the day on which all of humankind is judged. Together with Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah is part of the Days of Awe. The focus of this period is self-examination, repentance, and the performance of righteous deeds.

Yom Kippur - The Jewish Day of Atonement. This is the most solemn day of the Jewish year devoted to prayer and fasting.

Sukkot - An eight-day Jewish holiday of thanksgiving, harvest, and remembrance of Jews wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt.

Shemini Atzeret - Shemini Atzeret, which occurs on the final day of Sukkot, is an extra celebration in which the Creator invites the Jewish people to stay for a more intimate celebration.

Simchat Torah - The annual reading (in weekly portions) of the Torah is complete and begun anew in the synagogue.

Chanukah - An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement by those who sought to force the Jewish people to reject Judaism and accept their culture and beliefs instead.

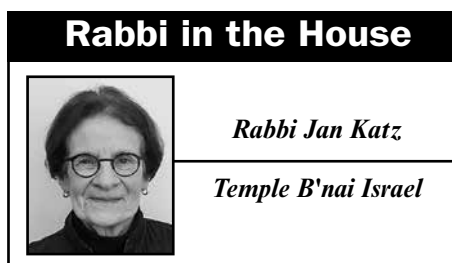
Passover - An eight-day Jewish holiday marking deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt.

Shavuot - Jewish holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah (Law) on Mount Sinai.

“For Heaven’s Sake, and For the Sake of Heaven”

Judaism from the Talmudic era and rabbinic sages Hillel and Shammai demand that we engage in *machlokot l'Shem Shamayim*—“Arguments for the sake of the Heavenly One”—activating our ears to listen, our hearts to see, and our respect for all others who will sit at the proverbial “table” with us. That “table” is sacred space, at which all have the same setting and voice to be heard.

Just as I seek to see you and understand you clearly, I want you to see me as well. You are not in the room with me so I will describe myself: I sit on an old and holey (definitely not “holy”) breuer chair in my basement study at my computer on a cold winter day, snow continuously falling through the clear windows behind my screen. I am a white woman of a certain age, wearing a black pencil skirt and blue and white fleece (in honor of the Israeli hostages freed), short brown hair and “Lennon” eye-



glasses. The most dramatic moments of the Exodus narrative, playing out in our Torah scrolls this month, shows a leader, no less, that does not see who is in front of him, who does not see the suffering of his own people from the insufferable plagues, who does not see that the Israelites need to be free to restart and pursue the blossoming of their own religion and civilization, to pursue their destiny and God’s covenantal promise of the Land of Israel.

The antidote to Pharaoh’s blindness to the painful impact of the plagues on

his people and his oppression of the Israelites became the banner of our prophetic leaders centuries later. They were the watchmen signaling with waving arms, often to people wanting to look away or not bother to look at all. They implored their flocks to look up, to see the evil done against others, to speak up, and to connect with the vulnerable and marginalized, even those unfamiliar and oppositional—to engage, rather than confront, all for the sake of Heaven, all for the sake of *tikkun olam*, “repairing the world.”

We have an opportunity, as this new year continues, to further the mission of our prophets. This past February was the annual JDAIM—Jewish Diversity, Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month—a time that carries a message we should bring to the rest of the year, as well. As described on JDAIM’s official 2025 website:

The purpose of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month is to unite Jewish communities to raise awareness and champion the rights of all Jews, including Jews with disabilities, to be respected, valued, and included in all aspects of Jewish community life. As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of JDAIM, we reflect on the intersections of Ableism and Antisemitism that make our

commitment to inclusive communities more important than ever before.

As Jews, we are mandated to see and to become genuinely empathetic and welcoming toward people with disabilities and mental health conditions, and actively enable them to feel that they belong, irrespective of our individual sameness or differences. And, regarding the intersection of ableism and antisemitism, Jews are facing a rise in antisemitism which is impacting all of us, including people with disabilities and mental health conditions. As persons marginalized in multiple ways, Jewish people with disabilities may feel a heightened sense of isolation during this troubling time. Let’s be sure to see them and let them know they are not alone.

Regarding the Pharaoh of his time, Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said: “What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander.” We may not have the agency for sweeping changes to all human hearts; we assuredly can perpetuate the survival of the Jewish people by our own actions and our voices. An “argument for the sake of heaven” is our Jewish path to having the courage to truly see who and what may challenge us and deserve our attention, and to give us the sacred space to find truth and justice.



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



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!

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

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

March Report from the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood

By Mark Granoff, TAY Brotherhood President

It's Super Bowl Sunday and as we wait for kick-off and some turkey chili, I am putting the finishing touches on this article. I just came in from clearing the driveway from our latest snowfall, which adds up to over a foot of the white stuff this week. Winter has indeed finally arrived in earnest with these weekly snow events. I hope everyone is staying safe and taking short steps on the slippery walkways. I fell a couple of weeks ago at the car wash as I worked to get the road salt off our pickup truck. *Oy vey!* Thankfully, I fell correctly and broke my fall (and watch band) as I got my left arm down to limit the damage. All is good, just a reminder, as I near 65 years young, that I am not invincible!



The inscription: "In memory of Anna." Photo - Mark Granoff

an antique silver-plated tray with an inscription: "IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND ANNA RUDNICK FROM ANNA SEGAL AND LEONA DEITZ." This tray had been in a pile for donation, but with this inscription, we had to keep it. Alan explained that Anna was his grandfather's second wife, and he went on to walk down memory lane with me. A real treasure from yesteryear, and evidence of how long the Rudnick family has had a deep TAY connection. I enjoyed admiring the tray and the stories with Alan. I am so glad we held onto it. Here is a photo of Alan with the tray along with the inscription.

As the calendar pages turn to March,



Alan Rudnick with "Anna's Memorial Tray" at TAY. Photo - Mark Granoff

Purim is fast approaching. TAY Brotherhood will once again sponsor the TAY Purim Party. This is a "no charge," fun for all event sponsored by the TAY Brotherhood! Please mark your calendar for Sunday, March 9, at 11 a.m. We are hoping for a great turnout. Bring your family and friends for fun games, prizes and plenty of food including hot dogs and Hamantaschen! Please RSVP with the TAY office at 603-669-5650. Our flyer follows.

Our remaining 2025 TAY BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

- Deli Night- Saturday, May 17, 2025- a Margaritaville evening! It's 6:00 somewhere. Stay tuned for details. Hosted



**Brotherhood
Family Purim Party
Sunday March 9th @ 11am**

	<p>FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES FUN FOR ALL AGES</p>	
---	--	---

Wear your favorite Purim Costume

Everyone is invited (brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, family friends)
RSVP required to the Temple office: office@tavnh.org or call 603-669-5650.

COST: Free - donations are happily accepted

WHERE: the TAY Social Hall, 152 Prospect St. Manchester
TIME: Party will run from 11am-1pm

Thank you for joining us, your TAY Brotherhood!

by our legendary MC David Penchansky

- Memorial Day Service at Manchester Hebrew Cemetery – Monday, May 26, 2025
- Brotherhood Annual Meeting & BBQ – June 3, 2025
- Brotherhood-Sisterhood Service – Friday, June 20, 2025

As you can see, we have some wonderful programming coming up. Please join us as often as you can. If you would like to join our Brotherhood, please email Mark at brotherhood@tavnh.org. Stay warm and stay well and let there be peace in Israel

– Mark Granoff, TAY Brotherhood President

Save the Date at TBA: Galeet Dardashti

Dr. Galeet Dardashti will join Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on the weekend of May 16 for a scholar-in-residence program.

A vocalist, composer and anthropologist, Dr. Galeet Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trailblazing performer and advocate for Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture.



ther, known as "The Nightingale of Iran" and reveal painful secrets unspoken for generations.

As a scholar, Dardashti holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and specializes in Mizrahi culture and music; her current book project explores the Mizrahi piyyut (sacred song) phenomenon

in contemporary Israel. She held Assistant Professor positions at New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dardashti is currently a Fellow at University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. For more info, see <https://www.galeetdardashti.com>.

Growth on the Seacoast at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Temple Israel is ushering in an exciting season of transformation and growth this March 2025. With many initiatives and programs underway, the entire seacoast community can look forward to a month filled with spiritual enrichment, engaging social events, and new ways to connect with one another!

Join us for a one-of-a-kind service experience at one of our Traditional or our specialty Shabbat services throughout the month! Alternative Shabbat Service - 3/7, Traditional Shabbat Service - 3/14, Shabbes Tisch Potluck - 3/21, Traditional Shabbat Service - 3/28.

Temple Israel's highlighted program this month is our very special, annual Purim celebration, which promises to be one of the most memorable yet. With a mix of traditional rituals and fun new programs, this year's festivities will include the annual Purim Carnival, Purim Spiel, a community megillah reading, and so much more!

To find out more about getting involved at Temple Israel or to RSVP for programs/events, please contact Administrative Director, Ryan Bernstein, at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org or call the main office 603-436-5301.

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Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents Shushan Night Fever

Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Never Ready for Prime Time Spielers presents Shushan Night Fever, Saturday, March 15, 2025, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Join us for Purim at the Disco, Shushan Night Fever! Get ready to boogie, because this Purim we're turning Etz Hayim into Shushan 54, where sequins, bell-bottoms and misplaced wigs collide in a joyous mash-up of biblical proportions! It's a story of love and deceit and dastardly deeds and bravery! Will the heroine defeat the evil plot? Join us and find out!

The program is free to the public.



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

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

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



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

of law from Yale University and a master's in communications from the University of Miami. She received an A.B. from Princeton University with a major in the School of Public and International Affairs. She was formerly a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Miami Herald* and an editor with American Lawyer Media Inc. and The Hartford Courant.

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

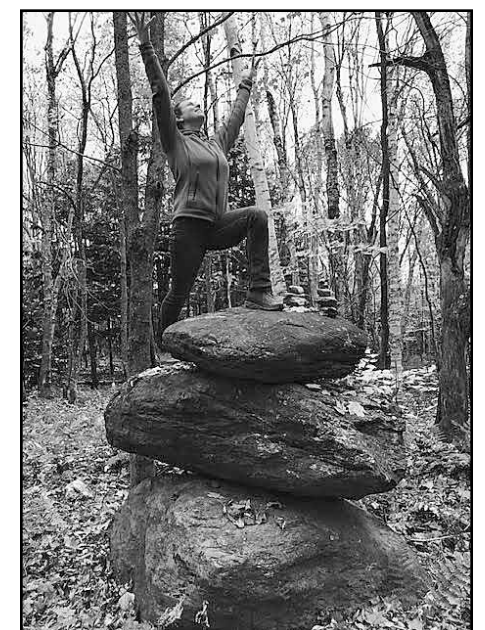
Following a question-and-answer session, a candle-lighting ceremony will be held memorializing Holocaust victims. The Nashua Community Interfaith Choir will perform at this observance.

The event is free and open to the public.

Arielle Welch leads yoga program at Etz Hayim

Join Etz Hayim Synagogue for *How to Pray with Your Whole Body*, an experiential program led by Arielle Welch, owner and lead instructor of Nahar Yoga and Hebrew School teacher at Etz Hayim. Explore alternative ways to connect with G-d beyond traditional prayer, including meditation, movement, and connecting with nature. Through guided meditation, breathwork, and simple yoga postures, we will cultivate a deeper, embodied sense of spiritual connection. Participants will also have the opportunity to share personal experiences of connecting with the Divine in everyday life.

There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, "Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff." All programs are held at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038. Please



visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Sephardic Breakfast at Temple Adath Yeshurun

Join Temple Adath Yeshurun for a unique opportunity to enjoy a Sephardic breakfast and learn about Sephardic Jewry on March 15th at 9:30 AM in the TAY Social Hall. Sisterhood and the Lifelong Learning Committee are proud to present a special “Breakfast with the Rabbi” program, where TAY member Linda Abels will delve into the history

of Sephardic Jewry. Through the lens of her own family’s journey, Linda will share the rich and complex story of this community—one shaped by hardship, resilience, expulsion, migration, and the

enduring spirit of survival.

How much do you know about this distinct group of Jewish people, with their own cultural traditions and ancestral roots? Have you ever tasted deli-

cious sweet or savory bourekas? Don’t miss out on this enlightening and delicious morning!

Registration is required. Please RSVP to the TAY office at office@taynh.org.

Symposium: Building Resilience and Community

“Building Resilience and Community,” a New Hampshire-Vermont bi-state symposium, will take place on Sunday, March 9, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at Congregation Shir Shalom in Woodstock, VT. The event is co-sponsored by Kol Ha’Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, and Shir Shalom, joining together to cultivate relationships and strengthen alliances in a time of uncertainty, vulnerability, and anti-semitism.

The symposium will feature keynote speaker Dr. Susannah Heschel followed by afternoon workshops including art therapy, Israeli dancing, yoga, journaling, poetry, writing, chanting, a healing circle and an interfaith panel. A general session will honor the two congregations’ Memorial Scrolls Trust Torahs, and the day will conclude with songs. The event is planned for participants to come away with new insights, energy, healing, courage, and faith to face the future.

Support for the symposium comes from Jewish Communities of Vermont and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. To learn more about the event, open to the public and free of charge, please contact office@uvjc.org or call 603-646-0460.

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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

Logos: Camp Tel Noar, Jewish Federation, PJ Library, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Temple Beth Jacob, Temple Israel.

Concord's Temple Beth Jacob presents: The Megillah According to Diamonds and Stones

By Gary Sobelson

March 15-16, 2025

The Temple Beth Jacob (TBJ Concord) Purimshpielers are pleased to welcome all of our NH Jewish Federation neighbors to our 28th annual theatrical extravaganza and holiday celebration, scheduled for performances on Saturday March 15 at 8:00 PM and Sunday March 16 at 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord. While everyone is familiar with the Megillat Esther and the raucous celebrations that the holiday of Purim brings to our synagogues, you have certainly never experienced the story of Mordecai, Esther, Ahashuerus, Vashti, and Haman in the style and music of Neil Diamond and the Rolling Stones! With a 30-person cast and a 7-piece orchestra the familiar story will come to the stage/bema on Broadway in Concord with a theatrical flair and creativity that will uphold a multi-decade tradition at TBJ. If you haven't seen a TBJ Purimshpiel before, you are in for a wonderful surprise, as the theatricality of this quirky Jewish tradition would be more at home in a NYC off Broadway theatre than in our usually sedate capital city!

With an original script written by TBJ's own polymath Dr. Alan Gaby, the creative energy, costuming, and musical performances of the show are inspired by the music of the late 20th century, but follow the important Purimshpiel tradition of storytelling with humor. The story winds its way through 20 musical numbers as it heads for its dramatic (and pre-ordained) outcome. Is Vashti just a disobedient wife, or an ancient feminist? What is with those rebellious (but very endearing) palace guardsmen, Bigthan and Teresh, and the especially heinous narcissists Haman and Zeresh? Is King Ahashuerus a real leader, or just a party animal? And are Esther and Mordecai merely social climbers in Shushan, or will they remember from whence they came? All will be answered... and with a rock 'n roll beat!

The TBJ cast has refined the Purimshpiel performance art form over the years, and promises a wonderful and en-

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



tertaining evening for all. There is an open bar to allow everyone to fulfill the requirement of the Shulchan Aruch (the code of Jewish law) to imbibe until one can't tell the difference between the phrases "Blessed is Mordecai" and "Cursed is Haman!" While the humor is "tilted" toward an adult audience, older children and teens are welcome.

All seats are reserved; tickets (\$25/\$20) are available through the TBJ office (603-228-8581) to see the show live, or the TBJ website (www.tbjconcord.org) for Livestream tickets for Saturday's performance. Please join with the Granite State Jewish (and Jew-"ish"?) community in a night of comedy and music. Become a "Believer" and we guarantee satisfaction! You will feel truly welcomed as the Shpielers celebrate the joyous holiday with theatrical entertainment, and you will certainly leave TBJ with a promise to return next year!



17th Annual
NEW HAMPSHIRE
JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 23-APRIL 11

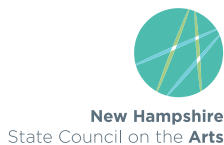
A MULTI-ACCESS
FESTIVAL
IN THEATER
AND VIRTUAL

BAD SHABBOS | CENTERED: JOE LIEBERMAN | JANIS IAN: BREAKING SILENCE
MAX DAGAN | MIDAS MAN | NEVER ALONE | OCTOBER H8TE | PRINCE OF EGYPT
RIGHTING A WRONG: THE BIALYSTOK CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT
RUNNING ON SAND | SHARI & LAMB CHOP | SODA | TECHNION 10²
THE BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH | THE PROPERTY | UNSPOKEN

PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance purchase for ALL screenings suggested. Online at <https://2025nhjff.eventive.org/welcome>
Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org. By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday–Friday, 9 AM–3 PM

 Follow us on Facebook at New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



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





Welcome to the 2025 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival!

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH), we are thrilled to welcome you to the 17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. This year, we are excited to present a multi-access experience, featuring both in-theater and virtual screenings of exceptional films from around the world. From March 23 to April 6, enjoy a curated selection of 15 outstanding feature-length films that promise to entertain, enlighten, and provoke thought. Don't miss our special pre-festival event on March 16 at the Currier Museum. After the main festival concludes, a Bonus Week will offer additional virtual streaming opportunities from April 6 through April 11.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Sponsors, Friends of the Festival, dedicated Volunteers, the JFNH Board, Director Allyson Guertin, and the entire JFNH staff. Your ongoing support makes this event possible. This year's festival is proudly sponsored, in part, by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. Join the New Hampshire Jewish community in celebrating the power of film, as we come together to enjoy a memorable lineup of films from around the globe.

See you at the movies!

Pat Kalik

Chair, New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110 603-627-7679 E-mail: info@jewishnh.org www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

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Technion 10²

NH Premiere

In-Theater: Sunday, March 16
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

5:30 PM-6:30 PM Enjoy private access to the Currier Museum Galleries before the film

6:30 PM - Movie Screening of Technion 10² followed by a post film discussion with special guest Dean Kamen

Film followed by Dessert Reception

Virtual Screening:

April 6 – April 11

Director: Uri Rosenwaks
Documentary, 2024, Israel
77 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Special Pre-Festival Event - Sunday, March 16, 5:30 PM

In 1924, the first Technion class opened in Haifa. Today, it is hard to believe that this modest beginning was the start of one of the leading technological research institutions in the world. The story of Technion's hundred years on Mount Carmel provides a fascinating prism through which to view the history of the State of Israel. It is hard to imagine a modern-day Israel, with its strong economy and scientific and technological achievements, without the Technion. From the pre-state period, through dramatic moments in times of war, to the birth of the startup nation and breakthroughs in global-scale research, the Technion was always there.

SPECIAL EVENT SPONSOR



FILM STAR SPONSOR

Israel Engagement and Education Committee
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Shari & Lamb Chop

NH Premiere

In-Theater:
Sunday, March 23, 2 PM
The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Preceded by Opening Reception, Spotlight Room, Manchester, NH, 12 Noon
Separate Tickets required for each event

Director: Lisa D'Apolito
Documentary, 2023, USA
92 minutes
English

Opening Reception - Sunday, March 23, 12 Noon

Join us at the Palace Spotlight Room for our Opening Day Lunch Reception to celebrate the start of our 17th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, followed by the screening of *Shari & Lamb Chop* at the Rex Theatre.

Opening Film - Sunday, March 23, 2 PM

Hailing from a Jewish Bronx family, Shari Hurwitz Lewis rose from playful beginnings in the '50s with her engaging children's variety shows to the debut of her iconic sock-puppet, Lamb Chop, on Captain Kangaroo. A master ventriloquist, singer, dancer, and even a magician, Lewis amassed impressive accolades over the course of her career, including 13 Emmys and a Peabody, and she authored 60+ children's books.

In a male-dominated industry, Lewis transformed children's television with an innovative, empowering style, and through Lamb Chop, voiced new notions for the women of her time. This documentary honors a visionary spirit, kindling the imaginations of dreamers and storytellers across generations.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



October H8te

NH Premiere

In-Theater:
Tuesday, March 25, 7 PM
SNHU Walker Auditorium
Manchester, NH

Followed by Post Film Discussion

Director: Wendy Sachs
Drama, 2024, Israel
100 minutes
English

From executive producer Debra Messing, a documentary about the explosion of antisemitism on college campuses, social media, and the streets of America in the aftermath of October 7th. High-profile people featured in the film include Debra Messing, Michael Rapaport, Mosab Yousef (son of Hamas's co-founder), Sheryl Sandberg, Scott Galloway, US Rep. Ritchie Torres, US Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, US Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, Dan Senor, Noa Tishby, Bari Weiss, and a survivor from Nir Oz.

FILM STAR SPONSOR

Antisemitism and Diversity Committee
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Midas Man

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

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

Director: Joe Stephenson
 Musical/Drama 2024, UK
 112 minutes
 English



Janis Ian: Breaking Silence

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 30, 10 AM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Special Virtual Screening:

March 30 – April 1

*Live Zoom conversation with
 Filmmaker Varda Bar-Kar
 Tuesday, April 1, 7 PM*

Director: Varda Bar-Kar
 Documentary, 2024, USA
 110 minutes
 English

Meet Brian Epstein, a visionary who transformed music history and lived a thousand lives in a few short years. From running a Liverpool record store to shaping the sound of a generation, Epstein's journey is a rollercoaster of ambition, passion, and relentless pursuit of greatness. Jacob Fortune-Lloyd stars as the mastermind behind The Beatles' meteoric rise, navigating a whirlwind of unprecedented fame, cultural revolution, and personal demons.

At the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the mid-1960s, teenage singer-songwriter Janis Ian's hit song about an interracial relationship, "Society's Child," launched her career but also ignited controversy. Over the next six decades, Ian jammed with Jimi Hendrix, partied with Janis Joplin, and played duets with Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson. But she also had to overcome the stigma of her debut, 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. With access to Ian's incredible body of music, as well as family, friends, famed collaborators, and music journalists, this in-depth documentary balances the intimacy of a home movie against a sweeping historical and contemporary context.

FILM STAR SPONSOR

Peters of Nashua



Running on Sand

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM
Apple Cinemas, Merrimack, NH

Virtual Screening:

March 23 – April 11

Director: Adar Shafran
 Drama/Comedy, 2023, Israel
 104 minutes
 English, Hebrew, Tigrinya with subtitles



Never Alone

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM
**Keene State, Drennan Auditorium,
 Keene, NH**

Followed by Post Film Discussion

Virtual Screening:

March 23–April 11

Director: Klaus Härö
 Drama, 2025, Finland/Austria/
 Estonia/Germany/Sweden
 85 minutes
 Swedish, Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew,

Aumari, a young Eritrean refugee living in Israel, is about to be deported back to his home country. During a spontaneous escape attempt at the airport, he is mistaken for a newly arriving Nigerian soccer star, just signed by the Maccabi Netanya football club. Despite the absence of any soccer talent, Aumari takes his place on the team and proceeds to do what it takes to maintain his freedom and reunite with his brother, whom he has not seen since arriving in Israel five years before.

A powerful, poignant true story of courage, resilience, and defiance during one of history's darkest periods. Set against the backdrop of World War II, the film centers on Finnish businessman and philanthropist Abraham Stiller, a key figure in the Jewish community, who risks everything to protect Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in Germany and Austria. As the Gestapo's influence grows and deportations to Auschwitz loom, Stiller fights to save those seeking sanctuary in Finland, a country caught in an uneasy alliance with Nazi Germany. This gripping tale of bravery and sacrifice is a testament to the enduring power of hope amid overwhelming adversity.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



The Consulate General of Israel
 to New England

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Cohen Institute for Holocaust
 and Genocide Studies



The Property

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

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

Virtual Screening:

March 23 – April 11

Director: Dana Modan
Drama, 2024, Israel
108 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Two months after the death of her son, Regina travels to Poland with her granddaughter Mika. The trip's stated purpose is to retrieve the family's property confiscated during World War II. But Regina has a secret ulterior motive: to find her first love, whom she was forced to leave 70 years earlier. Based on the graphic novel by Rutu Modan, *The Property* stars beloved actress Rivka Michaeli and has been nominated for 4 Israeli Academy Awards.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Unspoken

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

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

Virtual Screening:

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

Virtual Screening:

April 6 – April 11

Director: Jeremy Borison
Drama, 2024, USA
91 minutes
English

When a closeted, religious teenager finds a love letter from before the Holocaust written to his grandfather by another man, he discovers that he might not be alone. With the help of his high school crush, he sets out to find the mysterious author of the letter and uncover his grandfather's identity as well as his own.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Soda

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

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

Virtual Screening:

March 23 – April 11

Director: Erez Tadmor
Drama, 2024, Israel
99 minutes
Hebrew with English subtitles

Nominated for 3 Israeli Academy Awards, this wonderful historical drama follows a group of former Resistance fighters and young Holocaust survivors who settle as a community in 1950s Israel. When Eva (Rotem Sela) arrives at a coastal kibbutz, Shalom (Lior Raz), a WWII resistance fighter and factory foreman, is rapt by her beauty and vitality. Tensions mount as talk of Eva's role as a Kapo spreads, forcing an impossible choice on Shalom.



The Blond Boy from the Casbah

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Wednesday, April 2, 7 PM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Virtual Screening:

April 6 – April 11

Director: Alexandre Arcady
Comedy/Drama, 2023, France
128 minutes
French with English subtitles

Passionate filmmaker Antoine travels to his birthplace, Algiers, with his young son to present his new film: an account of his childhood in mid-20th century Algeria during the country's civil war. As he wanders through the city, he is immersed in the happiness, laughter, and tears of his childhood, spent between school, friends, and his Jewish family. Growing up in the final moments of Algeria's pre-independence period, the young Antoine discovers his profound fascination with cinema and starts to understand who he truly is.



Max Dagan

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Thursday, April 3, 7 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Post-film discussion with Director Terre Weisman

Director: Terre Weisman
Crime Drama, 2024, USA
92 minutes
English

After his father is sentenced to 15 years for the manslaughter of a California State Trooper, Max Dagan fights to uncover the truth and get his now terminally ill parent out of prison with a compassionate release. Max must open up old wounds, including seeking the help of his estranged uncle and the daughter of the dead trooper, to find evidence that could set his father free. In a race against time, two divided families discover they have more in common than they think.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Centered: Joe Lieberman

NH Premiere

In-Theatre:

Sunday, April 6, 1 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Shown with Short
Righting a Wrong: The Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project In Memory of Darren Garnick

Bonus: Pre-recorded Conversation with Filmmaker Jonathan Gruber

Director: Jonathan Gruber
Documentary, 2024, USA
77 minutes

Joe Lieberman, who nearly became the first Jewish Vice President of the United States, was known for putting principles above party. This film chronicles Lieberman's extraordinary journey and 40+ years of public service, revealing the depth of his commitment to the American people. At a time of deep political division, it reminds us of the values of unity and bipartisanship. Lieberman's legacy as a principled statesman who navigated the tumultuous world of American politics with unwavering integrity, provides a timely call for civility, moderation, and dialogue.



Prince of Egypt

Special FREE PJ Library Event

Enjoy a pre-film craft project!

In-Theater:

Sunday, April 6, 1:30 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Director: Brenda Chapman
Animation, 1998, USA
97 minutes
English

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

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Bad Shabbos

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

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

Film to be followed by Festival Wrap Party at 5:30 PM

Director: Daniel Robbins
Comedy, 2024, USA
84 minutes
English

Winner of the Audience Award at this year's Tribeca Film Festival, *Bad Shabbos* is the story of a newly engaged couple, David and Meg, and the Shabbos dinner where her midwestern, Catholic parents are set to meet his New York, Jewish ones for the first time. What can we say? It all goes terribly wrong. A snappy, hilarious ensemble treat, starring Kyra Sedgwick as the controlling matriarch, David Paymer as the (at all costs) family protector, Cliff "Method Man" Smith as the resourceful building doorman, and an Upper West Side apartment full of other familiar faces.

Thank You to Our 2025 Festival Sponsors



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts

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

SPECIAL EVENT SPONSOR



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



PRODUCERS



FILM STARS



DIRECTORS

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Maryellen and Mark Bilech
CCA Global Partners
Pam Grich and Louis Fink

Grinley Creative
The Harbor Group
Liz Kolodney
Nancy and Richard Kudler
Rachel Kurshan

Northeast Broadcasting
Julia and Ido Preis
Marc Rubenson
Barbara and Barry Scotch
Tulley Automotive Group

SCREENWRITERS

Roberta Brayer
C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.
Congregation Ahavas Achim
Devine, Millimet and Branch,
Professional Association
Gail Ellis and Ed Schoen
Elm Grove Companies
Pamela and Luis Englander
Etz Hayim Synagogue
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Temple Beth Abraham
Temple Beth Jacob
Temple Israel Manchester
Temple Israel Portsmouth Cultural Endowment Fund
Upper Valley Jewish Community
Zvi & Debby Cohen Jewish Film Festival Fund

PURCHASE TICKETS

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

FILM PASSES

ALL ACCESS

20-Ticket Package

(Includes 20 tickets to be used for any in-theater or virtual film screenings. Excludes Pre-Festival Event and the Opening Lunch Reception.)
\$200 (\$240 Value)

March 23 – April 6, April 6 – April 11

ALL ACCESS

10-Ticket Package

(Includes 10 tickets for any in-theater or virtual film screenings. Excludes Pre-Festival Event and the Opening Lunch Reception.)
\$100 (\$120 Value)

March 23 – April 6, April 6 – April 11

ALL ACCESS

4-Ticket Package

(Includes 4 tickets for any in-theater or virtual film screenings. Excludes Pre-Festival Event and the Opening Lunch Reception.)
\$44 (\$48 Value)

March 23 – April 6, April 6 – April 11

VIRTUAL-ONLY PASS

8-Ticket Package

(Includes 8 tickets for any virtual film screenings.)
\$90 (\$96 Value)

March 23 – April 6, April 6 – April 11

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\$12 per In-theater ticket (per person), March 23 – April 6
\$12 per virtual ticket (per household), March 23 – April 11 and April 6 – April 11
\$16 Opening Reception Lunch
\$18 Special Pre Festival Film and Reception

GROUP RATES

Contact us via email at filmfest@jewishnh.org for groups of more than 10 people.

ACCESSIBILITY

All programs are handicap-accessible.

PARKING

Parking is available in public lots at all in-theater venues.

PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING

By attending an in-theater screening, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and that we may use such recordings for any lawful purposes, including without limitation in our marketing materials.

THEATERS

3S Artspace

319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-766-3330
www.3sarts.org

Apple Cinemas Merrimack

11 Executive Park Dr., Merrimack, NH
03054
603-696-3200
www.applecinemas.com

Currier Museum of Art

150 Ash St., Manchester, NH 03104
603-669-6144
www.currier.org

Drennan Auditorium, Parker Hall

Keene State College, 229 Main St.
Keene, NH 03435
1-800-KSC-1909
www.keene.edu

Nugget Theaters

57 S. Main St., Hanover, NH 03755
603-643-2769
www.nugget-theaters.com

Red River Theatres

11 S. Main St., Concord, NH 03301
603-224-4600
www.redrivertheatres.org

The Rex Theatre

23 Amherst St.
Manchester, NH 03101
603-668-5588
www.palacetheatre.org/rex-theatre

Southern New Hampshire University

Walker Auditorium, Robert Frost Hall
2500 North River Rd.
Manchester, NH 03106
603-645-9700
www.snhu.edu

Spotlight Room at the Palace

96 Hanover St.
Manchester, NH 03101
603-668-5588
palacetheatre.org/venues/the-spotlight-room/

2025 FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

In-Theater Events

Sunday, March 16, 5:30 PM

Technion 10²

Special Pre-Festival Event with Special Guest Dean Kamen, Reception
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 23, 12 Noon

Opening Reception

Spotlight Room at the Palace
Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 23, 2 PM

Shari & Lamb Chop

Opening Film

The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Tuesday, March 25, 7 PM

October H8te

Followed by Post-Film Discussion
SNHU Walker Auditorium
Manchester, NH

Thursday, March 27, 7 PM

Midas Man

The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 30, 10 AM

Janis Ian: Breaking Silence

Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM

Running on Sand

Apple Cinemas, Merrimack, NH

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM

Never Alone

Followed by Post-Film Discussion
Keene State, Drennan Auditorium
Keene, NH

Sunday, March 30, 1 PM

The Property

3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 PM

Unspoken

Apple Cinemas, Merrimack, NH

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 PM

Unspoken

3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH

Sunday, March 30, 3:30 PM

Soda

Keene State, Drennan Auditorium
Keene, NH

Wednesday, April 2, 7 PM

The Blond Boy from the Casbah

Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Thursday, April 3, 7 PM

Max Dagan

Special Post-Film Discussion with Director Terre Weisman
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 1 PM

Centered: Joe Lieberman

Shown with Short Righting a Wrong:
The Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project
Bonus: Pre-recorded Conversation
with Filmmaker Jonathan Gruber
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 1:30 PM

Prince of Egypt

Special Free PJ Library Event
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 3:30 PM

Bad Shabbos

Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 6, 5:30 PM

Wrap Party

Red River Theatres, Concord, NH



Special Virtual Screenings

Janis Ian: Breaking Silence

Sunday, March 30 –

Tuesday, April 1

Live Zoom Conversation with

Filmmaker Varda Bar-Kar

Tuesday, April 1, 7PM

Sunday, March 23 –

Friday, April 11

The following films will be

available for 20 days:

Never Alone

Running on Sand

Soda

The Property

After film is unlocked, you

have 48 hours to screen.

Virtual Screenings Bonus Week

Sunday, April 6 –

Friday, April 11

Technion 10²

The Blond Boy from the Casbah

Unspoken

After film is unlocked, you have

48 hours to screen.



Film Festival

Film Festival Schedule

continued from page 1

this piece will surely leave you yearning to discuss the implications of antisemitism, the Middle East, and the current Israel-Hamas War. The Federation's Antisemitism and Diversity Committee is a sponsor of the movie.

We will return to The Rex on Thursday for our first feature length drama, which is the new film *Midas Man*. This piece is based on the life of Brian Epstein, the visionary who transformed music history by helping the Beatles soar to meteoric heights, unprecedented fame, and launch a cultural revolution.

Featuring Jacob Fortune-Lloyd, who was on the Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit*, as Epstein, the movie examines Epstein's start in a Liverpool record store all the way through his intense passion and ambition for the new and developing scene of rock artists, all while navigating personal demons. A deeply insightful portrayal of Epstein, *Midas Man* will delight any Beatles fan, no matter their age, as they learn the backstory of the man behind the band.

Sunday, March 30: Six films to screen in four New Hampshire locations

The second Sunday of our Festival will be a busy day as we head beyond the Manchester area. We will screen films in Hanover, Merrimack, Keene, and Portsmouth in an aim to reach the whole state.

The day's festivities begin at 10 AM at Nugget Theaters in Hanover with a screening of *Janis Ian: Breaking Silence*. This new documentary traces acclaimed singer-songwriter Janis Ian who, as a teenager in the mid 1960s, launched her career to heights she never imagined. Her hit song "Society's Child," which told of an interracial relationship at a time of intense unrest due to the Civil Rights Movement, ignited a slew of controversy. Despite this and the need to navigate the stigma of misogyny, homophobia, and her own health challenges, Ian made time to party with Joplin, jam with Hendrix, and play with Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson. Giving the audience full access to Ian's incredible body of music, this intimate piece chronicles her own life amidst the sweeping history of the eras in which she drew audiences all across the globe.

This film will also be available virtually from March 30 to April 1 for viewers across the state with a special live Zoom discussion on April 1 at 7 PM featuring Varda Bar-Kar, the film's director, who will offer our New Hampshire audience some unique insight.

Apple Cinemas in Merrimack will



screen two films: *Running on Sand* at 1 PM and *Unspoken* at 3:30 PM. *Running on Sand* tells the story of Aumari, a young Eritrean refugee living in Israel, who is facing deportation. Following a spontaneous escape attempt at the airport, he is mistaken for a newly arriving Nigerian soccer star who has just been signed by the Maccabi Netanya Football Club. Although he has no soccer talent, Aumari proceeds to do whatever it takes to maintain his freedom and reunite with his brother, whom he has not seen since arriving in Israel five years prior.

Unspoken is the poignant story of Noam, a closeted teenager in a Modern Orthodox community as he discovers that he may not be on his journey alone. After finding a love letter written to his grandfather by another man just before the Holocaust, he makes it his mission to find this person and uncover his grandfather's identity while reconciling his own. Amidst this coming-of-age tale is a focus on family, coming to terms with yourself, and the complexities of religion.

We are pleased to show two films in the Drennan Auditorium at Keene State College, also at 1 PM and 3:30 PM. The 1 PM film in Keene will be *Never Alone*, the powerful and poignant story of courage, resilience, and defiance during one of history's darkest periods. Against the backdrop of World War II, the film centers on Abraham Stiller, a Finnish philanthropist and businessman and key figure in the Jewish community. In risking everything to protect Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in Germany and Austria, Stiller fights to save those seeking sanctuary in Finland amidst the Gestapo's rise to power. The endurance of hope and the theme of overcoming adversity are at the core of this powerful film, which is sponsored by Keene State's Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach at the Cohen Center, will lead a post-film discussion.

The 3:30 PM film in Keene is *Soda*, a drama about a seamstress named Eva, who arrives in an Israeli working class neighborhood with her daughter in 1954. Shalom Gottlieb, a former partisan leader and current factory foreman, falls for

Eva, who offers him a chance at happiness and a life filled with beauty and laughter. But rumors of Eva's past as a Kapo during the Holocaust shake the community. Shalom's choice to be with Eva now means not only betraying his family, but also his fellow partisans and his duty to uncover her secret.

The final location for March 30 is the 3S Artspace in Portsmouth, which will show two of our movies. At 1 PM, the Israeli drama *The Property* will be screened while at 3:30 PM, our Seacoast audience will get the chance to enjoy *Unspoken* just as our filmgoers in Merrimack will.

The Property follows Regina who, two months after the death of her son, travels to Poland with her granddaughter Mika. The trip's stated purpose is to retrieve the family's property confiscated during World War II. But Regina has a secret ulterior motive: to find her first love, whom she was forced to leave 70 years earlier.

We are so excited to offer this vast array of films across New Hampshire as we begin the final week of our in-theater events!

Wednesday, April 2: Critically acclaimed film makes its New Hampshire Premiere at Nugget Theaters in Hanover

We are pleased to return to Nugget Theaters in Hanover once more at 7 PM on Wednesday, April 2 for a screening of the critically acclaimed French film *The Blond Boy from the Casbah*.

This film takes us back to the Algerian Civil War of protagonist Antoine's youth as he returns in modern day to his birthplace alongside his son. Now a successful French filmmaker presenting his own story of growing up in Algeria during a time of change, the audience is exposed to flashbacks of Antoine's childhood alongside his return to his homeland. Amidst happy and tearful memories of his youth and his Jewish family, Antoine quickly discovers who he truly is and his profound passion for cinema just as Algeria reaches independence.

This multigenerational film has been a hit at several other festivals and will educate any audience member about its unique perspective of intersecting cultures.

Thursday, April 3 and Sunday, April 6: Festival closes at Red River Theatres in Concord

We will once again close out our Festival at Red River Theatres in Concord, our long-standing partner since we began 17 years ago. On Thursday, April 3 at 7 PM, we invite audiences to a unique experience as we screen the film *Max Dagan*, directed by New Hampshire's own Terre Weisman.

Following his father's 15-year sentence for manslaughter of a California State



Trooper, Max Dagan fights to uncover the truth and get his now terminally ill dad out of prison with a compassionate release. Max must open up old wounds, including seeking the help of his estranged uncle and the daughter of the dead trooper, hoping to find evidence that could set his father free. In a race against time, two divided families discover they have more in common than they think.

We are most fortunate to have Terre Weisman join us in person for the screening. He and I will participate in a post-film discussion with Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett of Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua immediately following the movie.

Aside from the PJ Library screening on Sunday, April 6, our final day at Red River will feature two outstanding movies, the first at 1 PM and the second at 3:30 PM. *Centered: Joe Lieberman* is our first feature of the day and the final documentary in our Festival line-up. A timely film given the tumult of American politics and Joe Lieberman's unexpected death in March 2024, it follows one of America's longest public servants in Washington. Whether it was his early years in Washington, joining the 2000 Democratic ticket with Al Gore, or his final years in the Senate before retiring in 2013, Joe Lieberman often put principle over party. Chronicling his deep commitment to the American people alongside his devotion to his faith, it reminds us of the values of unity and bipartisanship at such a challenging time in politics. Lieberman's legacy as a principled statesman who navigated the tumultuous world of American politics provides a timely call for civility and dialogue.

Centered will be shown alongside a short feature called *Righting a Wrong: Film Festival* continued on page 22

Film Festival

Film Festival Schedule

continued from page 21

The Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Project and will also feature a brief pre-recorded discussion between director Jonathan Gruber and me. This film is dedicated to the memory of Darren Garnick, who passed away in the fall of 2024. Darren was a long-time member of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Committee and a cherished Granite State journalist, who is sorely missed.

Finally, the dark comedy *Bad Shabbos* closes out our Festival at 3:30. The winner of the Audience Award at this year's Tribeca Film Festival, *Bad Shabbos* is about David and Meg, a newly engaged interfaith couple, as they prepare a major Shabbos dinner and a meeting of their families. When Meg's midwestern Catholic parents are set to meet David's New York Jewish ones for the first time, all eyes turn to the chaos that ensues when everything goes horribly wrong.



Featuring a hilarious ensemble, including Kyra Sedgwick, David Paymer, and Cliff "Method Man" Smith, as well as a

host of other familiar faces, the Upper West Side apartment is a scene that nobody will ever forget.

Virtual screenings, plus Bonus week from April 6 to 11

For those who cannot attend specific events or wish to view particular titles at home, you are in luck! From April 6 to 11, the films *Technion 10²*, *Unspoken*, and *The Blond Boy from the Casbah* will be available. Additionally, *Running on Sand*, *Never Alone*, *The Property*, and *Soda* will be available at home from the start of the Festival on March 23 to the end of the Bonus Week on April 11. Our virtual platform Eventive will house these titles, which can easily be streamed on any

smart TV or compatible device.

Join us!

See our "Schedule at a Glance" on the back page in this edition of The Reporter to make plans for attending our Festival. Our box office is open! You can still purchase Festival tickets for all screenings. For ticket information and movie trailers, visit www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org. We encourage you to extend the invitation to friends as well! If you've been wondering how you can donate to our Film Festival, we are glad to invite you to become a Friend of the Festival! We welcome any donation no matter the size. You may donate online at www.jewishnh.org.

We cannot wait to see you at the movies!



Fridge Flyer 2024-2025

Shavua Tov Story Time

A program for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Register once for \$18.00 to receive monthly crafts in the mail for the year! The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Scan QR code to register or go to <https://forms.gle/q6E3s2niLvmwWibe7>.



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

No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



Visit <https://forms.gle/q6E3s2niLvmwWibe7> to register or email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions.

PJ Library New Hampshire, Temple Israel and Temple Adath Yeshurun present: Pippa's Passover Plate

Temple Adath Yeshurun
152 Prospect Street,
Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 16,
2pm

Come meet Vivian Kirkfield and Jill Weber, the author and illustrator of this amazing book! Listen to the story, create some Pippa-inspired crafts and make your own chocolate matzoh snack. Free book for every family - or bring your own to have signed!



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dinah.berch@jewishnh.org
(603)627-7679

FREE PJ Library program in partnership with Temple Israel and Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester. Open to all; no synagogue affiliation required. Register and watch your email for updates or weather cancellation.



Dinah Berch | 603-627-7679 ext 1002 | dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Book Review

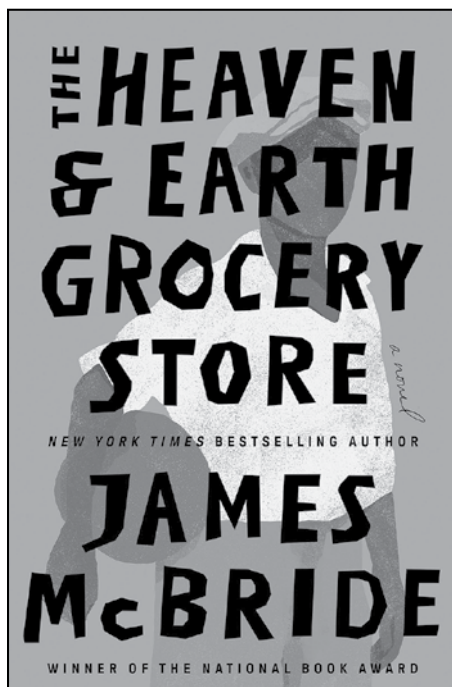
Reviewed by Merle Carrus

‘Heaven and Earth Grocery Store’ by James McBride

This month, I read a book by author James McBride, who explains that he is the child of a black Reverend father and a white Jewish mother, and whose family sat shiva for her when she married. His first book was *The Color of Water*, which told the story of his upbringing as a mixed-race child in a large family. This time McBride brings us a novel which looks at the horrible truths about race and prejudice squarely in the face. He adds some beautiful prose that brings humor, though, and offers the reader hope.

Heaven and Earth Grocery Store is about the Jewish immigrants in the 1920s who came to the United States and settled in the south. These Jews lived shoulder to shoulder with their Black neighbors, and this is the story of one little town, Pottstown, PA, that is home to Moshe Ludlow and his wife, Chona, who own the titular store. Chona grew up in the store and continues to run the store after her marriage. Moshe manages the Jewish Theater; he brings in Klezmer music, but he also books the popular Black performer swing artist, Chick Webb. Meanwhile, the Jewish families are moving off the Chicken Hill neighborhood to the center of town, changing the dynamics of the area. Chona refuses to leave, considering her Black neighbors to be her friends.

So, Moshe and Chona stay and live side by side with their neighbors – whereupon Chona is asked to hide Dodo, a young black child who is deaf. The authorities are looking to take him away to an institution, so Chona agrees to hide him; she becomes quite attached



to him and puts her own life at risk to save his.

“Chona had never been one to play by the rules of American society. She did not experience the world as most people did. To her, the world was not a china closet where you admire this and don’t touch that. Rather, she saw it as a place where every act of living was a chance for tikkun olam, to improve the world. The tiny woman with the bad foot was all soul.”

When things go wrong and Dodo is taken away, the townspeople and Moshe work together to get Dodo back from the horrific conditions of the state hospital. The various characters in the book overcome the class and color divide to rescue Dodo.

This is a story of race, religion, and of immigrant Jews from the *shtetls* of Europe striving to find the American dream. It is the story of coming together, finding our common ground, and seeing that despite all our differences, we can live side by side.

As McBride says in an interview, “What I tried to do in this book is show how people simply excused a lot of those differences, set them aside for the moment, and got to the business of finding the meal that would feed us all. I just wanted to show in this book that we have gotten along very well. We have got to stick together and deal with the reali-

ty of where we are. We’re in deep water, and we will end up in deeper water if we don’t pay attention.”

This novel certainly shares that message -- one that is so relevant for the times we are now living in.

James McBride is an award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter. His landmark memoir, The Color of Water, published in 1996, has sold millions of copies and spent more than two years on the New York Times bestseller list. Considered an American classic, it is read in schools and universities across the United States.

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Teens and SFY: Scan QR to register or call JFNH at 603-627-7679.

DETAILS
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2-3:30pm
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1234 River Road, Manchester, NH
In-Person Only
All supplies provided. Light refreshments served.

Questions: dinah.berch@jewishnh.org or Chanchie@chabadofnh.com

Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

The Brutalist

Anyone who has followed my film reviews likely knows that I can be a tough critic, even when I really like a movie. I tend to gravitate more toward what I deem “classics,” or films of past decades that I think stand the test of time at the highest level.

I’ve also got a guilty pleasure for awards season in Hollywood, at which point some of the most praised and discussed films of the year are released and in strong contention for gold. When this review is delivered in the March Reporter to your home mailboxes, the Oscars will be imminent. But if the early awards circuits are any indication, the new film *The Brutalist* will be a top victor.

The story of a Hungarian architect who arrives in the US in late 1947, *The Brutalist* is what would have classically been labeled an “epic” in the bygone days of Hollywood.

Following the tumult of World War Two and the horrors of the Holocaust, László Tóth, the story’s protagonist, arrives at Ellis Island with a new life in mind and high hopes to escape the traumas of his past. From the moment the film opens, the images of arrival, etched in many of our minds from ancestral stories and our studies of history, are brought to vivid life on the big screen. The shot of the Statue of Liberty is mesmerizing, an image that I can only assume will become an iconic one in moviedom. Over the three hour and 35 minute run time, one of the most compelling, powerful, and beautifully crafted stories that I’ve ever seen on film is presented to the audience. László, played by Adrien Brody, is as finely crafted a character as the Rick Blaines, Rhett Butlers, and Don Corleones of eras past. Plus, Brody’s portrayal does not disappoint. Not for one second. Frankly, every second of this film is impor-



tant. While it is gargantuan in running time, you do not feel its length whatsoever. Director Brady Corbet, a young and fairly unseasoned filmmaker, executes his vision phenomenally by presenting two acts with a 15-minute intermission smack in the middle. Screenings in cinemas worldwide are putting this in as an opportunity for filmgoers to chat, recharge, and take in this mesmerizing film.

My friend Cam and I saw it at Red River in Concord during its run and found not only that the movie passed by with great pacing, but that the intermission helped tremendously. Listening to the discussion in the lobby, restroom, and auditorium was fascinating.

As László’s story is told over the course of 13 years, elements of both his

trauma and his assimilation to life in America, universal stories for those who escaped the horrors of war, come to light. Upon arriving in the US and aiming to relaunch his architectural career, he quickly comes into contact with a wealthy businessman, played expertly by Guy Pearce, who further helps to cement László as an expert in his field. He begins to live the American Dream, but not without the challenges that the immigrant experience presents.

In many ways, *The Brutalist* is a universal story, but it is also an extremely Jewish story, too. Like many Jewish immigrants to America, László tries to assimilate while also holding onto his traditions and trying to forget the persecution he faced. He tries to learn about his new home while watching the constant change of the mid-20th century play out in front of him. The juxtaposition of current events amidst the backdrop of László’s story is quite astonishing and a further part of the expertly crafted plot. Brody’s performance is a masterclass in acting. He richly develops the character while simultaneously letting László’s enigmatic personality traits fester in the first half. His range of emotion is outstanding and the ways in which he allows the personality to change as elements of László’s trauma come to fruition make it a performance for the ages.

Accompanied by a strong cast overall, Brody still carries the film, but not without the strong work from Guy Pearce and Felicity Jones, who plays László’s wife. Pearce is truly memorable in every way possible, cementing his innate ability to be a perfect antagonist. All of his

scenes are fascinating to watch as his mannerisms, character choices, and demeanor shift constantly. Jones has a similar approach, but in a somewhat quieter way until her character can no longer be so subdued. Brody, Pearce, and Jones are all career defining here.

Aesthetically, the film is beautifully made. Aside from the directorial genius, which shows that we have not seen the last of Corbet, and the strong script, the cinematography, production design, and score particularly anchor the movie. Every aspect of scenery and visual element helps in the masterful storytelling and filmmaking.

It is a rarity to see such a cohesive, strong, and superbly executed film in which every moment is important and engrossing. *The Brutalist* is that and then some. I would venture to believe that it may very well be remembered some day in the way that *The Godfather*, *Casablanca*, *Citizen Kane*, or *Gone with the Wind* each are.

My friend Cam and I have probably seen over 100 films together and share a lot of similarities when it comes to movies. Neither of us are often at a loss for words. We were both totally overcome by *The Brutalist* and felt *verklemt* well after it ended as we sat down to dinner.

It was the perfect escape that I needed when I saw it in the doldrums of winter and reminds me in every possible way exactly why I fell in love with cinema at a young age. It is meant to be viewed on a big screen, preferably in a theatre, and you should not shy away because of its length. It’s the best film I’ve seen in years and will undoubtedly be celebrated for many, many years to come.

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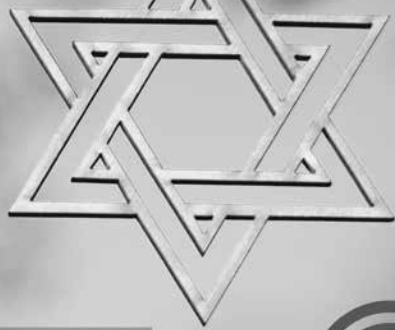
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A Member of the Jewish Community of Maine Still Needs a Kidney: Please Consider a Gift of Life

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 cur-

rently 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 evaluation with their own team of health professionals to see if you could be a match for me and to ensure that living donation is as safe as possible for you.

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

Israel and Palestine

A Tale of Two People and how they can find pathways to Peace



MEET THE
SPEAKER

Jared Goldfarb

Temple Adath Yeshurun in partnership with the Jewish Federation of NH is excited to welcome Jared Goldfarb Jewish educator and licensed tour guide who lives in Israel. He grew up in Concord NH and graduated from Brandeis University with a major in Russian Acting. He comes from an acting family - his mother performed in many NH theater productions including Golde in the MCTP production of "Fiddler on the Roof". He is a gifted educator and talented speaker. In 1996 he became Oleh (a Jew who immigrates to Israel). He worked as a teacher and licensed tour guide at Tantur Ecumenical Institute and currently works as a freelance Israel educator. He has been leading discussions on the history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, biblical geography and geopolitical history of Israel and Palestine to religious communities across the US for the past 25 years. He is committed to improving the relationship between Jews and Arabs and counts many colleagues in the Arab world as friends and co-teachers.

He will be guiding a program consisting of lecture and discussion on four successive Sundays in February (2-4 pm) beginning February 2nd and one session in March on Sunday 3/2.

To register: scan the QR code.



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Class dates & Descriptions



February 2nd: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

"Drawing Lines in the Sand"

Biblical geography as a foundation for understanding the modern national narratives of Israel & Palestine

February 9th: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

"If You Build It, Will They Come?"

An exploration of the complex and controversial history of Zionism

February 16th: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

"From the River to the Sea... Is There Room for You and Me?"

A deep dive into Palestine: geography, identity, nationalism, and relationship with Israel

February 23rd: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

"Breaking Up is Hard to Do"

What can ancient Jewish wisdom teach us about resolving modern Israeli conflicts?

March 2nd: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

"War & Peace: An Honest Conversation about Israel/Palestine"

Navigating nuance and narrative in the current conflict, to find hope within the darkness

The series is presented in the hybrid mode (in person at TAY and on zoom). Those on Zoom will be able to submit questions with the Chat function. The series is free and open to all however pre-registration is required by completing the online form (QR code on the poster or requested from the Temple office. Zoom credentials will be provided to registered participants.

Temple Adath Yeshurun is a safe zone for ideas and discussion as well as security conscious. You will be asked for identification on admission to confirm your pre-registration. We request you leave backpacks and large bags in your car as any brought to the door will be subject to inspection.

2G: An NH Local's European Journey Through Holocaust Ancestry - Part I

By Milt Zweig

Years ago, I remember sitting in my grandmother's apartment in Hollywood, CA, watching her play Canasta with her fellow German Holocaust survivors that all eventually found their way out of a war ravaged Europe and somehow found their way to Tinseltown. Often, I would accompany Oma and her friends to the nearby farmer's market where they would have the traditional afternoon coffee and cake, a German ritual.

I saw numbers on some of their arms; tattooed in what appeared to be more for branding than for an esthetic look much like people do today. I very quickly learned what these numbers meant and why they had them.

Simply put, each of their numbers represented an individual story of hate, despair, horror, death, and an individual story of survival.

My Oma and her friends would often forgo the walk to the farmer's market and instead sit in silence—aside from the sipping of coffee and munching on something tasty—playing cards only to talk when someone played their cards nicely or when one would talk lovingly about their grandkids. When they spoke, it was in German which I understood and still speak to this day.

After gaining knowledge about the Holocaust and knowing that these people had a story to tell, I noticed that they NEVER actually spoke about their story. It was very clear as to why; They never needed to tell their story because every one of them knew exactly what happened without vocalizing it. They knew each other's story through eye contact, through silence, and through the indelible marks

on their forearms from which clear stories arose from the blurred numbers.

I am what's called a "2G." It's supposed to denote that I am a second-generation survivor even though I am the 1st generation born outside of Europe. For those keeping score, I am only the 3rd person in my family to even be born in the US. I don't entirely agree with the name, but I'll go along with it I suppose.

What's more important is that the subsequent generations of descendants; the 3G, 4G, and so on, will unfortunately lose grasp of what the Holocaust meant and still means to so many people. The mantra of "Never Forget" is seemingly forgotten and sadly the meaning of it will probably be completely lost on subsequent generations.

I have a story to tell as well. Actually, I have multiple stories to tell, of family that was affected in some way by the war. All told, I have more than two dozen relatives that were in some way displaced, detained, persecuted, rescued, and murdered during the turmoil that gripped Europe in the 1930's and 1940's.

The horrible tattoos I saw in the 1960s and 1970s were the beginning of a long journey to not only learn about the Holocaust but to search out ways to educate those that denied or otherwise minimized it and to be a voice for those that can no longer speak.

My research has taken me to numerous spots in Europe so I can see with my own eyes where my own mother went into hiding, where my grandfather was detained prior to being sent on a train to Auschwitz, where my mother's cousin ended up in London after being rescued by the Kindertransport, and where my great grandmother was incinerated in a

nondescript Theresienstadt building prior to her ashes being dumped in the nearby river.

I have ridden trains that used the exact same tracks that took family to death camps, deciphered and translated numerous pages of police dossiers that unveiled more detail than I cared to know and

demonstrated that there were still those in authority that had sympathy for the plight of the Jews.

These next six months or so, I would like to take you on a journey through a series of writings that will place you in their shoes and show what some did in

2G continued on page 29

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March Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah met in January for a very productive chapter meeting discussing future meetings and events. A report was given on two studies being done at Hadassah Hospital. One study linked the lack of sleep and suicidal thoughts in youth and the other studied how obesity drugs might help reduce the risk of suicide in teens. A clinical trial at the hospital is being conducted with the BCG vaccine (used for tuberculosis), and the extent that it may reduce the risk of Alzheimer's. On Monday, March 10, 2025 at 1 PM, chapter members will hold their next meeting at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. All are welcome to attend.

The chapter book club held a luncheon discussion last month at a nearby restaurant. The book discussed was *Devil in Jerusalem* by Naomi Ragan. Based on a true well-known Israeli court case, it was a disturbing and powerful read. The next book that the group will read is *The Prison Minyan* by Jonathan Stone, with a luncheon discussion on Wednesday, March 19. If

you wish to participate, please call Helen Arnold at helenarnold@comcast.net.

There will be a Hadassah Shabbat Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun on March 21, 2025. The temple is located at 152 Prospect Street in Manchester. Rabbi Beth Davidson will prepare a special Hadassah service and chapter members will do a reading in English or Hebrew. An Oneg will follow sponsored by the chapter. If you would like to bake for this event, please contact Gail Ellis at gailellis49@comcast.net. The community is invited to attend the Shabbat Service and Oneg.

Hadassah Northern New England is hosting a major fundraising brunch for the Gandel Rehabilitation Center. It will be at the Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers, MA, on April 27, 2025. David Josef, a celebrity fashion designer will have a presentation. For more information contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com.

As reported in *Newsweek*, Hadassah Neurologists found that AI (artificial intelligence) can suffer cognitive decline. When put to the test by a pair of neurologists at the Hadassah Medical Organi-

zation, AI chatbots like ChatGPT and Google's Gemini exhibited cognitive limitations like those seen in human cognitive decline, according to a new study published in the peer-reviewed medical journal *The BMJ (British Medical Journal)*. The study's authors hope the results spark conversations about the differences between AI and human doctors — and the important roles that both can play, Hadassah senior neurologist Dr. Roy Dayan told *Newsweek*.

"The current debate centers on whether language models can replace doctors. It wouldn't surprise me if, soon, health-care providers use them as an initial screening tool," Dr. Dayan told *Ynet News*. "However, much of medical interaction goes beyond recalling facts; it involves visual abstraction and interpretation, and we're not there yet."

In addition to Dr. Dayan, Hadassah senior neurologist Dr. Benjamin Oliel worked with data scientist Gal Kopelvitze on the study.

Hadassah Medical Organization's two Jerusalem hospitals will continue to be committed to the physical and emotional

healing process of the released hostages including through its newly opened Gandel Rehabilitation Center. We pray for a return of all hostages.

Hadassah knows that social injustice continues. Hadassah has a National Action Center, where you can click, read, and take action today. There are many options for you to stand up and act. You do not need to be a member of Hadassah to use it, go to Hadassah.org.

The Hadassah Northeast Action and Advocacy Committee (HAAC) meets monthly to discuss Hadassah advocacy priorities and plans two advocacy focused programs each year. If advocacy is your passion, then you may be interested in joining this committee, please email michele.bank@gmail.com who will connect you with the Committee Co-Chairs.

Hadassah has been rated by Charity Navigator with four-stars and was listed by Forbes Magazine as one of the 100 top ten charities in the United States. For additional information about Hadassah or any of the chapter's upcoming meetings or events, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com.

From the Court to the Heart – Love Stories Born During the Maccabiah Games

Every four years, thousands of Jewish athletes from around the world come to Israel for the Maccabiah events. Alongside the achievements and medals, something else takes place - something that cannot be planned or scheduled.

Over the years, dozens, if not hundreds of couples have met during the Maccabiah, making it, unintentionally, a fertile ground for love stories. At the Maccabiah World Union, they emphasize, "Our mission is to organize sports competitions and connect the Jewish communities of the world through the values of sports and Jewish identity." Yet, sometimes, without planning, this encounter also becomes the place where many love stories begin. "It happens naturally, and it excites us every time."



Leo and Debbie

'The Click Was Instant': The Story of Leo and Debbie

One of the moving stories that has become legendary in Maccabiah is that of Leo and Debbie, who met at the Maccabiah in 1989. Leo, the manager of Maccabi Germany's tennis team, and Debbie, a Colombian volunteer at the event, met at a lively samba party at a Tel Aviv hotel. "There were 2,000 people there, but somehow we found each other," Debbie recounts. "The click was instant." After the games, their relationship did not wane. Leo returned to Germany, but they kept in close contact. Within a few weeks, he returned to visit Debbie in Israel, and she flew to Germany to meet his family.

Soon after, they decided to get married, and the wedding was held in Tel Aviv that year. Today, 35 years later, Leo and Debbie are happily married and living in the United States.

Wedding During the Maccabiah: The Story of Jordan and Leslie

Another story, no less unusual, is that of Jordan and Leslie Schlechter.

The two met during the 17th Maccabiah in 2005, but their acquaintance began two years earlier at the local Maccabiah

Games for the South American community held in Chile. Leslie, an outstanding US collegiate basketball player attended the event with her parents, "who were determined to find me a mate," she recounts. "I didn't think I'd meet my husband at the Maccabiah, but apparently my parents knew what they were doing," laughs Leslie.

During one of the events, Jordan Schlechter, a basketball player on the U.S. men's national team, approached her and jokingly asked, "Where do you apply for the husband job?" The connection between them was immediate. Two years later, when they arrived at the Maccabiah in Israel, they decided to have their wedding there - surrounded by members of the American delegation. Since then, 20 years have passed, and today they live in New York, happily married and raising two children.

"Maccabiah 2025 is approaching, and it promises not only moments of competition and achievement but also encounters that will continue to shape a lifetime," says the Maccabiah Games organization. "Who knows, maybe one of them will be the next love story."



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Israel News and Events



Israel: Did You Know?

By Richard England

Although the Middle East war provoked by Hamas on October 7 has not yet ended, Jewish National Fund-USA is forging ahead with its Go North strategy to attract families, businesses and tourists to northern Israel. A major part of that strategy is launching the Galilee Culinary Institute (GCI) on Kibbutz Gonen near the famous Hula Nature Reserve.

The chief culinary officer is Lior Sercaz, who founded and ran La Boite, a highly regarded spice and biscuit shop in Manhattan. Lior is hopeful that food can help bridge divides in the diverse and culturally rich Galilee region. "At the end of the day, we're not so different. Whether you're Jewish, Muslim, or Druze, the food we eat, the land we share—it's all connected," he says.

Michael Solomonov, the award-winning Israeli chef, has helped to design this exciting culinary venture. "GCI by JNF will be a new type of culinary school, where budding chefs will work



Rendering of GCI campus in Kibbutz Gonen.

with the unique mix of cultures and cuisines that can only be found in the north of Israel," he says. When it opens, you might want to visit the GCI campus or even enroll in one of its courses. For more information, go to <https://www.galileeculinaryinstitute.com/>.

2G

continued from page 27

the face of terrible discrimination, segregation, and smothering antisemitism.

My stories are definitely not unique, and they are not any better or worse than the thousands and thousands of other stories. However, hopefully someone will learn something new, or have a better understanding of that time period. I look

forward to hearing from you, to hear your story or to see if I can help you find out more about a family member.

Milt Zweig is happy to be living here in New Hampshire after relocating from sunny (and warm) Southern California. He and his wife live in the Sandown area of Southern NH and enjoy travel and exploring the sights of New England. Milt also enjoys genealogy, baseball, and gardening.

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JFNH Tributes

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In Memory of Michael Bornstein – Elinor and Leonard Green
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Film Festival

In Honor of Pat Kalik – Renee Snow

Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

To Arlene Fishbein & Family in memory of Sue Levy – Andrea and Norm Kushner

How to submit an obituary

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

Simchas

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

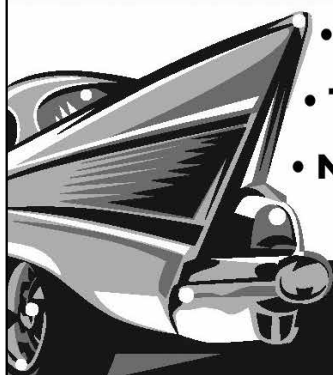
When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

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

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

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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In-Theater Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

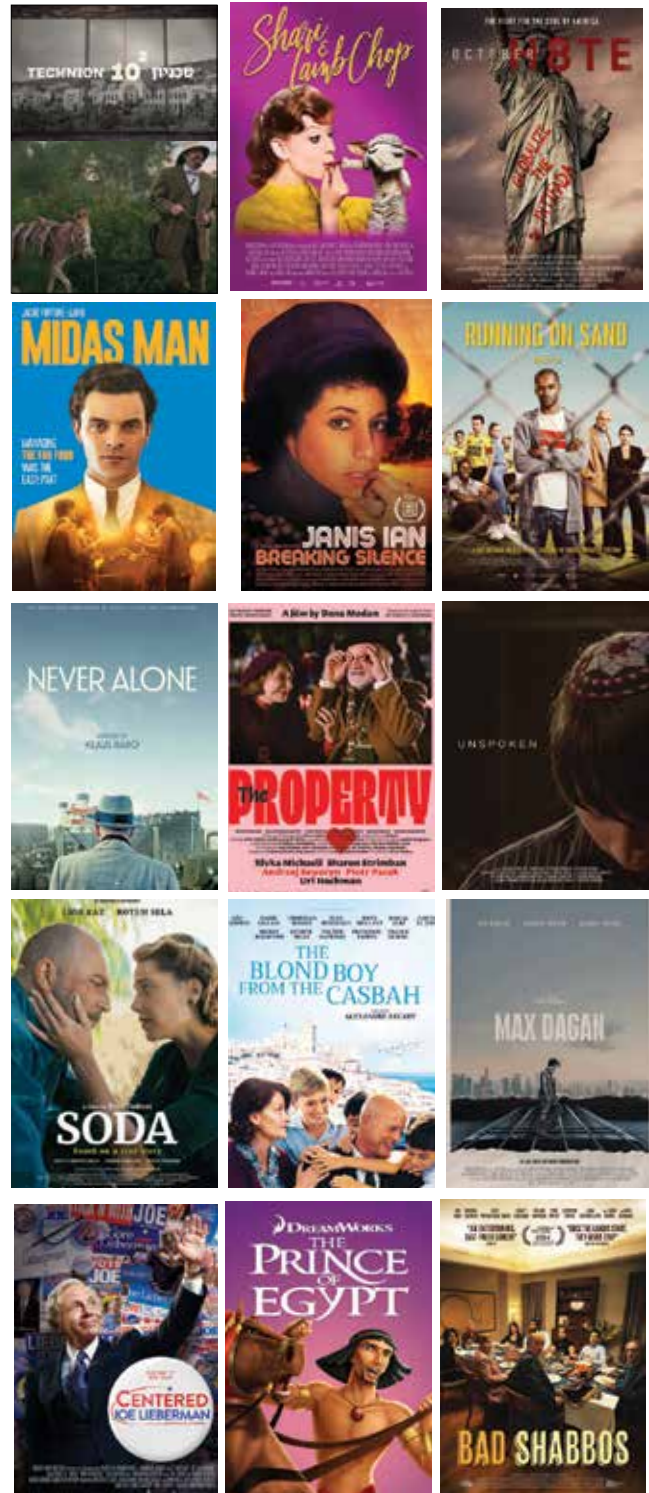
Thursday, April 3, 7 PM
Max Dagan
 Special Post-Film Discussion with Director Terre Weisman
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

