

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

Published by the
 Jewish Federation of
 New Hampshire

Volume 44, Number 8

May – June 2024

Nissan – Iyar – Sivan 5784



CELEBRATE ISRAEL

Standing Strong for Israel

As we enter the month of May, a time of celebration and reflection, I want to address our community regarding the ongoing situation in Israel, our beloved homeland.

On October 7th, our world was shaken by the news of the heinous terrorist attack in Israel. The attack, which resulted in the loss of so many innocent lives and the abduction of hostages, shook us to our core. Since then, the conflict has persisted, with tensions remaining high and the suffering of those still held captive in Gaza weighing heavily on our hearts and minds. As a community, it is essential for us to advocate for their release.

As we approach Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, it is so important for us to reaffirm our unwavering support for our homeland. May serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought for Israel's independence and the resilience of the Israeli people in the face of adversity. For us, Israel is more than just a place on a map. It is our shared history, culture, and faith, and the beating heart of the Jewish people. It is where our ancestors walked, where our

Allyson Guertin



**JFNH
 Director**

traditions were born, and where our future lies. Israel is not just a country; it is our homeland—a beacon of hope for Jews around the world and a bond that unites us across oceans and generations.

In times like these, it is the strength of our community that shines the brightest. We must stand firm in our commitment to Israel's security, its prosperity, and its right to exist in peace. Together, we can make a difference. Whether through advocacy, education, or humanitarian aid, each of us has a role to play in supporting Israel and ensuring a brighter future for generations to come. As we come together to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, let us recommit ourselves to the values that bind us as a community and to the enduring bond between the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

Am Yisreal Chai

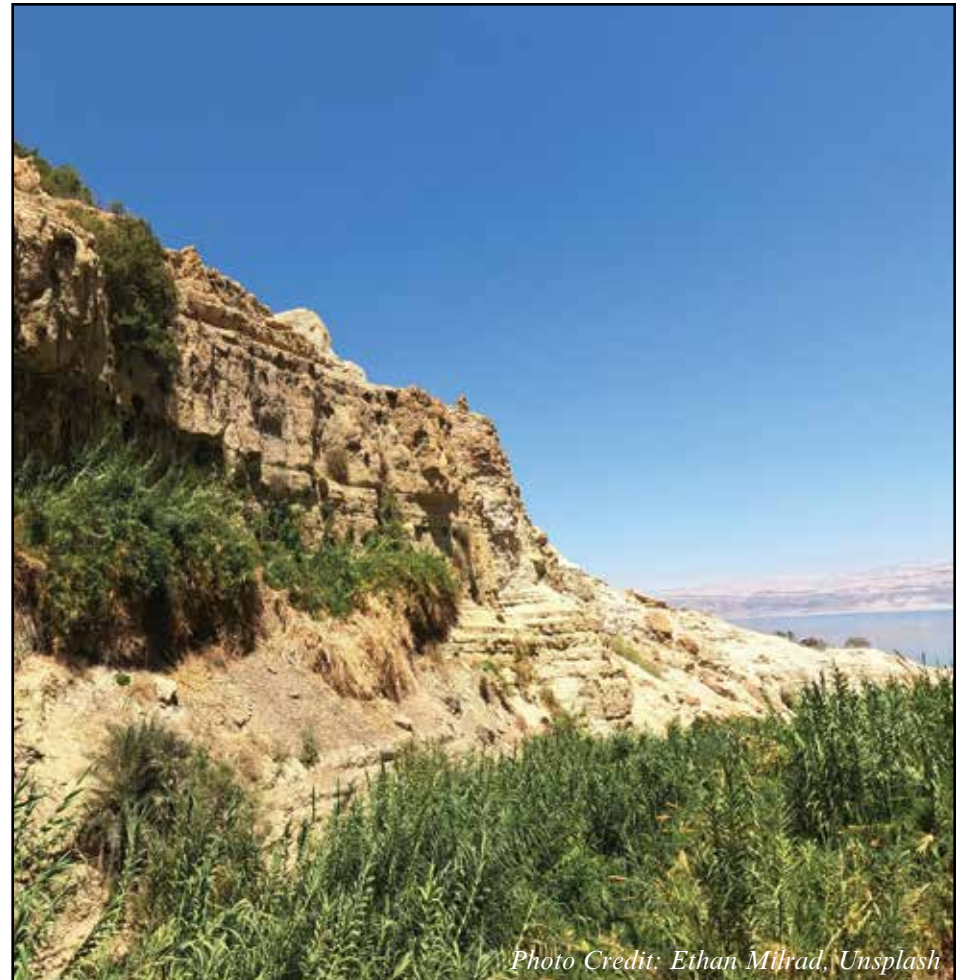


Photo Credit: Ethan Milrad, Unsplash

Meeting Our Community

I have had some wonderful experiences since becoming Chair of the Board for JFNH. Since August, I have been able to visit many communities and look forward to meeting so many more NH residents in the months to come. Our annual meeting in Bedford was a welcoming place to greet over 150 community members in one location. That was such a treat to start my term as JFNH chair.

In August, I was in Portsmouth with the Temple Israel Back to Shul Fest. It was such a beautiful day at Strawberry Bank, and I loved seeing all the kids running around. After that I was able to at-

Tracy Richmond



**JFNH
 Board Chair**

tend Shabbat at Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia. In the fall I went with a group of friends to Keene for the Cohen Center's guest event with Dara Horn. There was a spectacular turnout, and it was nice to meet members of the community I didn't already know.

Obviously, the world changed on October 7th and because of that, my shift changed from community building to community advocacy and healing. I was thrilled to be a part of the Israel Solidarity concert held by Temple Israel in Manchester. My spirits were lifted on that cold and snowy Sunday by the beautiful musicians that filled our hearts and souls.

I was able to attend Purim at Chabad in Manchester with a PACKED room of lively Jewish community members, and I attended the Purimshpiel at Temple Beth Jacob in Concord and was blown away by


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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Peter Levy
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM, Sat 9:30 AM
followed by Torah Study
Family Service Fridays 6:30 PM (2nd Fri of Month)
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar for optional Zoom link.

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER

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

Shabbat Services: Please visit our website or call our office for service times and dates.
Morning Minyans: Wednesdays 7:00am.
No RSVP required.
Torah Study: Wednesdays 6:30pm on ZOOM. Email the office for signup info.

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

NEWINGTON

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Kaya Stern-Kaufman
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 9:30 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

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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)



May 3	7:32 PM
May 10	7:40 PM
May 17	7:47 PM
May 24	7:54 PM
May 31	8:00 PM
June 7	8:05 PM
June 14	8:09 PM
June 21	8:11 PM
June 28	8:11 PM

We Need You More Than Ever

By Judith Jolton, JFNH Campaign Co-Chair

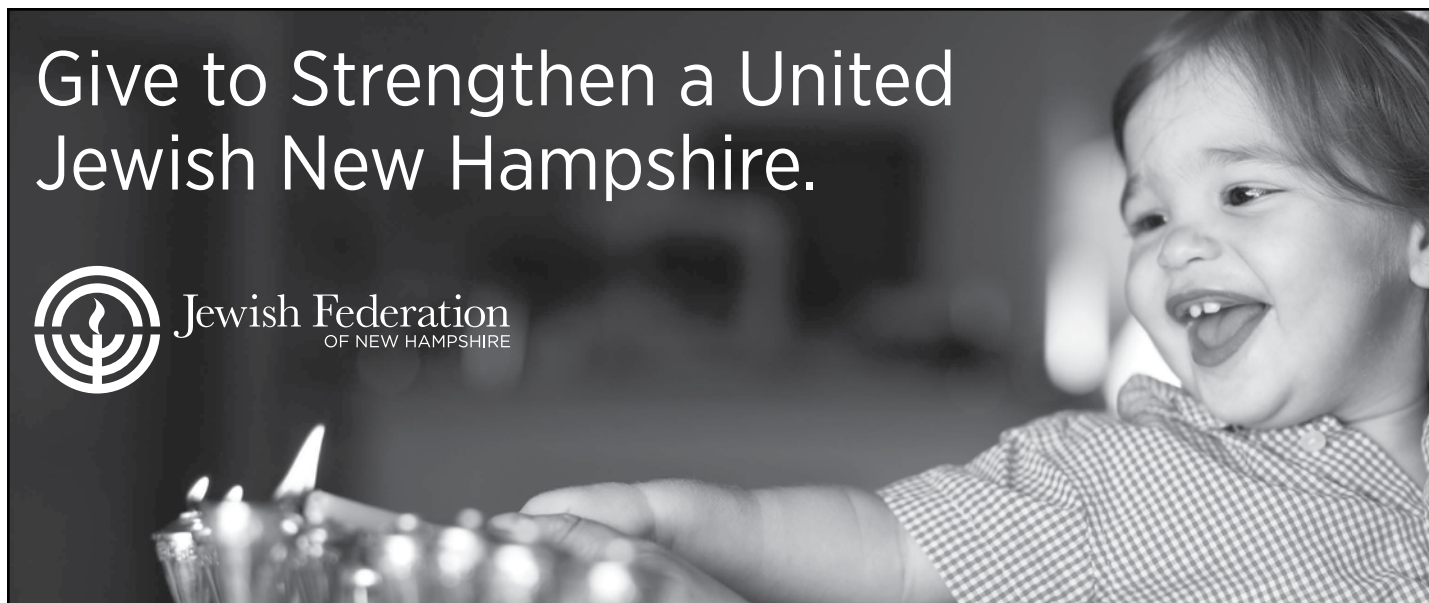
The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is the key to the state for everyone in our local Jewish community, and it is our responsibility to see that our goal for the campaign is obtained each year.

Each year, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire embarks upon a massive campaign to fulfill the needs of a budget. The Finance Chair and the committee are the ones who are responsible for putting together the budget for the following year. This budget is approved by the Board of Directors. These are the policy makers of Federation. A balanced budget is always the goal, but that cannot happen unless we all work together and make a monetary commitment or contribution to our Federation.

Without your dedication to JFNH, we would not be able to continue with our programs such as: the teaching of antisemitism awareness in all NH high schools, campership scholarships, *The Reporter*, Early Childhood Initiative, the Jewish Film Festival, MOMentum, PJ Library, and so much more. Our Federation relies on the input and gift-giving of community members to make our dream a reality.

This year, we began our Annual Campaign later than usual—because of all of us giving a contribution to the ongoing war in Israel. Now, the 2022-2023 campaign is coming to an end, as we prepare our budget for 2023-2024. Unfortunately, this year we are \$20,000 short of the goal that was set by your Board of Directors.

If you have already made a contribution, I want to thank you so very much: it is your dollars that give the Federation what we need in order to have the programs we have. That said, when we are short by \$20,000, then we must decide at our Finance meeting—when



Give to Strengthen a United Jewish New Hampshire.



Yes! Please Count Me In! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation to support the Campaign for a Proud and Vibrant Jewish New Hampshire.

You may also donate at www.jewishnh.org/give or by calling (603) 627-7679.

Sustaining Monthly Donation of:

- \$100 (\$1200/yr) \$50 (\$600/yr) \$36 (\$432/yr)
 \$18 (\$216/yr)

One-Time Gift of:

- \$2500 \$1000 \$750 \$500 \$250
 \$100 \$72 \$54 \$36 \$18
 other \$ _____

3-Year Renewable Commitment of:

- \$5000/yr \$2500/yr \$1000/yr \$500/yr

_____ will be matching this gift.
(employer's name)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email _____

Check made payable to **Jewish Federation of NH**

Mastercard Visa

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV Code _____ Signature _____

Please mail donations to: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 S. River Rd., Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110

making out our budget for next year—which programs we would have to cut. This is not an easy task, as no one wants to be without the wonderful programs we have each year.

Our campaign each year is the central fundraising mechanism and centerpiece

of JFNH. And as this campaign draws to an end, it is my dream for our shortfall to be fixed, a balanced budget achieved, and a successful year concluded. The only way that can be carried out is for those who have not given or made your pledge this year, so far, to please fill out the card here

with your 2023-2024 pledge. This will keep alive my dream—and your dream—for the future of JFNH. Please give from your heart, and remember it is better to give Tzedakah than to receive. We, as Jews, need to be responsible to always take care of each other.

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Strategic Plan Update

By Amy Lester, Strategic Plan Chair

I had no idea what level of participation I might anticipate from the Jewish Community of New Hampshire when we started the JFNH strategic planning process in October of 2023. What a tremendous month it has been for the JFNH strategic planning process's progress. The research components of the plan are finished. Among them are:

1. The JFNH Board's perspective
2. Analogous organization research
3. Focus groups made up of members from different NH constituencies
4. Selected interviews conducted around the state
5. Communal Survey

Curiosity has been high, and insightful and helpful contributions have been made. Hundreds of community members have provided feedback, and it is clear that the

Jewish community in New Hampshire wants to be engaged and connected.

The strategic planning committee is eager for the next phase, which entails reviewing the data and drafting a proposal for the JFNH board. We intend to share further information to the community early in the fall. I want to thank everyone once more for their engagement. It has been so interesting to hear the many points of view. Many thanks. We are stronger together!



Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

Thursday, May 2

Teen Program – Zikaron BaSalon

7:00PM – 9:00PM Private Home, Bedford
Zikaron BaSalon – translated “remember in the living room” – offers a new, engaging, and intimate way to commemorate Yom Hashoa and its significance through discussions at home among family, friends, and guests. A Holocaust survivor or descendant shares their story in an intimate setting with a small group of people.

For this event, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire welcomes Eva Berger, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. She will speak about her mother's recorded story of WWII Nazi occupation and concentration camp survival. Eva is committed to telling her mother's story in the firm belief that only through education can we begin to combat hate and prejudice. This program is geared towards teenagers ages 13-18. Free program. Light refreshments. Registration required.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffQIYV9X73p8p7IN0wCsij21Nxi6Siv6_qjQdJnVP-hGd1wQ/viewform

Friday, May 3

Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Family Shabbat & Pizza Dinner

5:30PM – 7:30PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Join us for pizza and salad at 5:30PM, followed by family services from 6:45PM to 7:30PM. RSVP to pizza dinner is required by Sunday, April 28 to Rabbi Levy at rabb@etzhayim.org. Please indicate how many will be attending and if there are any dietary concerns. All are welcome!

Temple Adath Yeshurun Family Shabbat Service

6:00PM – 8:00PM Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Family Shabbat Service geared toward young families. Pizza or Potluck following the Service. Temple office 603-669-5650 or office@taynh.org

Temple Israel Friday Shabbat Service and CATERED Dinner

6:00PM – 8:00PM Temple Israel, Manchester
Traditional service followed by a catered meal. RSVP required. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-sZeNfuk-4nwVcmMfW7CRYNe3AvJAC_7U0dD_Z3to-33adA/viewform

Saturday, May 4

Temple B'nai Israel Yom HaShoah Program

1:00PM – 4:00PM The Congregational Church of Laconia, Laconia
Yom HaShoah Program sponsored by Temple B'nai Israel and the Laconia Human Relations Committee. TBI partners with the Laconia Human Relations Committee to commemorate the Holocaust and promote the importance of standing up against injustice. “Defying the Nazis: Sharps' War” is a

2016 documentary film directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky. The film tells the story of Unitarian Minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who helped to save scores of imperiled Jews and refugees fleeing Nazi occupation across Europe. The introduction and discussion following the movie will be led by Larry Benaquist, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor Film Studies, Keene State College. Contact Barbara Katz at barbaraktbh@gmail.com

Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts an Evening of Comedy and Music

6:30PM – 9:00PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Cost \$18
Comedy and Music by Off Our Rockers and Dave Papa. Show begins at 7:00PM, preceded by Havdalah at 6:30PM. Off our Rockers is a group of seniors from Londonderry who formed a comedy group in 2018 to entertain folks in Senior Centers and 55+ communities. Dave Papa performs professionally in blues and rock bands and as a solo acoustic act in the southern NH area. Tickets are \$18. Purchase your tickets online at www.etzhayim.org. Price includes a snack bag at intermission.

Sunday, May 5

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Holocaust & Genocide From Darkness to Light

2:00PM – 4:00PM Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem
BHC welcomes you to share in and experience our multi-media Holocaust Memorial Service Live at our Sanctuary on Strawberry Hill Street in Bethlehem, NH, and Streaming via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMsD0mrrjwvE9cA1vj1i2RiQ1RV6Kzaiav>
For over 15 years this service has been offered to all of the north Country and now, online to all of our JFNH members. Our gathering will include beloved musical pieces played live, traditional songs of the ghettos and shtetls, poems, prayers, test and heartfelt wishes for connection, community, and well-being for all.

We offer and celebrate an uplifting afternoon as we transform pain and darkness, creating together our common resilience, vibrancy, and light. There is no charge for this annual event. We hope you can be with us. Light refreshments served after service.

Yom HaShoah “6 million steps”

4:15PM – 6:30PM Temple Israel, Manchester
A Community Event Remembrance of the Holocaust. For the second year in a row, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is partnering with Manchester synagogues to participate in “Six Million Steps”, a national program supported by the Israeli American Council to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and raise awareness of global antisemitism. (www.6msteps.org/).

Join together to remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as we walk from Temple Adath Yeshurun to Temple Israel in Manchester. Walk with us to help achieve the goal of 6 million collective steps as a community, followed by a hybrid service led by Rabbi Marc Philippe and Jewish Federation of NH Israeli Emissary Guy Ben David.

- Meet at 4:15PM at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester to join us for the walk.
- We will begin walking promptly at 4:30PM, arriving at Temple Israel, 66 Salmon Street Manchester at approximately 5:00PM
- Musical service begins at Temple Israel at 5:30PM, led by Rabbi Marc Philippe and Jewish Federation of NH Shaliach Guy Ben David
- Security will be provided throughout the walk and program.

Please register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrzlBmMBVODLs1aPqEeH8s2P8SFTG7EPU-aqemY1BvWkkRcQ/viewform>

Yom HaShoah Movie Screening

6:00PM – 8:00PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Yom HaShoah movie screening of the documentary “Regina Jonas: The First Female Rabbi That was Almost Forgotten.”
Discussion afterward led by Dr. Milton Zweig. Refreshments will be available. office@etzhayim.org or 603-432-0004

Monday, May 6

Holocaust Remembrance: A Meditation in Music

6:00PM – 8:00PM Temple Beth Jacob, Concord
This 60 Minute performance includes singers, a pianist, violinist, actor, and recorded recollections of a Holocaust survivor/resistance fighter in Poland. This program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

Tuesday, May 7

Yom HaShoah Event Featuring Author and Co-Director, Artemis Joukowsky

7:00PM – 9:00PM Rivier University, Nashua
Artemis Joukowsky collaborated with Ken Burns to produce the PBS production “Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War.” The 2016 film details the story of Artemis' grandparents who rescued European Jews, refugees, and political dissidents during World War II. In 1939 the Reverend Waitstill Sharp, a young Unitarian minister and his wife, Martha, a social worker, accepted a mission from the American Unitarian Association: they were to leave their home and young children in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and travel to Prague, Czechoslovakia, to help address the mounting refugee crisis. Artemis will show clips from his film and discuss the story of one courageous couple whose faith and commitment to social justice inspired them to risk their lives to save countless others.

No registration is necessary. Free and open to all. This event will take place at Rivier University, in the Dion Center on 16 Clement Street in Nashua. Livestream will be available through Rivier University. This program is funded in part, by a grant from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Contact Rebecca White 603-883-8184 or office@tbanashua.org

Wednesday, May 8

Recipe with a Memory – Bedford

5:30PM – 9:00PM Private home in Bedford
Cost \$10
Join us for this unique Yom HaZikaron program to remember a fallen Israeli soldier by cooking their favorite dish and learning about their story. This year we will be making homemade sweet and sour soup to honor Shil Har-Even z”l. Private home in Bedford – Address will be shared with everyone registered the week of the event. Please register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1ez7ZC9BdT47z2pg5bPpsVnAhbMaz1U40FSHrhv-63RDT-w/viewform>

Thursday, May 9

Recipe with a Memory – Moultonborough

5:30PM – 7:30PM Private home in Moultonborough
Cost \$10
Join us for this unique Yom HaZokaron program to remember a fallen Israeli soldier by cooking their favorite dish and learning about their story. This year we will be making homemade shakshuka to

honor Eliraz Gabbay z”l. Private home in Moultonborough -- Address will be shared with everyone registered the week of the event. Please register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1ez7ZC9BdT47z2pg5bPpsVnAhbMaz1U40FSHrhv-63EDt-w/viewform>

Etz Hayim Synagogue Hot Topics – Halutza, A JFNH Sister City

7:00PM – 8:00PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Halutza, A Jewish Federation of New Hampshire sister city. Harry Shepler has visited Halutza many times and passionately describes it as representing the early pioneer spirit. They are true Zionists working G-d's country. See and hear the desert bloom! 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 ½ Hood Road, Derry. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffst15@AOL.com or 603-895-6120.

It Happened on May 13

7:30PM -- online only
Join us for a special panel discussion of two historic events that took place on May 13 and how they are related.

--85th Anniversary of the sailing of the ill-fated SS St. Louis from Germany on May 13, 1939
-The eve of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948

Panelists: Ido Aharoni, Israeli Diplomat; Dr. Hans Fisher, Passenger on the SS St. Louis; Robert Krakow, Executive Director of the SS St. Louis Legacy Project; and Dr. Sonja Kreibich, German Consul General to New England.

The link to view the documentary. Complicit, the story of the SS St. Louis, will be emailed on April 25, 2024. The program is free, and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Sharon Wyner at 978-565-4450 or email swymer@lappinfoundation.org. To register at <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/83>

Friday, May 17

Tot Shabbat with Rabba Kaya

5:30PM – 6:15PM Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Temple Israel, Portsmouth's kid-friendly musical Shabbat Experience is led monthly by Rabba Kaya. Geared for children ages 5 and under; all are welcome. Consider staying for a family-friendly community Shabbat potluck dinner at 6:30PM. Bring a dairy/vegetarian/pareve dish to share. Please register via the temple website calendar. <http://www.templeisraelnh.org>

Temple Israel Shabbes Tisch Potluck Supper

6:30PM – 8:30PM Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Please bring a dish to share at Temple Israel Portsmouth's family-friendly community potluck Shabbat dinner in the Social Hall. (No sanctuary service or Zoom component). Potluck note: dishes brought into the temple must be vegetarian, dairy, or pareve. For more information, please review Appendix 1 of the Kashurut Policy, available by contacting the temple office.

Celebrating Rabbi Davidson's 20 years at TAY

7:00PM – 9:00PM Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Please join us for a special Shabbat Service honoring Rabbi's 20 years at TAY. Contact Karen at 603-669-5650 or office@taynh.org

continued on page 5

Statewide Calendar of Events

continued from page 4

Saturday, May 18

PJ Library Tot Shabbat Hop UVJC 2024

10:00AM – 11:00AM Kol Ha'Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community, Hanover
Shabbat Hop at Roth Center (5 Occom Ridge, Hanover) with Alane Sabel from JFNH.

Tribute to Rabbi Davidson's 20 Years and Deli Night!

6:00PM – 10:00PM Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Please join us for a Tribute to Rabbi Beth D. Davidson and a Deli Night, in honor of her 20th year as our Rabbi at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Tickets are on sale now! Contact Karen at 603-669-5650 or office@taynh.org

Sunday, May 19

Shavua Tov Storytime 2023-2024

8:30AM – 9:30AM Zoom
Cost \$18

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 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 the 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. Please register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNcrPWZVh6bGCHKw1IW0RjH>

ZMYAjX06W1R-8hTeHgXJR6DrQ/viewform

PJ Library: From New Hampshire to the Moon

4:30PM, McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord
Celebrate 18 years of PJ Library with an out-of-this-world program! Explore the discovery center exhibits, enjoy hands-on crafts, follow a PJ Library story walk, learn about Jewish lunar calendar, and watch a special Planetarium show. Happy 18th birthday PJ Library!
McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, NH. The McAuliffe-Shepard playground will be open until dark. The discovery center is stroller accessible and there will be activities for all ages to enjoy! Bring a friend and help us celebrate everything we love about PJ Library together.

Of Note: The museum will be open to the public normal hours (10:30AM-4:00PM) on Sunday, May 19. If you plan to arrive before the event, you will be required to pay regular admission prices. Only registered PJ Library Event Attendees will be permitted into the museum after 4:30PM. There is no cost for event attendance, but donations are always appreciated. Security will be on site. Please register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdlexlYgnagM2wpd2Q0Kqsl-QQMsbnipJk2MLK08IYvNaq9Q/viewform>

Saturday, May 25

"All About Joel"

7:30PM – 10:00PM Inter-lakes Community Auditorium, Meredith
Cost \$40

David Clark's "All about Billy Joel" Billy Joel tribute will take the stage at Inter-Lakes Community auditorium. David Clark's "All About Joel" is a musical tribute to the Piano Man Himself while engaging the audience with wit and humor. This duo performance (Piano and Saxophone) promises to be a unique tribute to the music of the legendary Billy Joel. Net proceeds go directly to the Lakes Region Food Pantry. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.tbihn.org>

Monday, May 27

Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Memorial Day Service

5:00PM – 7:00PM Hebrew Cemetery, Manchester
Cemetery Memorial Day Service at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery on Beech Street, Manchester, NH 03103. Contact Karen at office@taynh.org

Wednesday, May 29

Temple Israel Annual Schmooze & Booze Fundraiser

6:00PM – 8:00PM The Rex Theatre, Manchester
Cost \$72

This year we are holding an in-person dance party at The Rex Theater featuring live music by Clockwork Entertainment. Please visit our service and events page at <https://templeisraelmht.org/services-and-events> for ticket sales information.

Saturday, June 1

Etz Hayim Synagogue Pawtuckaway Lake Shabbat Service

9:00AM – 12:00PM Steve Soreff's Home,

Nottingham, NH
Etz Hayim Synagogue's 14th annual Shabbat Service and Kayaking on Pawtuckaway Lake will be held on Saturday June 1, 2024, at the lakeside home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff, 32 Dolloff Dam Road, Nottingham. This will be rain or shine. There will be a shabbat service and kayaking and canoeing on the lake. Bring your own watercraft, chair, and snack. There are a limited number of kayaks and one canoe to borrow. Please RSVP to Steve Soreff by email soreffs15@aol.com or call 603-895-6120 by Wednesday, May 29 by 6PM. If you are bringing your own vessel, please come at 9AM to get it in the water so we can start services at 9:30AM.

Monday, June 3

Statewide Event – Celebrating 52 Years of Women Clergy

7:00PM – 9:00PM Zoom

This program is on Zoom. Please contact the Temple Adath Yeshurun office for mor information and the link. office@taynh.org

Thursday, June 6

Beth Hudson – An Amazing Story of Surviving, Thriving and Finding Purpose

7:00PM – 8:00PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Beth Hudson will tell her story of Surviving, Thriving, and Finding Purpose, at Etz Hayim Synagogue. Beth Hudson was involved in a near-fatal accident on June 29, 2017. She spent a year hospitalized and then had a left-below-knee

continued on page 6

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Statewide Calendar of Events

continued from page 5

amputation two months after arriving home. Hear Beth's story of how she survived, how she thrived afterward, and how her journey helped her to find a new purpose in life. This is a story of courage, determination, and resilience.

The Talk is in person at Etz Hayim Synagogue. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics, and Cool Contemporary Stuff. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/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.

Friday, June 7

Temple Adath Yeshurun Family Shabbat Service

6:00PM – 8:00PM Temple Adath Yeshurun

Family Shabbat Service geared toward young families. Potluck or Pizza to follow. For more information office@taynh.org

Sunday, June 9

Shavua Tov Storytime 2023-2024

8:30AM – 9:30AM Zoom
Cost \$18

A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each Month from 8:30AM to 9:00AM. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18 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 sabel@jewishnh.org. The Zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.

Please register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNcrPWZVh6bGCHKw1IW0RjHZMYAjX06W1R-8hTeHgXJR6DrQ/viewform>

Friday, June 14

Temple Adath Yeshurun Pride Shabbat

7:00PM – 9:00PM Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Pride Shabbat Service. Please contact the office for more information. Karen 603-669-5650 office@taynh.org

Monday, June 17

Etz Hayim Synagogue 3rd Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

12:00PM – 5:00PM Red Cross

Three years ago, Etz Hayim held its first blood drive to honor Etz Hayim member Beth Hudson, who suffered a near fatal motorcycle accident in June of 2017. Beth would not have survived without the 64 units of blood that she received. She continues to volunteer for the Red Cross and is organizing this blood drive with the Chavurat Ezra Committee. You can donate at age 17 with parental permission, and we love first time donors of any age – it is (almost) painless, and what a MITZVAH! Blood Supplies are dangerously low! Your donation is needed and appreciated. Please make your appointment at redcross.com or 1-800-red-cross. Questions? Contact Beth at etzhayimgiveblood@gmail.com

Friday, June 21

Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood and Sisterhood Shabbat Service

7:00PM – 9:00PM Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Brotherhood and Sisterhood combined Shabbat Service, Contact the office at office@taynh.org

Saturday, June 22

Kol Ha'Emek Tot Shabbat

4:00PM – 5:00PM Kol Ha'Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community, Hanover

Kol Ha'Emek tot shabbat at Roth Center (5 Occom Ridge, Hanover) with Daniel Steinberg and Alicia Grossman.



PLANNED GIVING

Secure the future of our Jewish community

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

ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

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

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

WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

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

LEARN MORE:

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



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in the community
at
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Happy 18th Birthday PJ Library! Thank You for Helping Me Answer the Hard Questions

At our dinner table the other night, my six-year-old son asked, “If we move to Israel, will we be killed by bombs from the war?” I didn’t know what to say. Do I deflect? Seek to play down his concerns? Do I be honest? How much does a six-year-old really need to know about safe rooms and bomb shelters and warning sirens and war? How do I protect him without belittling his concern or discouraging his empathy?

Sivan Zakai, Ph.D., writes in the blog “Addressing Children’s Big and Difficult Questions”, the following: “If the initial emotional gut-punch were not enough, discerning adults will soon realize that it’s actually not so clear what, exactly, children are asking of us when they voice aloud these painful questions. Each of these questions might indicate a child’s desire for reassurance and/or a child’s request for information and/or a child’s desire to make sense of why bad things happen and/or a child’s attempt to sort through what it means to be a Jew in the world today.”

I find it difficult to discuss Israel, and not just with my children. Maybe it’s because I don’t know exactly how I feel. I’m no longer the precocious child I was at fourteen with my dreams of making Aliyah and becoming Prime Minister of Israel. I know now that I can’t save the world. I am overly aware that *I’m not there*. I feel hesitant, careful, afraid to question the rhetoric or look deeper into the story. As if Israel is a golden beacon and I don’t want to tarnish the image for myself or for my children. Last year I quoted a message from Habonim Dror Youth Movement, “We have a long history of holding the vision and the reality of Israel side-by-side”. Sometimes it feels more like juggling.

PJ Library’s “Israel Hub” at pjlibrary.org/Israel (see QR code) states, “PJ Library and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation have a deep, unshakable connection to the State of Israel... We invite you to use this page to learn more about the history of Israel, connect with Israeli culture, and find resources for talking with kids as well.”

Working as a PJ Professional these past two years has been transformative for me. PJ Library often has the answers, the books, the resources for tackling difficult topics from Israel to the death of a pet to Christmas-envy. I feel more confident in my Judaism and my ability to parent Jewishly. I understand Jewish val-

Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



ues better than I ever did before. I’m confident that my children are seeing a broader and more diverse landscape of Judaism and of Israel than I had as a child. I’m hopeful that through PJ Library and PJ Our Way books and podcasts my children – and children around the world - can find the balance between vision and reality, and maybe even shed light on new paths to peace.

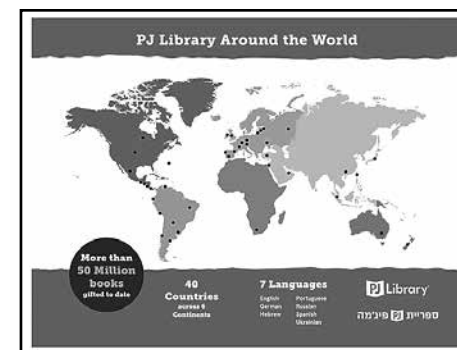
This year PJ Library is celebrating 18

years. As of this article, PJ Library has sent out more than 50 million books, to 40 countries across six continents, and these books are available in seven languages. PJ Library reaches hundreds of thousands of Israeli children and their families each month through PJ Library’s Hebrew-language counterpart, *Sifriyat Pijama*, and Arabic-language companion program, *Maktabat al-Fanoos*.

In April 2022, PJ Library went to space! Israeli Astronaut Eytan Stibbe read Yael Gover’s *A Beautiful World* from the International Space Station!

Join us on May 19th to celebrate PJ Library’s birthday at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord, NH. Enjoy space exhibits, a story walk of *A*

Beautiful World, view a video of the outer space story time, watch a special Planetarium show and so much more. Register using the QR code or contact me at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org. Thank you, PJ Library, and Happy Birthday!



A gift from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Sign up your children ages 6 months through 11 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 6 mos. through 8
pjlibrary.org
Ages 9 through 11
pjourway.org

Harold Grinspoon
FOUNDATION

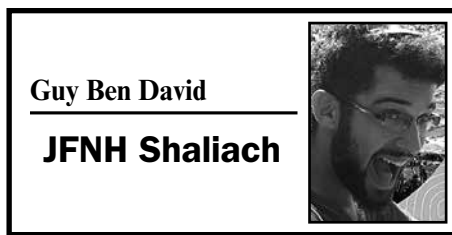
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The Season of Celebration

If you ask me what the best time of the year would be to celebrate Israel, the answer is clear: May and June. Though technically, this celebration should start right before that—during Passover, where we all get a week off from work on Chol Hamoed, and we all do the same thing: travel around the country in the springy weather. Everything is blooming and beautiful. If you close your eyes and try to ignore the other 50,000 families that decided to hike the same trail as you, you might also enjoy it too! Just kidding. It's the best feeling. Until you get on the road and get stuck with the whole Am Israel on road 6. But this is it. This is where we see each other. This is where we are together as people.

Moving to right after Passover, the Mimouna night (a Moroccan tradition marking the return to eating hametz) breaks the gluten fast. On this night you can see Am Israel in its glory. Everyone's houses are wide open, to anyone who wants to come and have a Moroccan snack after a tough week. And even though it's a Moroccan tradition, everyone celebrates.

A few days after, we will have Yom Hashoa (Holocaust Remembrance). On this day, everything calms down. There are beautiful ceremonies with beautiful songs day & night, and at 10AM, a siren



Guy Ben David
JFNH Shaliach

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire | Israel Engagement and Education Committee

starts, and we all stand quietly together thinking about what happened. Remembering my time in school, I always remember the sound of cars on the street starting to drive again after the siren ended. Everything stops.

Then we get a break of one week. During that week we are all on standby because the saddest day is coming – Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day). Ceremonies are all over the place. No matter where you live, there's probably a Yom Hazikaron ceremony meters from you. Since 2017, I've participated in any Yom Hazikaron ceremony in my Yishuv (village), and in the last few years even produced it musically. This year I won't be able to participate in it, even though it's the hardest Yom Hazikaron Israel has known



so far, and our small family, my Yeshuv, Anatot, lost one of its members on October 7th, Shilo Har Even. On Yom Hazikaron we get 2 sirens: one for the day and one for the night. Everyone in Israel stops working on that day at 12pm, to go and be with their families, or visit a grave of a lost loved one. This is the lowest point of being an Israeli, how do we make the switch that will take us to the top within one hour? I have no answer, but it works. Every year. On the night right after Yom Hazikaron, the celebrations for Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) begin. Fireworks, shows, parties, alcohol, and celebrations like only Israelis do. I have



no idea what it will look like this year, but I can assure you that Israel would never stop partying.

After the emotional rollercoaster, we get a break of two weeks until Lag B'omer. As a kid, I remember our community bonfire where the whole school would come over and we would celebrate together, sing Israeli songs and eat roasted potatoes. The last holiday of that long streak is Shavuot. I always say that if you haven't spent Shavuot on a Kibbutz, you haven't experienced a real one. Every Kibbutz will have a beautiful festival, where they serve food that was made on the Kibbutz. You get to visit the farms, make fresh cheese from fresh milk, and take part in their ceremony where there's plenty of music and they mention the achievements of the Kibbutz in the past year, including presenting the newborns.

Israel indeed went through one big trauma. But we must remember that our spirits will never break. We will continue celebrating our Judaism and Israelism in the best way we can. They want to break us, but we just won't let them. *Am Israel Chai!*

-In Memory of my Friend, Shilo Har Even-



Community

continued from page 1

the talent! Cantor Shira created an incredible experience for both cast and audience and I left singing Hamilton songs for days. Even more recently, I attended a Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood event in Nashua. It was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning learning about Jewish spirituality with a special guest Valerie de Roca.

I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the NH Jewish Film Festival. While it was disappointing to miss seeing so many of you on opening night (due to weather) it's been wonderful to see you at all the other films throughout the state. I am so appreciative to the committee for such a spectacular lineup this year.

If your community is having an event, please let me know! As you can see, I would love to come.

PJ OUR WAY

We Need You

Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

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

Tell us all about it!

Send your reviews to
Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org
or email for details & question prompts.

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

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



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INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR

Annual Meeting
and
Community Shem Tov Awards

Sunday, August 11th 2023
6pm

In person at the Bedford Event Center and Livestreamed
379 South River Road, Bedford

*Doors open at 6pm with a Kosher Dessert Reception.
Meeting begins promptly at 7pm*



Scan QR code or visit
<https://givebutter.com/JFNHAnnualMeeting2024>
for tickets



For more information visit www.jewishnh.org or email
Allyson Guertin at allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River
Road, Unit 5, Bedford, NH 03110



The strength of a people, The power of a community.

2024 Camper Incentive Grants

JFNH has grant funds still available for first time campers at any Jewish not-for-profit overnight camp. \$700-\$1000 grants are not needs based. Families must live in NH and/or belong to a NH congregation.

JFNH believes that this experience will provide the opportunity to join a safe and welcoming Jewish community. Your child can develop lifetime friendships,

learn from terrific Jewish role models, develop skills in arts, sports, outdoor adventure, experience Judaism in action and so much more while having tons of fun. Complete an application on the Foundation for Jewish Camp website: www.onehappycamper.org.

For more information or questions, contact: Nancy Frankel (corkysmagic@gmail.com)



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Information Session

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6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

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Zikaron BaSalon Teen program

May 2 at 7pm
Private Home, Bedford

Zikaron BaSalon offers a new, engaging and intimate way to commemorate Yom Hashoah and its significance through discussions at home among family, friends and guests.

The program is geared towards teenagers ages 13-18. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend with their children.



Eva Berger is the daughter of Holocaust survivors. She will speak about her mother's recorded story of WWII Nazi occupation and concentration camp survival. Eva is committed to telling her mother's story in the firm belief that **only through education can we begin to combat hate and prejudice.**

Scan QR code for more information and to register. Location sent to registered participants. Free program. Light refreshments provided.



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You Shall Be Holy

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Peter Levy
Etz Hayim Synagogue

lifts up the fallen, heals the sick, frees the captive, and keeps faith with those who sleep in the dust. You can't fix them all, but maybe you can help fix one.

Are you doing spring cleaning and finding winter clothing that your children have outgrown and will not wear next year?

Can you pick up an extra couple of cans of food during your next trip to the supermarket to drop off at a food pantry? Can you volunteer at a local soup kitchen? Can you distribute books and magazines at a hospital? Can you be creative and find a way to offer your special talents and abili-

ties to repair one small corner of a broken world? If you can do any one of these things, then you, too, can be holy.

Peter and Ellen Allard sing so beautifully, for our consideration. Be holy, hear the whisper (on YouTube; pardon the ad, if you get one).

ויְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
spoke to Moses, saying:
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
יהוה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם
Speak to the whole Israelite community and say to them: You shall be holy, for I, your God יהוה, am holy.

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
אִישׁ אִמּוֹ וְאָבִיו תִּירָאוּ וְאֶת־שַׁבְּתֹתַי תִּשְׁמְרוּ אֲנִי
You shall each revere your mother and your father, and keep My sabbaths:
I יהוה am your God.
Lev 19:1-2

What does it mean to be holy? The dictionary defines it as “exalted or worthy of devotion, as one perfect in goodness and righteousness.” Another definition is “devoted entirely to the deity for the work of the deity.” I, personally, like the second one. However, what does it mean to be devoted to God? The simplest answer is found in the Aleinu prayer:

לְתַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שְׁדֵי

To repair the world under the dominion of God.

So now it becomes simple. If you have the courage to watch the news on TV, whether it is the brief sound bites of the evening news, or the talking heads on cable news, you know what needs to be done. We see horrible things happening around the country and around the world. The scale of this horror sometimes seems incomprehensible. So we end up sitting on our couch, shaking our heads, and doing nothing. But there is much to be done, even here in New Hampshire and here in our own communities.

According to Feeding America, one in fifteen people and one in 12 children in New Hampshire are hungry. According to NHPR, on any given day in New Hampshire there are 35 people waiting for a bed in a psychiatric hospital. Another report published on NHPR gives details of the thousands of people, adults, children, and students who are homeless in New Hampshire. So instead of bemoaning the fact that it is very difficult for us to have an impact on the broken world at large, we have ample opportunity to have a significant impact right here at home. We know that God



Shavua Tov Story Time

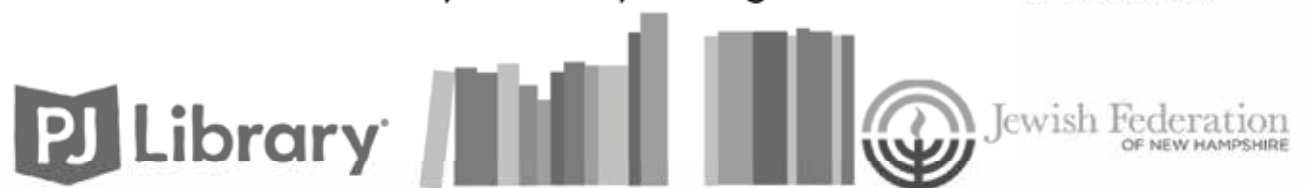
A program for families with children ages 2-5

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/2zRdv4Zo7ddwLbA5A>.



September 10	Theme: Rosh Hashanah		February 11	Theme: Mitzvot	
October 15	Theme: Sukkot		March 17	Theme: Purim	
November 19	Theme: Shabbat		April 14	Theme: Passover	
December 10	Theme: Chanukah		May 19	Theme: Lag B'Omer	
January 14	Theme: Tu B'Shevat		June 9	Theme: Shavuot	

No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



Visit <https://forms.gle/2zRdv4Zo7ddwLbA5A> to register or email alane.sabel@jewishnh.org with questions.

Who Will Remain: A Holocaust Reflection

By Angelynne Hinson

Who Will Remain: A Holocaust Reflection is a special Yom HaShoah commemorative program that presents a collage of poetry, music, and documented history, immersing the listener in a particular time and place in history. Connecting to the universality of human emotions, the audience experiences the spoken recollection of a Holocaust survivor in a deep and personal way.

Following the hour-long program, Rabbi Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth Jacob will lead a commemorative candle lighting service and the recitation of a Holocaust Mourners' Kaddish. Then, Dr. Kate DeConinck, Director of the Cohen Center for Genocide and Holocaust Studies at Keene State University, will moderate a talk-back discussion

with the performers and community faith leaders.

The program will take place on Monday night, May 6 at 7:00 pm both in person and over live stream. Registration for in-person attendance is requested (so we set up sufficient seating) by calling (603) 228-8581 or emailing office@tbjconcord.org. Live streaming will be available at <https://www.tbjconcord.org/live-streaming.html>.

Who Will Remain: A Holocaust Reflection is open free to the public thanks to the generous support of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Temple Beth Jacob, the Cohen Center for Genocide and Holocaust Studies at Keene State University, and the Greater Concord Interfaith Council.

Etz Hayim Synagogue of Derry Appoints New Rabbi

Etz Hayim Synagogue is excited to announce the appointment of Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz as its new rabbi, beginning August 1, 2024. After a thorough search conducted by the Rabbi Search Committee, Rabbi Lefkowitz was selected as the new spiritual leader of our temple family. He will succeed Rabbi Peter Levy who is retiring after having served Etz Hayim for the past 10 years.



Etz Hayim Synagogue is excited to announce the appointment of Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz as its new rabbi, beginning August 1, 2024. After a thorough search conducted by the Rabbi Search Committee, Rabbi Lefkowitz was selected as the new spiritual leader of our temple family. He will succeed Rabbi Peter Levy who is retiring after having served Etz Hayim for the past 10 years.

At a recent visit to Etz Hayim, Rabbi Lefkowitz expressed, "We are here at Congregation Etz Hayim to ignite your spark, so we can touch your heart and stir your soul." He believes in living by five simple rules: Free your heart from hatred (Leviticus 19:17), free your mind from worries (Talmud Yevamot 63 B), live simply (Psalms 116.6), give more (Deuteronomy 15:11) and expect less (Jeremiah 45:5).

Rabbi Lefkowitz and his wife, Debbie, have been living in Orlando, FL since 1994 where they established Congregation Beth Emeth where he was involved in all aspects of the synagogue, including ritual, lifecycle events, education, pastoral support and administration. For the past three years, Rabbi Lefkowitz has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in Brandon, Florida.

Rabbi Lefkowitz was ordained from Tifereth Yisrael Rabbinical Yeshiva in New York and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Baruch College, and a Master's Degree from Columbia University in Communication, Computing and Technology in education. Originally from the Albany, NY area, their move back north was precipitated by their desire to be closer to family.

Etz Hayim Synagogue was founded in 1991 and has been a beacon of Jewish life in the greater Derry region throughout its 33-year history. Etz Hayim is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH and is an independent synagogue operating in partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org.

Author Michelle Cameron at TBJ

By Rabbi Robin Nafshi

Michelle Cameron is the author of several works of fiction: *In the Shadow of the Globe* (a narrative poem using the colorful and daring characters of the Globe Theatre during the life of Shakespeare); *The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz* (a fictional account of the wife of the author's 13th-century ancestor, Meir ben Baruch of Rothenberg); *Beyond the Ghetto Gates* (a historical novel set in late 18th century Italy during Bonaparte's Italian campaign, when French troops occupy the area and free the city's Jews from their repressive ghetto); *Napoleon's Mirage: The Sequel to Beyond the Ghetto Gates* (coming in August of 2024); and *Babylon: A Novel of Jewish Captivity*.

saga of a Judean family exiled to Babylon, set against the deadly ambition of Nebuchadnezzar's royal court and the struggle of Biblical prophets and scribes to keep the Hebrew faith alive (with unfortunate echoes to our present-day crisis). *The Jerusalem Post* wrote about *Babylon*, "In the spirit of Anita Diamant's groundbreaking *The Red Tent* ... Cameron skillfully blends themes of intermarriage and assimilation, idol worship, the subjugation of women, and palace intrigue into one lavish story." As our discussion may move beyond the book itself, you may want to read Michelle's recent blog post on the current challenges facing Jewish authors at <https://michellecameron.com/2024/03/29/jewish-writers-need-your-help>.

Michelle will join us here in New Hampshire via Zoom on Sunday, May 5 at 7pm to talk about *Babylon*, the epic

To obtain the Zoom link for Michelle's talk, please contact Temple Beth Jacob at (603) 228-8581 or office@tbjconcord.org.

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16th Annual

NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

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

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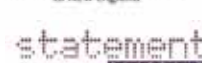


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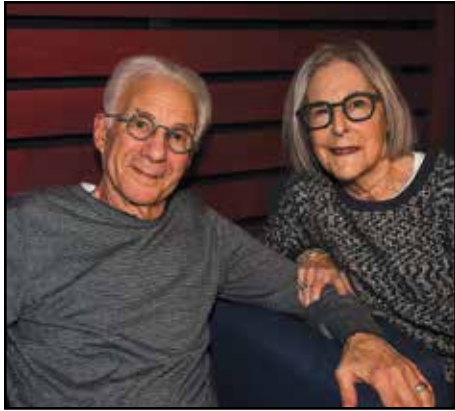
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New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival In Review



Ann and Marty Fabian at the Wrap Party



Kate Lydon from St Paul's Academy Introducing Call Me a Dancer



Lisa Burke-McCoy at 3 S Art Space Introducing Film



Debbie DePasse at the Movies



Gail Herman and Hallie Penthany Checking in Guests at Red River Theatres



Guy Ben David and Roberta Brayer at the Wrap Party



Ross Fishbein, Pat Kalik, Allyson Guertin with Ambassador Meron Reuben



Barbara and Jay Lewinter at SNHU



Judith Eliasberg at Red River Theatres



Ruth Kleinfeld at Children of Nobody



Marissa White and Pat Kalik at Call Me a Dancer



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nhjewishfilmfestival.org

New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



Arlene Fishbein, Ross Fishbein, Jennifer Fishbein and Judith Jolton at Red River Theatres



Maryellen Bilech at Children of Nobody



Michele and Michael Bank with Tracy Richmond at Screening of Matchmaking



Manish Chauhan, Pat Kalik and Ross Fishbein at Red River Theatre



Upper Valley Children of Nobody Screening Alice Werbel and Richard Abel



Pam Englander, Barbara Scotch, Ann Fabian and Carol Pressman at Red River Theatres



William and Christine Windler and Claudette LaRoche Red River Matchmaking



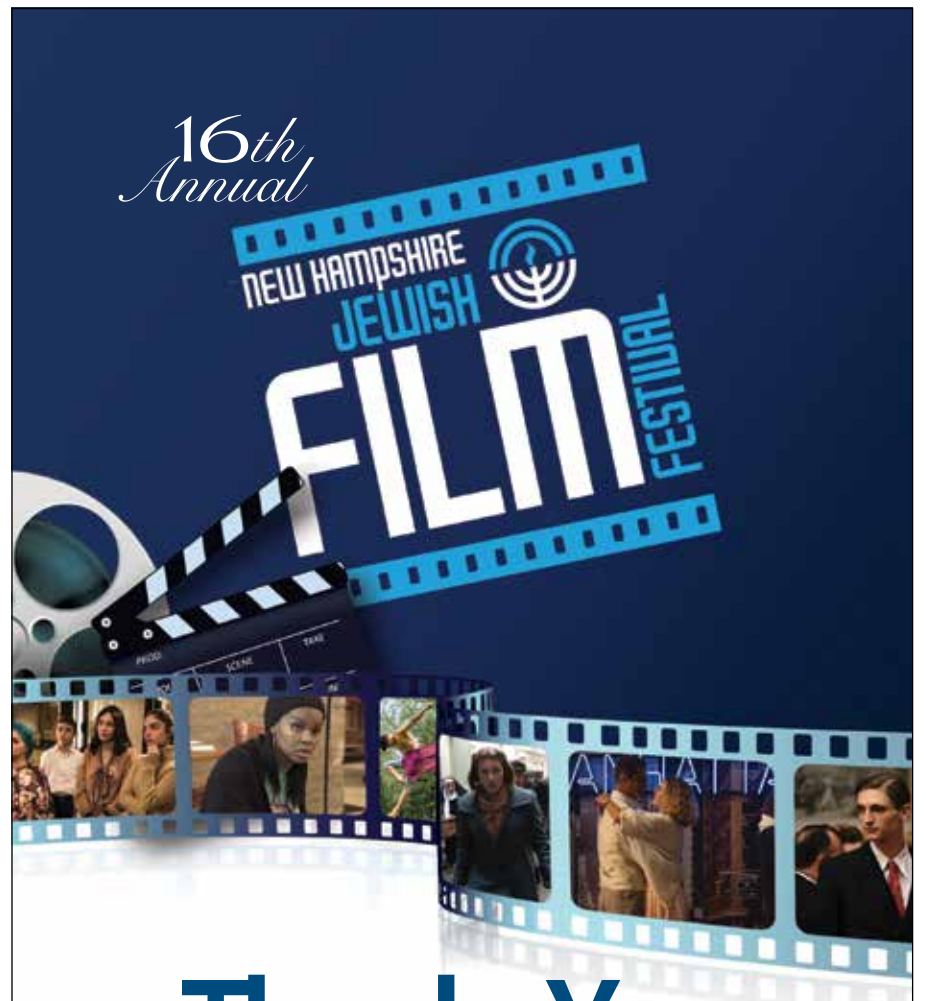
Upper Valley Rabbi Mark Melamut, Pat Kalik, Roberta Berner and Monte Blaustein



Wrap Party Buffet at Red River Theatres



Zach Camenker with Manish Chauhan From Call Me Dancer



Thanks You Friends of the Festival

For Helping Make The 2024 NH Jewish Film Festival Possible.

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 Renee Snow • Madeline Taube



nhjewishfilmfestival.org

PJ Library: From New Hampshire to The Moon

Celebrate 18 years of PJ Library with an out-of-this-world program for all ages! Explore the discovery center exhibits, enjoy hands-on crafts, follow a PJ Library story walk, learn about the Jewish lunar calendar and watch a special Planetarium show. Happy 18th birthday, PJ Library!

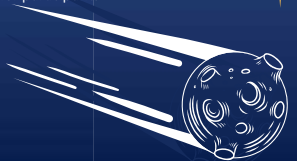
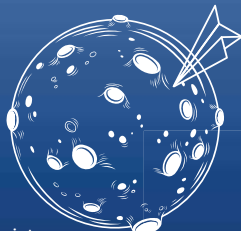
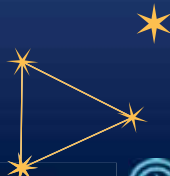
McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center
2 Institute Dr, Concord, NH
Sunday, May 19th
4:30 PM

RSVP



Scan QR Code or visit <https://bit.ly/pjnh2moon> to register.

Admission for this program is generously covered by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Your continued donations allow us to keep these programs free for participants



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



RECIPE WITH A MEMORY



Join us for this unique Yom HaZikaron program to remember a fallen Israeli soldier by cooking their favorite dish and learning about their story. This year we will make homemade shakshuka to honor Eliraz Gabbay z"l.

Thursday, May 9th at 5:30pm
Private home in Moultonborough

*Address sent the week of the event.
\$10 per person

For more information and registration visit:

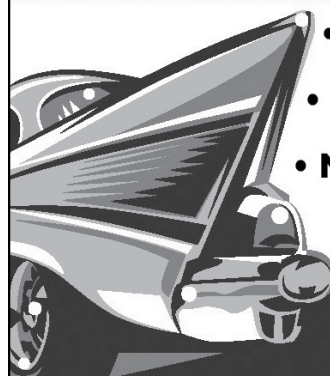
Scan QR code to register
or call the JFNH office at
603-627-7679



email
shaliach@jewishnh.org
with questions



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New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

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April 3, 2024

Dear Friends,

I join you all in spirit at the 16th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. This week's festivities will bring award-winning films to communities across New Hampshire and prompt thoughtful consideration of a variety of topics and issues. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, filmmakers, speakers and everyone else who contributed to this worthwhile endeavor.

We all know the feeling we get when we watch a captivating movie, see an impressive piece of acting or hear a riveting score that perfectly complements the story unfolding on the screen. Films have the capacity to bring us joy. They can offer comfort in challenging times. They can encourage empathy and self-awareness. They can invite us to look *inward* and consider our place in a big, complex world. Yet films have equal value in challenging us to look *outward* and explore connections to our neighbors and peers. They can emphasize the importance of engaging and listening to people from all walks of life. They can give us the opportunity to imagine another's viewpoint, to learn from others' experiences and to see beyond our own unique way of thinking.

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is an opportunity to reflect and consider important issues through a Jewish perspective. Events like these are vital to building cohesive communities where all people feel empowered to step forward, share their stories and forge enduring ties to history, cultures and age-old ideas.

Thank you again to everyone who comes together to make this festival such a resounding success year after year. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

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April 4, 2024

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
273 South River Rd. #5
Bedford, NH 03110

Dear Friends,

Thank you for inviting me to the 16th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. I am sorry I am unable to attend, but I am excited to see so many Granite Staters come together to watch great films and celebrate the Jewish community.

The Jewish community has enriched our culture and economy for generations, not only in New Hampshire, but throughout the entire country. I am grateful for the contributions of the Jewish community and the efforts made by organizations like the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Their work is crucial in promoting fair treatment and combating antisemitism and other harmful stereotypes, while also allowing Granite Staters to deepen their understanding of the Jewish culture.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, thank you for your tireless efforts to ensure our Jewish friends are maintaining meaningful connections to their roots. As you continue your efforts, please do not hesitate to reach out if my office can be of any assistance. I look forward to all the great work you will be doing in the future.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
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April 4, 2024

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Dear Friends,

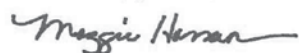
I am sorry that I cannot be with you today, but I join you in celebrating the 16th Annual NH Jewish Film Festival.

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival provides our state with a valuable opportunity to reflect on Jewish stories, uplift Jewish actors and filmmakers, and share and discuss memorable and meaningful stories and performances.

Whenever we take the time to learn or reflect upon our country's many different histories, traditions, and talents, we enrich our culture and make our country stronger. The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival honors that tradition and helps us to celebrate, honor, and learn about Jewish stories and history.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's film festival possible. I hope that everyone enjoys the films and special events.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Temple Adath Yeshurun
A Reform Congregation
Serving Greater Manchester, NH
Since 1891

Six Million Steps

Sunday, May 5th, 4:30pm
Temple Adath Yeshurun to Temple Israel.

For the second year in a row, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is partnering with Manchester synagogues to participate in "Six Million Steps", a national program supported by the Israeli American Council to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and raise awareness of global antisemitism. (www.6msteps.org/)

Walk with us to help achieve the goal of 6 million collective steps as a community, followed by a hybrid service led by Temple Israel, Temple Adath Yeshurun, and Jewish Federation of NH Israeli Emissary Guy Ben David.



Scan QR Code to register or visit <https://bit.ly/6mstepsNH>
Looking for other ways to participate?
View our website: www.jewishnh.org/YomHaShoah
Security will be provided throughout the walk and program

More information: ☎ 603 627 7679 🌐 shaliach@jewishnh.org



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

Learn about Artificial Intelligence at Temple Beth Abraham

“Artificial Intelligence, Friend or Foe, Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of AI Technology,” will be the topic discussed by Jim Isaak on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 9:30 AM, live and in-person at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club is proud to sponsor this presentation and breakfast.



The current fad in AI is known as generative AI. Although generative AI confabulates responses, it nevertheless passes the Turing test. Improvements are constantly being made to this technology. The near-term risks of AI technology are human abuse to misinform and manipulate the public. It is not currently clear when we might see the emergence of Artificial General Intelligence, which can perform non-physical tasks at least as well as a person. Join us at TBA as Jim examines how we got here, and what

it means for the next year or two as the scope and reach of the Internet continues to grow and influence our lives.

Jim Isaak began his career over 30 years ago after earning a BS in Computer Studies and a MSEE in Computer Engineering from Stanford University. He is the holder of a US Patent for his “Method for Certifying the authenticity of digital objects.” Jim’s work history includes various upper level positions at IBM, Data General Corp and Digital Equipment. In addition to teaching Information Technology at the collegiate level, Jim has held numerous positions within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers including President of the IEEE Computer Society and Vice President of the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology. Jim, a TEDx Speaker, is uniquely qualified to discuss the impact of Analytics, Social Media and Privacy on our everyday lives. If you missed Jim’s engaging and highly informative presentation to us in 2020, be sure to mark your calendar for

this event. You won’t want to miss it!

Jim’s discussion will be followed with an open question and answer period. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club is proud to sponsor this exciting program. This special presentation is open to the public but advance registration is required. Please register in advance by emailing breakfastsvp@snhjmc.org to confirm your registration.

Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of scrambled eggs, bagels, lox, and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, orange juice, milk, coffee, and water. The cost for breakfast is \$10 for all members in good standing and any of those members guests that may accompany them. The cost for breakfast for non-members will be \$18. New members will be able to join on the spot should they desire to take advantage of the breakfast discount. Membership is available for a suggested donation of \$36. As always, membership may be paid when you arrive for breakfast or by mailing a check to, SNHJMC Treasurer

c/o Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH 03064. Online membership registration is also available on the Temple website: <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/form/mens-club-registration-2023-24.html>

About The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club, founded in 1982 conducts monthly breakfast meetings. The Club’s mission is based on building a brotherhood of like-minded men who wish to share their commitment and values to those in the greater Southern New Hampshire Jewish community. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club is a non-profit organization serving Jewish men and husbands of Jewish women from all southern NH’s Jewish communities regardless of synagogue membership for over forty years. If you or someone you know would like to join our Men’s Club please contact our President, Don Gorelick, via email: president@snhjmc.org or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>.

Temple B’nai Israel of Laconia: Sharing Jewish Culture and Heritage in The Lakes Region

Temple B’nai Israel (TBI), the cornerstone of Jewish life in central New Hampshire, is proud of its commitment to fostering connections within the community. TBI offers a variety of programs that celebrate Jewish culture and heritage, welcoming both Jewish and non-Jewish residents to participate in meaningful ways.



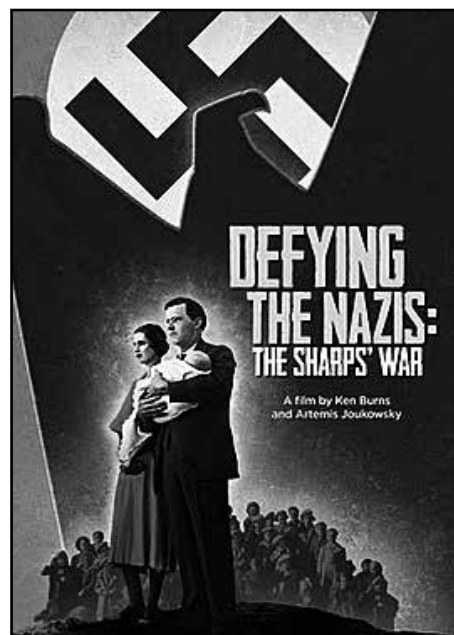
TBI offers a variety of programs that celebrate Jewish culture and heritage, welcoming both Jewish and non-Jewish residents to participate in meaningful ways.

• Interfaith Model Seder Fosters Understanding

TBI recently hosted an Interfaith Model Seder, inviting clergy and community leaders to share in the Passover tradition. This special event provided a warm and welcoming space for participants to learn about the stories and rituals associated with the Seder meal. Rabbi Jan Katz and members of TBI led the event, using a special Haggadah written by a TBI member and designed for interfaith audiences.

• Remembering the Holocaust and Honoring Heroes

On May 4th, TBI partners with the



Laconia Human Relations Committee to present a Yom Hashoah program commemorating the Holocaust and promoting the importance of standing up against injustice. The event features a screening of the acclaimed Ken Burns documentary *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, followed by a discussion led by Larry Benaquist, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor Film Studies, Keene State College. The program



will take place at 1:00 pm at the Congregational Church of Laconia, 18 Veterans Square in downtown Laconia (across from the train depot).

• We Care Concerts: Music for a Cause

For over a decade, TBI’s We Care initiative has supported local nonprofits through its popular concert series. The next We Care concert presents David Clarke’s “All About Joel” featuring the music of Billy Joel, with proceeds benefiting the Lakes Region Food Pantry. Join the fun and support a worthy cause on May 25th at the Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium in Meredith.

• New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival: A Beloved Tradition

Don’t miss the iconic New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival, a celebra-



tion of Jewish cuisine that is lovingly prepared by TBI members. This 27-year tradition offers a delectable array of homemade dishes, from matzah ball soup and knishes to brisket and rugelach. The online menu also includes fresh deli meats from Evan’s Deli in Marblehead, MA, sliced and packaged in the TBI kitchen. Orders are available online from June 15th through July 7th, but don’t wait to order as quantities are limited and likely to sell out!

For more information about these programs and all other offerings visit www.tbinh.org. Temple B’nai Israel’s educational programs, religious services, cultural events, and social opportunities honor Jewish traditions and provide connections with a warm and welcoming community.

Nashua's May 7th Yom HaShoah event features co-director of 'Defying the Nazis'

On Tuesday evening May 7th, Temple Beth Abraham and Rivier University welcome film director Artemis Joukowsky III, who co-directed the Ken Burns PBS documentary, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*. Starring Tom Hanks, the 2016 film traces Joukowsky's grandparents' secret 1939 mission to rescue Jews and other individuals fleeing the Nazis. The event will be held at Rivier University in the Dion Center at 16 Clement Street in Nashua at 7 p.m.



left their home and young children in Wellesley, Massachusetts and traveled to Prague, Czechoslovakia to help hundreds of endangered Jews and refugees escape from Nazi-occupied Europe.

Joukowsky will screen excerpts of his film and explore what motivated his grandparents' mission, the dilemmas they faced, and what we can learn today from their courageous actions. Following a question-and-answer session, a candle lighting ceremony will be held memorializing Holocaust victims. Temple Beth Abraham's Zimria Choir will perform with the Nashua Community Interfaith Choir at this observance.

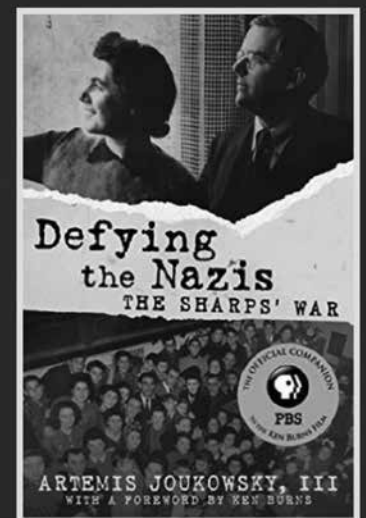
This project is made possible with support from the New Hampshire Jewish Federation. The event is free and open to the public.

Artemis Joukowsky III is an American film director, author, producer and disabilities activist. He is best known for his work on the documentaries *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* and *Carbon Nation*, as well as several other films and books. Joukowsky is the grandson of Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp, who

Yom HaShoah Greater Nashua Holocaust Remembrance Day

Temple Beth Abraham & Rivier University
Invite the Public For a Discussion With

Author & Co-Director,
Artemis Joukowsky



Open to All!
Free to Attend.
No Registration Required,
If Attending In-Person.

Tuesday, May 7 • 7:00 pm
Rivier University
Dion Center Reception Room
16 Clement St., Nashua, NH

*This program is funded, in part, by a grant from
the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.*

For more information, visit the link or scan the QR code.
tbanashua.org/events/yom-hashoah-event-2/



On Sunday, April 7 at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, more than a hundred people attended the New England Dance Ensemble (NEDE) production of "A Child's View of the Holocaust," a ballet which one critic called a "stirring production delivered with careful grace, skill, and sensitivity by these young performers." Photo credit to NEDE.

An Amazing Story of Surviving, Thriving, and Finding Purpose at Etz Hayim: June 6

On Thursday, June 6 at 7pm, Beth Hudson will tell her story of *Surviving, Thriving, and Finding Purpose*, at Etz Hayim Synagogue. Beth Hudson was involved in a near-fatal accident on June 29, 2017. She spent a year hospitalized and then had a left-below-knee amputation two months after arriving home. Hear Beth's story of how she survived, how she thrived afterward, and how her journey helped her to find a new purpose in life. This is a story of courage, determination, and resilience.



The talk is in person at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, *Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff*. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Shavuot: Derry Dairy Delights

By Amy Dattner-Levy

Tuesday evening, June 11, 2024, at 7 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 11/2 Hood Road, Derry answers these 4 Questions of Shavuot.

- "Why on this night do we bite into Dairy Delights?"
- "How can we create such delights without enough oven space for all of our pans?"
- "Is this recipe the one that convinced Ruth to follow Naomi, leading her to Boaz, years of wedded bliss, and to become King David's Great-Grandmother?"
- "What are the 10 Commandments of non-bake baking?"

Join us for a hands-on experience creating some Derry Dairy Delights, fol-



lowed by a festive Shavuot service, followed by (what else?) FOOD. What better way to celebrate the giving of the Torah? For more information, and to make a reservation (we need to know how much to purchase in the way of ingredients) for this FREE event, please contact: Etz Hayim Synagogue of Derry, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry NH 03038, 603-432-0004, Rabbi@etzhayim.org.

Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood: March Update

By Mark Granoff, TAY Brotherhood President

With the rapidly changing news cycle it is hard to stay out in front of the global news. Writing this in early April, all I can say is I hope that this article finds our world healing, and that everyone will be blessed with the love of family and for humanity. By the time this goes to print, we have all recalled the story of Pesach, my favorite Jewish Holiday, the story of liberation and exodus. It comes without the stress of gift giving that Chanukah brings, and without the ominous feelings of the High Holidays. I hope all enjoyed the special foods and moments with their loved ones reading the Haggadah as our family traditionally does.



Mark Granoff

March was a busy month for the TAY Brotherhood as we held two events, our Purim Party, and our winter Brotherhood Breakfast. Most recently, the Purim Party was held with our TAY Hebrew School students and teachers in attendance, along with lots of extended TAY family including grandkids, grandparents, and adult children of all ages—so good for the soul! Again, our theme was the Purim Passports where each child was given a passport to collect world city stamps, along with their raffle ticket. It was a fun way to make the rounds and collect extra trinkets for exchange at the prize table.

Thank you to Sol and Linda Rockenmacher, and Gail Ellis, for staffing the prize table and ensuring the kids went home with fun prizes. The raffles were a huge hit with a \$50 Puritan gift card and an aquarium care of Queen Esther and Mordechai respectively. Also, a last-minute grand prize was drawn, a top end Yeti cooler, care of John and Kelly Edwards! Perfect for boating on Lake Winnepesaukee on the Penchansky family yacht (won by David's Grandson Grayson)!

No one went home hungry thanks to our Kitchen Krew of David Penchansky, Bob Katchen, Denis Paiste, and Nadir Ali providing all the nutritious food including hot dogs, pretzels, tater tots, apple sauce and drinks. Thanks also to Rabbi Beth for the yummy Hamantaschen, and all the trinket sorting/detangling! Many thanks to all who helped with the games including Mark Bilech, Michael Bank, Cliff Lopate, Eric & Si-



Rabbi Beth and Purim revelers in the TAY Synagogue. Photo: David Rosenzweig



Fun at the Purim prize table. Photo: David Rosenzweig



mon Ratinoff, Todd Kramer, John and Kelly Edwards, Jon Baron, Nancy Frankel (aka Kugel the Clown), Zach, Julia, Miriam, and Denis Paiste. A special thank you to David Rosenzweig and Bob Katchen for the early setup work, the kitchen help, the coffee, clean up and expert photography from David. What a great community event.

Earlier in March was our winter breakfast, another hit with 35+ attendees! Thanks to Sol for the inspiration for this event where we screened the documentary film "The First Basket." This film explores the Jewish roots of the NBA and international basketball. A fascinating documentary. This event provided a yummy breakfast with bagels, lox and all the fixings. It was so well-attended we ran out of cream cheese and there was only a single bagel left over! The fruit salad was a nod to my mom Ruthie and Jon's dad, Bud Baron, who both loved to make fruit salad.

These events are indicative of the importance of social interaction within our community. We can all be grateful that we can once again enjoy each other's compa-

TAY Brotherhood continued on page 22

Shabbat on Pawtuckaway Lake

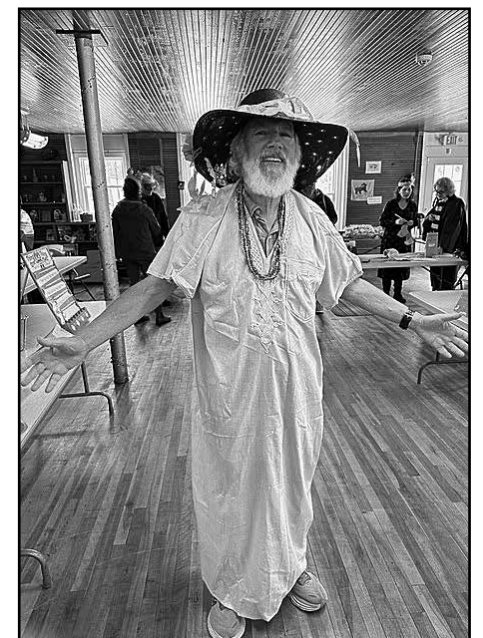
Etz Hayim' Synagogue's 14th Shabbat Service and Kayaking on Pawtuckaway Lake will be held Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 9:30 AM at the lakeside home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff: 32 Doll-off Dam Road, Nottingham. This event will be happen either rain or shine. There will be a Shabbat Service and kayaking and canoeing on the lake. Bring

your own watercraft, chair, and snack. There are a limited number of kayaks and one canoe to borrow. Please, RSVP to Steve Soreff by emailing soreffs15@aol.com or call 603 895-6120 by Wednesday, May 29 at 6 PM. If you are bringing your own vessel, please, come at 9:00 AM to get it in the water so we can start services at 9:30 AM



Purim Snowstorm Prompts Belated Celebration

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, in conjunction with Congregation Beth El of St. Johnsbury, celebrated Purim in the North Country a week late—but nonetheless, enthusiastically. Rebecca Porges entertained the gathering with a spirited rendition of the Purim story. The youngest attendees assisted her by waving puppets and contributing dialogue and Haman's evil cackles. Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum read the Megillah (although in the interest of the children's attention span, not the whole Megillah) on Zoom. Rebecca Porges led everyone in singing Purim songs. After the program, the children played carnival games, while the adults schmoozed and ate far too many hamantaschen.



Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

What If? Ehud Barak On War and Peace

In reflecting on the outstanding line-up of films in this year's Jewish Film Festival, I realized that we did not have a title about Israeli politics or the career of a prime minister, both subjects we've tackled previously. Given the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, I have taken it upon myself to dive deeper into past governments and leadership in Israel, especially the leaders I am less familiar with.

Coming across the 2020 documentary film *What If? Ehud Barak On War and Peace* was a perfect way to take that deep dive and to explore a past leader with whom I was completely unfamiliar. Those who have read my monthly columns know that I've reviewed documentary films about David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, and Bibi Netanyahu, some of the most well-known Israeli prime ministers in the country's short history. Little did I know that such a fascinating documentary about one of the less discussed politicians was available to rent on Amazon Prime.

This film explores the career of Ehud Barak, who served from 1999 to 2001 as the tenth prime minister of Israel after a long military service and several years in the Shamir, Rabin, and Peres administrations. Best known for his attempt to tackle peace with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and US President Bill Clinton in the summer of 2000 at Camp David, the film has a unique style in which Barak is the only one interviewed in real time. It relies on archival footage, past interviews, and speeches that play in the background as Barak discusses his career.

It's clear from the start that the intent of the filmmaker is to juxtapose Barak's military endeavors through times of war with his zealous desire for peace in the Middle East. Amidst the chaos of unending conflict which is depicted very well through the archival footage, Barak is painted as a patriotic and tactical leader with the interests of his country and its people always in mind. Additionally, he demonstrates his strong resolve for finding ways to get along with those unlike him, a result of his admiration for his political idol Yitzhak Rabin, whose assassination clearly shook him to the core.

Brief background of Barak's upbringing on a kibbutz in what was then Mandatory Palestine helps set the scene for the rest of his fascinating life. In doing independent research about his earliest years on the kibbutz following his 1942 birth, it



appears that his grandparents were killed in the Holocaust and that he took a more Hebraic surname as he began his military years. More facts about that would have added an additional layer of intrigue for the plot of the documentary itself.

Instead, the filmmaker spends a significant amount of time on Barak's years with the Israel Defense Forces and the endless wars that his country was engaged in during his long and accomplished tenure. This certainly gets at the aim of the documentary in that it helps understand what propelled him to focus on peace during his years in office, but it takes up too much time in the film overall. Nonetheless, it is a good film that attempts to explore topics that are, in a way, more relevant than ever given the current situation in Israel and Gaza.

Particularly of interest to me was Barak's discussion of the 2000 Camp David Accords. I've previously read about this valiant attempt by Barak, Clinton, and Arafat to replicate the monumental 1978 accords between the US, Israel, and Egypt, which was an enormous feat in the eyes of so many. What I did not know was the inside details, which Barak reveals in depth through his honest retelling of these highly contested discussions.

It's clear from the start of the discussion that Barak was more interested in finding peace between Israelis and Palestinians than preserving his own career as prime minister. He knew exactly the risk that this posed with some of his opponents, but he did it anyway, running on

the idea when he sought election in 1999. The film's most outstanding effort is the way in which it highlights Barak's ongoing resolve, collaboration with Clinton and Arafat, and the tension that rose out of these challenging talks. It could almost have been a documentary entirely on these failed accords as that subject in and of itself is extremely fascinating.

Sadly, the happy ending for 2000 could not be written and Barak's regret for not reaching peace still evidently hits him over 20 years later. His retelling of Clinton and Madeleine Albright's anger with Arafat for refusing to accept certain parts of the agreements is especially powerful of the agreements is especially powerful of the film: what if? What if Ehud Barak had indeed reached peace that was accepted by Arafat? Where would Israel be today? It gives one so much to ponder.

Barak ultimately was defeated in 2001,

less than two years after taking office and making him one of the shortest serving prime ministers in Israel's history. While it's clear that many pieces contributed to his defeat, his passion for finding peace after such a long career engaged in war is nothing short of amazing.

This film gets at so many questions that are relevant today. It is a perfect way to examine the historical aspects of Israel's attempt at peace with its neighbors, even at times of tremendous hardship and division. It will leave you thinking for quite some time after and provide an opportunity for deep reflection. I cannot help but think that another summit at Camp David would be most beneficial in 2024 but that if attempted, the current state of global divisiveness may again halt success even faster than it did in 2000. Yet my rose-colored glasses continue to hope and wish that it could prevail.

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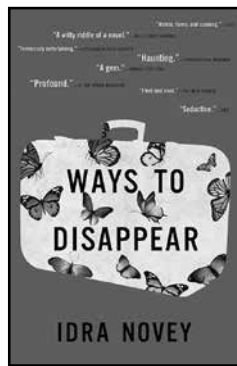
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Ways To Disappear

Idra Novey's *Ways to Disappear*, at first glance, appears to be a light fun story about an author who has lived life beyond her means and now decides to disappear rather than face her creditors. She leaves behind her publisher, her translator, and her children, all of whom must now pick up the pieces. While the story is written humorously, though, there are many serious themes that are addressed including the powerlessness of parents, children, and writers and their translators.

Her American translator, a young woman named Emma, flies from Pittsburgh, PA to Brazil to help track down author Beatriz Yagoda. She feels that having translated all Beatriz's novels has given her insight into where Beatriz may have disappeared off to. Emma is also



escaping her own personal life in America—the cold winters and an engagement she is not sure she wants to continue. Emma teams up with siblings Raquel and Marcus to help find their

mother. They are shocked to learn that their mother has incurred major gambling debts.

Author Novey builds a sense of mystery as a hitman comes looking to collect the debt Beatriz Yagoda has accumulated from the loan shark. The characters are involved in romance, kidnap-

ping and ransom as they search for the elusive author, who increases in popularity with her fans the longer she remains hidden. Her longtime editor reissues her original books and edits her latest manuscript. As a translator, Emma feels that her life is lived quietly in the shadows. Never the center of attention, always interpreting someone else's words: "And wasn't the splendor of translation this very thing - to discover sentences this beautiful and then have the chance to make someone else hear their beauty who had yet to hear it?" Later in the novel, Emma also describes the role of the translator as someone who helped clarify to the reader the author's intent, "A translator could justify moving around the objects in a sentence if it made it easier for her audience to grasp what was going on. She could even change an object into something more familiar to the reader to avoid baffling him with something he wouldn't understand."

Novey herself has been a translator and found it both an "exhilarating escape and form of adventure, but also the opposite, being deeper into her own life." When she translated a work by the author Clarice Lispector, Novey then

modeled her characters in this book, *Ways to Disappear*, on that personal experience. Lispector was Jewish, and as Novey said in an interview, "I am Jewish and have come to know a number of really fascinating Brazilian and Chilean Jewish families, whose stories and personalities informed this book."

Idra Novey is a novelist, poet, and translator. Her novel *Take What You Need* was a New York Times Notable Book of 2023 and named a Best Book of the Year with *The New Yorker*, *L.A. Times*, *Boston Globe*, *NPR*, *Today*, and Yiyun Li's Author Pick at *The Guardian*. Her first novel *Ways to Disappear* was a finalist for the L.A. Times First Fiction Prize and winner of the 2016 Brooklyn Public Library Prize and the Sami Rohr Prize. Her fiction and poetry have been translated into a dozen languages and she's written for *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Guardian*. In 2022, she received a Pushcart Prize for her story "The Glacier" published in *The Yale Review*.

Her work as a translator includes Clarice Lispector's novel *The Passion According to G.H.* She teaches in Princeton University's Creative Writing Program.

TAY Brotherhood

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ny along with food and entertainment.

The balance of our TAY Brotherhood Calendar continues with our **May 18th celebration of Rabbi Beth's 20th Anniversary/Deli Night event!** This will be a very special evening with a well-deserved tribute to Rabbi Beth Davidson's 20 years of service to TAY and our NH Jewish and secular communities! Also, for the first time since early 2020, we are bringing back a full in-person Deli Night as part of the festivities, complete with open bar, delicious NY style deli, desserts, entertainment, raffles, and wonderful tributes to Rabbi Beth. The tickets are selling fast. Please contact the TAY Office at office@taynh.org to reserve your tickets. \$50PP payable to TAY Brotherhood. Also on May 27th is the joint TAY and TI Memorial Day Service at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery starting at 5pm. Details are in the works, so please keep your eye out for an update soon. If

you would like to help with Flag placement during the week preceding Memorial Day, please let me know at memkgranoff@comcast.net and I can pass on your names to event Chairs Sol Rockenmacher and David Rosenzweig. This should be an outside service, however if it rains it will be in the chapel.

Our calendar wraps up with two events in June: our TAY Brotherhood Annual Meeting and BBQ on June 4th, which is always a fun time. In addition to a delicious meal with all the fixings, we will have our election of officers, and awards for the Sugerman Scholarship and Brotherhood Man of the Year. Followed by our TAY Brotherhood-Sisterhood service June 21st, a beautiful musical service for all to enjoy. Watch for added details in the coming weeks.

If you would like to join our Brotherhood, please email me at memkgranoff@comcast.net and I will be happy to email you the sign-up forms. Praying for peace and healing for our troubled world.

Please stay well everyone.


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Between Heaven and Earth: The Sacred History of the Czech Memorial Torahs

By Thomas Cochran

Tied to one of the wooden rollers of my community's Czech Torah scroll is an inconspicuous piece of string. I noticed it for the first time a couple of years ago, and I was tempted to give it a little tug to remove it. I'm not sure why I refrained from doing so, but I'm glad that I left it alone.

Our Czech Torah is one of the more than 1,500 scrolls that found refuge at the Jewish Museum in Prague while the communities from which they had come were being destroyed by the Nazi occupiers of the Czech lands. Following the war, these Torah scrolls languished in unfavorable conditions in a former synagogue on the outskirts of Prague. In 1964, Ralph Yablon, who was one of the founding members of the Westminster Synagogue, provided the funds to acquire the entire collection of Czech Torahs and bring them to London, England.

This past February, I had the honor of traveling with our Czech Torah to London to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the acquisition of the scrolls. Initially, the prospect of traveling with our Torah didn't seem too daunting; a direct flight from Boston would get me and my fellow congregants to the other side of the "pond" in less than 7 hours. A last-minute flight cancellation and two subsequent delays resulted, however, in my being stuck in Philadelphia alone with our precious Torah.

A Torah scroll is the most sacred object of a Jewish community. Like the Holy Presence that dwelled amongst the children of Israel in the wilderness, it has its own separate space, the Ark of the Covenant, where it is kept when it is not being read. When the Torah is removed from the Ark, we honor it by facing it and giving it our full attention. It is such an extraordinary object that we rarely think of taking it from the synagogue sanctuary, let alone to another country, because its sacred status implies that it must be kept apart from the everyday world in which we live.

In addition to being sacred, our Czech Torah scroll is also an historical object, a tangible connection to the Shoah and the community to which it once belonged. Our scroll came from the Jewish community of Breclav in Southern Moravia. Also known as Lundenburg, Breclav was home to a Jewish community since the 15th century. At its height

in the 19th century, this community numbered nearly 800 persons. When the Nazis invaded the Sudetenland in October, 1938, the Jewish community of Breclav was closed, and its members were forcibly removed from their homes and deported to what remained of Czechoslovakia. Of the 14 Torah scrolls that were the pride of this small community, ours is the only one that has been identified as coming from it.

And so—finding myself alone with this sacred Torah, this survivor and witness to history—I felt a tremendous sense of responsibility to the generations of Jews whose lives had been touched by it, from those who had celebrated simchas and Shabbat with it, to the archivists in Prague who, in the last days and hours before their deportation to the killing centers, strove to protect and save it from destruction.

Having missed my flight to London, I reserved a hotel room for the Torah and me. Once in the room, I felt compelled to remove the scroll from the nylon bag in which it had been wrapped for travel purposes. I know the Torah is not a living entity, but the idea of leaving it in a plastic bag didn't sit well with me. It was then that I happened to notice again the string attached to the roller and realized why it was there.

At some point in our Torah's journey from Breclav to Prague, an identification card was attached to it. I have seen a copy of the card. The information it provides is factual and unadorned. It indicates the length of the Torah, the condition of the parchment and writing, the approximate age of the scroll and its provenance. And yet, despite the straightforwardness of this information, the desire to identify the scroll says something else, something powerful and moving. It speaks to the hope that this most sacred item would be reunited with the Jewish community of Breclav after the war. It speaks to the importance of Torah and the understanding that its teachings and mitzvot are the essence of every Jewish community, regardless of its degree of religious observance. It speaks to the belief that the sacred will triumph over the profane, goodness over evil. In short, that small string tells us that, even in the darkest moments of history, holiness abides.

The Torah teaches us that G-d's instruction and commandments are not to be found in the "heavens." They are, on the contrary, "very close to [us], in [our]

mouth and in [our] heart." (Deuteronomy 30:12-14) Our Sages took this verse to mean that the Torah's teachings required no specialized knowledge or schooling to be interpreted and understood. A Talmudic midrash takes this idea even further; it's not enough that the instruction of the Torah be within the reach of our understanding; the Torah itself must be on earth and entangled in the profane and even wicked realm of human history because there is no way to make our world a place of goodness without it. And this is why the angels "relinquished their opposition to the delivering of the Torah into the hands of Israel, and acknowledged that God was right to reveal it to mankind, saying: "Eternal, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! Who hast set Thy glory upon the heavens." (Ginzberg, Louis, *Legends of the Jews*, 1909, 3:2:84)

The rightful place of the Torah is perhaps neither in heaven nor on earth; it is in the space between the two, the space where history becomes sacred and existence becomes holy. The Czech Jewish communities that sent their precious Torahs to Prague for safekeeping knew this. The founders of the Memorial Scrolls Trust knew this as well. Thanks to their efforts 60 years ago, the Czech Torah scrolls that had been neglected after the war found new homes in Jewish communities around the world where they once again inspire those who heed G-d's instruction to transform the world for the better.

Like many at the 60th anniversary celebration in London, I was especially moved by the prayer for G-d's blessing that the Chairman of the Memorial Scrolls Trust, Jeffrey Ohrenstein, offered at the close of the ceremony. It speaks as much to the future as to the past of the

Czech Torah scrolls and encourages us to consider the next 60 years of their sacred history:

After 60 years,

May the One Who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, bless this sacred community and all sacred communities united by the Czech Memorial Scrolls—they, their families, all dear to them.

Bless those here in Kent House who labour to send these Torah scrolls across the world - sharing their legacy with all those who will read them, learn and heed their words.

Bless you who treasure these scrolls, bringing them here, to this home, and carrying them in your communities, their new homes.

May we draw inspiration from those who cherished them, who read from these scrolls in the communities of Bohemia and Moravia; who gathered them to Prague and then to Westminster Synagogue, who cared for and protected them and brought them to restored life.

May the survival of these Torah scrolls from an era of death and danger give us hope that life and healing will yet prevail. May these Trees of restored Life inspire us to lead lives of meaning and purpose, and the pursuit of justice and peace. May this day, 60 years since the scrolls came to our home, renew and strengthen our loving resolve to merit and honour the Torah of these Czech Scrolls.

May such be G-d's will, and let us say, Amen.

Thomas Cochran is an active member of the Upper Valley Jewish Community in Hanover, New Hampshire. He is the co-chair of his shul's Memorial Torah Scroll Committee and committed to Holocaust education.



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Jewish Journeys

Art and Judaism

By Hannah Gaffney

I'm an artist from Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, pursuing a degree in Fibers at The Savannah College of Art and Design. My art often comes in the form of mixed media collage, bookbinding, weaving and illustrative pattern design. I tend to find inspiration in found photos, antique trinkets, family traditions, and storytelling and I gravitate toward analog forms of making, and I have a particular appreciation for the physicality of old photos and objects. The idea that everything physical holds a story and that every photo represents a moment wished to be held onto compels me to create compositions with antiques that retell old stories, while also expanding the life of a memory. When creating digitally, I'm pushed to consider how I can manipulate physical objects in the 2D world to build upon the physicality I appreciate so much within my collection of photos, objects, and heirlooms. When I'm creating, it's an intuitive process. My art is an extension of myself and a means to express my energy. I find a deeper meaning in my art throughout my creation process, as my thoughts and feelings translate into a physical form; carrying this intuitive process with me in everything I do, to connect to the world around me.

Growing up, art was always a constant in my life and when I got to high school it became meditative for me as I was navigating Chronic Lyme Disease, which I thankfully no longer have. That experience led me to face incredible challenges with both my physical and mental health, and looking back, art was the only thing that I consistently felt the motivation to pursue. If I wasn't creating, I was thinking about why that was, and what spark of curiosity I could follow to lead me to my next project. I used to be incredibly caught up in worrying about finding my "style," thinking that to be a "true" artist, your work cannot compare to anyone else's and should represent exactly who you are. Through coming to art school at SCAD, I eventually learned to break



down these unnecessary standards and realized that the more I followed that golden string of curiosity and let myself make art just to enjoy the process and the act of storytelling, the more my art truly represented me and my values.

When I was younger, I remember the omanut room at camp feeling like my home away from home; still, it holds a magical place in my heart. However, it wasn't until about a year ago that I began incorporating Judaism into my art. Being Jewish has always been a key part of my identity, but I've come to realize that I

never outwardly expressed that, in the past, unless I was in a Jewish space. I've followed a path of storytelling through my art which has led me to a point where I want to truly express the stories of me and my family. This meant openly incorporating my Jewish heritage into my art ... an unexpectedly stomach-dropping feeling, truthfully, when you've only just realized that's not something you've ever expressed in a non-Jewish space. However, since the horrific events of October 7th, I feel ever-present in my Jewish identity and my need to express that. The rise we've seen in antisemitism in these past months is something Jews face with pride, so I'm not going to sit back and let the world diminish my existence, I'm going to allow myself to express the truest forms of myself in my art and let the antisemites know that I won't be quiet.

I recently found Havurah on Instagram and have been attending Hillel events at my school more frequently in the past

few months. I have such an appreciation for the space they provide for Jewish people to connect, to open up to each other, and to share our creativity. Having that online space to feel supported by my community is incredibly comforting. The piece I've made for Hillel and Havurah is particularly meaningful to me. Lately I've been quite enamored with the art of Jewish paper cutting and found I can achieve a similar style through the capabilities of laser cutting leather. This piece is a strong reflection of my connection to Judaism, Israel, and Zionism, through the lens of my own family history. A week from today, February 28th, 2024, Eliav Breur wrote for the Jerusalem Post stating, "According to Lehman, the number of antisemitic incidents marked a 700% rise since the parallel period a year earlier." That being said, this piece serves as a way to honor all of the lives lost, the people who have been traumatized, as well as those who are still being held hostage since October 7th. The leather, after being cut, had smoke residue from the burning of the laser; I was originally planning to keep this piece pristine and white, but after seeing the leather once laser cut, I decided to keep the burning and residue as it speaks to the horrendous acts that were and are endured by the Jewish people as well as how in the face of hatred, we always find beauty in our interconnectedness. The ladder is also represented by the continuous path of the leather and the sparseness of the thinnest areas of the material that still hold an unexpected strength.

I'm incredibly honored to be creating this piece for organizations I have so much love and respect for, and it was a joy being able to freely experiment with this medium to create something that I feel represents the beauty and strength of the Jewish People.

Hannah Gaffney grew up in Amherst NH and attended Hebrew school at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. Starting at a young age, she attended Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake in NY every summer for several weeks. Hannah spent her first year of college on Year Course which is a gap year program in Israel where she lived in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. While on Year Course, she was lucky enough to consistently volunteer at Kuchinate, which is an arts-based collective for African asylum-seeking women. Spending nine months in Israel really solidified Hannah's connection to the Jewish faith and Israel.



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Hadassah Stands Up for Women's Health

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah held a lunch meeting to discuss the book *Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. Next, they are reading *Small Great Things* by Jody Picoult and will have a dinner discussion on May 8 at 5 PM at T Bones in Bedford. Please contact Helen Arnold at helenarnold@comcast.net if you would like to join the group. The chapter is also planning their fundraising brunch for Sunday, June 23, 2024. A delicious brunch, musical entertainment and auction are scheduled. Additionally, they will honor the women who are 50-year members of Hadassah.

Here in the United States, Hadassah empowers women to effect change. National Hadassah reports positive news about their advocacy for advances for women's health research. On March 18,

acting co-CEO Sheryl Zeligson represented Hadassah at the White House to celebrate both Women's History Month and President Biden's new executive order focused on one of Hadassah's longtime advocacy priorities: women's health research.

For years, Hadassah has expressed deep concern about the tremendous gaps in knowledge regarding women's biology, health, and disease and by the scarcity of research being done to fill those gaps. Hadassah has advocated for increased study, funding, and awareness around women's health issues. As a result of their advocacy, it is exciting to see advances through the Biden administration and Congress focused on this important issue.

President Biden announced new proposed funding for women's health in the federal budget and spoke about the new Initiative on Women's Health Research and the Sprint for Women's Health spear-

headed by Dr. Jill Biden. These programs aim to change how the world approaches and funds women's health research by bringing together the federal government, private investors, and philanthropic supporters. Additionally, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) will accelerate new research and discoveries in women's health through \$100 million to advance high-impact research that will improve women's health outcomes.

During a House Energy and Commerce Health Committee hearing that discussed legislation that would support patients and caregivers, Dr. Christina Annunziata, senior vice president of extramural discovery science at the American Cancer Society, testified about three bills that will help improve women's health research and fund women's health programs. She spoke in support of the Women and Lung Cancer Research and

Preventative Services Act of 2023 (HR 4534), which would expand women's health research related to breast and lung cancer. Lung cancer diagnoses in women has increased by 84% in less than 45 years, with women who have never smoked twice as likely to get lung cancer than men. The gender disparity is not well understood due to a lack of research, as lung cancer receives the least research funding per death among major cancers, even though it kills more women in the US than breast, ovarian, and cervical cancers combined.

You can write to your legislators today to support the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act. If interested, Hadassah members can join Hadassah's advocacy team to advocate and act on the issues that they believe in.

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

A Nation of Volunteers

By Richard England

In *The Genius of Israel* (2023), Dan Senor and Saul Singer discuss the sense of solidarity that most Israelis feel for one another despite their political, religious, and ethnic differences. An important expression of Israeli solidarity is widespread participation in nonprofit volunteer programs. A 2023 survey found that 42 percent of Israelis engaged in some sort of volunteer activity. That participation rate was especially high among the ultra-orthodox, or haredim – a whopping sixty percent. Nearly a third of volunteers donated ten or more hours of their time each month.

The range of volunteer activities in Israel is impressive. It includes assisting patients in hospitals, tutoring students in schools, helping the disabled and elderly with daily tasks, planting trees to reclaim the desert, and even assisting on archeological digs to uncover Israel's past. Although it isn't clear what causes what, surveys suggest that volunteers are more optimistic and more satisfied with their own lives than those Israelis who don't volunteer.

Since the terrible attack on October 7, even more Israelis have performed as volunteers. One source estimates that half of Israeli civilians have donated labor and skills during recent months. Harvesting agricultural crops has received quite a bit of attention in the media. But other volunteers have prepared meals for soldiers and displaced families, cleaned hospital



rooms, donated blood and breast milk, and cared for children of IDF reservists deployed in Gaza. Some volunteers have even donated massages and beauty treatments to departing soldiers!

Taking part in volunteer programs is one way that recent immigrants (olim) can integrate more quickly into Israeli society. Cleveland-native Eve Marzel decided to make aliyah at age nineteen and volunteer in Israel through *Sherut Leumi*, Israel's National Service. She decided that dedicating herself to a year of volunteer service would be the first step in her aliyah journey. "Like every other Israeli, I knew I wanted to serve the country," said Marzel, who is now volunteering at a school that brings together children with special needs and mainstream children in the classroom. "It's the best way to integrate, and it's a great way to give back."

Upon receiving the annual report on Israeli volunteerism in early 2023, President Isaac Herzog commented, "Today, perhaps more than ever, it is up to us to boost social involvement and choose ... what unites us and brings us closer." Perhaps President Herzog's comment is a valuable message for us in the Jewish Diaspora as well.

Richard England lives in Durham. He loves to visit family and friends in Israel.

Mitzvahs

Etz Hayim 3rd Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024
12 - 5 PM
1-1/2 HOOD ROAD, DERRY, NH 03058

PLEASE MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT AT REDCROSS.COM OR 1-800 RED CROSS



Three years ago, Etz Hayim held its first blood drive to honor Etz Hayim member Beth Hudson, who suffered a near fatal motorcycle accident in June of 2017. Beth would not have survived without the 64 units of blood that she received. She continues to volunteer for the Red Cross and is organizing this blood drive with the Chavurat Ezra Committee. You can donate at age 17 with parental permission, and we love first time donors of any age. It is (almost) painless, and what a mitzvah!

**Blood supplies are dangerously low!
Your donation is needed and appreciated!**



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JFNH Tributes

Received by April 10, 2024

Campaign

In memory of Ken Goodman. May his memory be a blessing – Mark Baer

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
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JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

Amount of Contribution:

\$10 \$18 \$36 Other \$ _____

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- Annual Campaign
- Friends of the Reporter
- NH Jewish Film Festival
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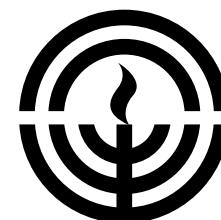


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Celebrate Israel

A Community Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration for Israel's 76th Anniversary

Sunday, June 2nd, 2-4pm

The Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester



Register by scanning QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/CelebrateIsrael24>



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