



**CELEBRATE ISRAEL**

**A Message from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire**

By now, many of you have heard the news that our Executive Director, Allyson Guertin, has announced her resignation. The good news is that Allyson will remain with us through the end of June, giving our entire community the opportunity to express their gratitude. Notice I didn't say goodbyes—because Allyson is not leaving the New Hampshire Jewish community. She will simply be serving in a new capacity, having accepted an exciting position as Assistant Director at Dartmouth Hillel.

Allyson has been a valued member of the Jewish Federation of New Hamp-

**Tracy Richmond**

**Board Chair  
JFNH**



shire family for more than 11 years. She began her journey in our preschool program, transitioned into PJ Library and Director of Outreach and Engagement, and stepped into the role of Executive Director four years ago. On a personal note, I could not have asked for a better

partner to navigate the challenges of the October 7th tragedy and to guide us through the creation of our new strategic plan. I will miss working alongside Allyson, but I am genuinely thrilled for her as she begins this new chapter with Hillel.

Our board has already established a search committee, and we are actively working to identify the best candidate to lead JFNH forward. In the meantime, our dedicated staff and tireless volunteers continue to carry out the important work that supports Jewish life across New Hampshire. Our commitment remains unchanged, grounded in our mis-

sion and strengthened by our newly completed strategic plan.

On behalf of the entire board, I want to assure you that we are here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can contact me directly at boardchair@jewishnh.org—my door is always open to the Jewish community of New Hampshire.

We are excited about the future of Jewish New Hampshire, and I hope you'll join us as we continue to advocate, educate, and build vibrant Jewish life here at home and in support of our friends and family in Israel.

**One Era Ends, A New One Begins**

Dear New Hampshire Jewish Community,

It is with a full heart that I share the news of my upcoming departure as Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. I will be stepping down from this role as of June 20 to begin a new chapter as the Assistant Director at Hillel at Dartmouth College.

**Allyson Guertin**

**JFNH  
Director**



Serving this community over the past four years has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. I have loved every moment—building relationships, celebrating simchas, responding to challenges, and working alongside so many of

you to strengthen and support Jewish life across our state. I am deeply proud of what we've accomplished together: expanding programming, deepening community partnerships, responding to rising antisemitism, and ensuring that Federation continues to be a vital resource for Jews in every corner of New Hampshire.

While I will no longer be in this role, I will always be a proud supporter of the Federation's mission and an active member of New Hampshire's Jewish community. I am excited to continue serving Jewish life in our state through my new

position at Dartmouth, supporting the next generation of Jewish leaders and helping students connect with their identity, traditions, and community.

Thank you for the opportunity to grow with and serve this extraordinary community. I look forward to what comes next—with deep gratitude and continued commitment.

With warmth and appreciation,

*Allyson Guertin*

Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

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OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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# CONGREGATIONS

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

## AMHERST

### CONGREGATION BETENU

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

## BETHLEHEM

### BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

## CONCORD

### TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

## DERRY

### ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

## HANOVER

### THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

### KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

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

## KEENE

### CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

## LACONIA

### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

## MANCHESTER

### CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

### TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

### TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER

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

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

## NASHUA

### TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

## NEWINGTON

### UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

## NORTH CONWAY

### KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

## PORTSMOUTH

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

# The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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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  
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by Nov. 10 or April 10, respectively.

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thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)

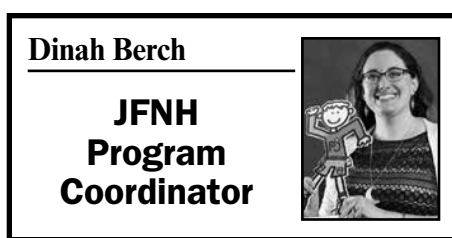


|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| May 2  | 7:29 PM |
| May 9  | 7:37 PM |
| May 16 | 7:45 PM |
| May 23 | 7:52 PM |
| May 30 | 7:48 PM |

## What I Want For My Children During Interesting Times

My kids talk a lot. On average Cayden probably has at least thirty questions a day. The PJ Library book, *The Curious Case of the Pot Roast* by Jamie Kiffel-Alchek, captures my inquisitive son perfectly. Like the mother in the book, I occasionally need to stop and say “What do you want to know *right now*?” I love that my kids are thinkers, talkers, questioners. I deeply value Judaism’s demand for discussion and debate over obedience, for actively encouraging inquiry and exploration. I hope that my children will ask questions with *anavah* – humility – with curiosity and openness, accepting when they are wrong and when they have so much to learn. I hope that I, as a parent, can find this in myself as well.

The Italian biblical commentator Sforino explained the meaning of “*Shema*” as “investigate in order to understand.” Not just listen or hear – but listen attentively, actively, with a mind open to comprehension. In interesting times, I want my children to strive for openness and understanding. I want my children to cherish the Jewish values of righteousness, jus-



**Dinah Berch**

**JFNH  
Program  
Coordinator**

stice, and kindness. Nowhere is this more true or more crucial than when discussing Israel, and current events.

Growing up is learning that Israel is a real place with a layered history and a complicated reality. We may romanticize it – The Old City, The Western Wall – exotic ruins and plants rising out of the desert, “Next year in Jerusalem” spoken like magic words before we dance through antique furniture into Jewish Narnia. It’s difficult to convey the visceral, raw truths of Israel to those who haven’t experienced it for themselves.

One day, I want my children to float on the Dead Sea, to ride camels, to pick pomegranates, to see the walls built of Jerusalem stone. I want them to jostle with other Israelis for a bus, argue over

prices of loose spices at the shuk. I want them to form their own impressions, their own stories. For now, I will proudly tell them that Israel is a home for the Jewish people. And that you can love your country without believing or agreeing that everything a country’s leaders do is right. We can look for the good, and find ways to help, to be kind, to fight for justice and kindness. We can talk and question.

PJ Library has created a guide specifically for talking to kids about the Israel-Hamas War, found at the QR code. PJ Library writes, “We strive to teach the fundamental Jewish belief that every person is created *b’tzelem Elohim*, with sacred worth, and that both Israelis and Palestinians deserve safety, freedom and dignity. We struggle to explain why these ideals are so difficult to achieve. Even in the darkest times, it’s developmentally

critical for children to experience hope and joy, and to develop pride in their Jewish identity and community. PJ Library is here to help your family do just that: continue to experience Jewish stories and togetherness, and to strengthen our connections to Israel and its people.” For reading lists, podcasts and playlists, visit PJ Library’s Israel hub at [www.pjlibrary.org/israel](http://www.pjlibrary.org/israel).

Join me on June 8th at Camp Tel Noar in Hampstead, NH for “Celebrate Israel: A Community Yom Ha’atzmaut Event” as we come together to do just that: experience Jewish stories and togetherness - and strengthen our connections to Israel and its people - in celebration, hope and joy. Visit <http://bit.ly/celebrateisrael25> to register.



*How to Talk to Kids About the Israel-Hamas War*



*Find PJ Library webinars about sharing values with children separated by age range at this QR code.*

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# Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

## Friday, May 2

### Kabbalat Shabbat at Temple Israel - Manchester

6PM - 8PM, Temple Israel - Manchester, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH  
Join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat at Temple Israel - Manchester. Services led by the incredible Rabbi Marc Philippe followed by Shabbat dinner. All are welcome! If you plan on joining us for Shabbat dinner (and we hope you do!) we ask that you kindly RSVP via our website at <http://templeisraelmht.org>. Or contact Linda Kropp Sinkow at [Lindasinkow@gmail.com](mailto:Lindasinkow@gmail.com).

## Sunday, May 4

### Shavua Tov Story Time- Lag B'Omer

8:30AM- 9AM, Zoom  
Cost - \$18.00  
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5 Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month.  
Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Alane at [alane.sabel@jewishnh.org](mailto:alane.sabel@jewishnh.org).  
The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.  
Email [alane.sabel@jewishnh.org](mailto:alane.sabel@jewishnh.org) with questions.  
To register <https://forms.gle/XknJuPEVCPkJPnk9>

### Etz Hayim Synagogue - Sunday Family Camp (Ages 4-6)

10AM-12PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH  
Theme: Passover. This session was postponed from April 6, but we will still be learning about Passover! We will be learning about the Passover story and doing some related projects. We will also review some Hebrew letters and add to our Shabbat box. Etz Hayim Synagogue hosts this free monthly program for ages 4-6. Our teacher uses a mix of music, crafts and games to introduce students to the Jewish calendar, prayer, Torah and Hebrew. The program is free, and no membership is required. Please RSVP to [sarahjohnplater@aol.com](mailto:sarahjohnplater@aol.com) by Friday, May 2 to ensure we have enough materials for the project. Or contact Sarah Plater at 603-432-0004.

## Wednesday, May 7

### Beth Abraham's Sisterhood Spring Rummage Sale

9AM-3PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH  
Come shop the Beth Abraham's Sisterhood Rummage Sale!  
Merchandise from over 100 families and bargains galore!  
<https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/sisterhood-spring-rummage-sale3.html>  
Contact Rebecca White at 603-883-8184 or email [office@tbanashua.org](mailto:office@tbanashua.org).

## Thursday, May 8

### Etz Hayim Synagogue: Bedrock Gardens Presentation

7 PM-8 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH  
The "Magic" of Bedrock Gardens will be presented by Peggy Tucker. Come on a virtual tour of one of New England's premier Public Gardens, led by one of its dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, Peggy Tucker, also known as "The Fairy Godmother," of Bedrock Gardens. If you have been to the Gardens, she would love to hear about your experiences there, and if you have never been, you will most

certainly want to visit when it opens for the 2025 season on May 14th.

Contact Steve Soreff at 603-895-6120 or email [soreffs15@aol.com](mailto:soreffs15@aol.com). <http://www.etzhayim.org>

### An Evening with Holocaust Survivor Sami Steigmann

7PM-9PM, University of New Hampshire, Memorial Union building, Theater 2, 83 Main St., Durham, NH  
Mr. Steigmann will share his story about life in a Nazi labor camp, how he survived, and the many lessons he has learned during his life in Europe and Israel. His story is one of resilience and the capacity to overcome terrible difficulties. Admission is free but registration is required: <https://www.jewishseacoast.com/YomHaShoah>.  
Sponsor: Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center  
Contact Rabbi Berel Slavaticki at 603-205-6598 or email [rabbib@jewishseacoast.com](mailto:rabbib@jewishseacoast.com).

## Friday, May 9

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Pizza & Family Shabbat

5:30PM-7:30PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH  
Join us for a free pizza dinner followed by potluck desserts. At 6:15 PM, our Book Bubbe, Leslie Kirshman, will read a story. By 6:30 PM, we will start the family Shabbat service. All are welcome! Please RSVP at [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org) by May 5, so we can plan on how much pizza to have. See you then and there!  
Many thanks to the anonymous donors for covering the cost of the pizza.  
Contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or email [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org).  
<http://www.etzhayim.org>

## Saturday, May 10

### Tot Shabbat & Shabbat Services at Temple Israel - Manchester

9:45AM-12PM, Temple Israel - Manchester, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH  
Join the Temple Israel - Manchester community for Shabbat Services and Tot Shabbat!  
Regular Shabbat services will start at 9:45am with kiddush and lunch following immediately after in the Klein Social Hall.  
Tot Shabbat led by Aida Koocher and Linda Kropp Sinkow to start at 11:30am in the chapel.  
All are welcome!

Contact Linda Kropp Sinkow at [Lindasinkow@gmail.com](mailto:Lindasinkow@gmail.com), or call 603-622-6171 or email [office@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:office@templeisraelmht.org). <http://templeisraelmht.org>.

### The Scrolls of the Silver Mountain PJOW Shavuot D&D

5PM-7PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, #5, Bedford, NH  
PJ Our Way kids aged 9-12 are invited to join Dinah and Allyson at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for Havdalah, Pizza and a Shavuot-inspired version of Dungeons and Dragons! Please bring your favorite ice cream topping to share - ice cream will be provided.  
The cost is \$10/child to cover food, dice provided. The program is limited to ten children.  
Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or email [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org)

## Thursday, May 15

### Lag B'Omer Party with Temple Israel Manchester

7PM-9PM, Temple Israel, Manchester, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH  
Lag B'omer Party with temple Israel Manchester.  
The cost is \$18.00.  
Contact Temple Manchester at 603-622-6171 or

[emailoffice@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:emailoffice@templeisraelmht.org). <https://templeisraelmht.org/>

## Saturday, May 17

### Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Deli Night!

6PM-10PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St., Manchester, NH  
Join us in Margaritaville!  
Famous NY Style Deli Meal, fixings, beverage bar and first rate musical entertainment by "The Cats". Imagine a tropical atmosphere, wearing your best looking beachwear, straw hat, sipping a margarita and kicking back with Jimmy "Deli Buffet".  
Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$50 each. You may buy them at the Temple Office or by mailing a check to: "TAY Brotherhood". Please include your mailing address.  
Contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or email [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org). <http://www.taynh.org>.

## Sunday, May 18

### Discussion with Dartmouth Hillel Shlichah, Maya Sakran

11AM-1PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, #5, Bedford, NH with a Zoom option.  
Discussion and Q & A with Bagel Brunch with Dartmouth Hillel Shlichah, Maya Sakran.  
Maya is Israeli and a member of the Druze community. She is currently the Shlichah for Hillel at Dartmouth. Maya will join us for a discussion to share her story as a member of the Druze community, why she chose Shlichut, and her time as Shlichah at Dartmouth College. There will be Question & Answer time as well. Cost is \$10 per person or Free on Zoom.  
Contact Allyson Guertin at [allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org](mailto:allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org)

## Monday, May 19

### Inside Israel with Ra'anah

1PM- 2:30PM every month on the 3rd Monday until June 16, 2025, JFNH office, Bedford and via Zoom  
Join former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anah de Haas to discuss news and hot topics in Israel  
Ra'anah will cover everything from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics. Occasionally pertinent articles will be shared in advance, and each session will end with time for questions.  
This program will meet on the third Monday of each month for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid - bring your lunch and join us at the JFNH office in Bedford or attend from your home via Zoom.  
Contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org)

## Thursday, May 22

### Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Chapter Meeting

1PM-2:30PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Community Room, Bedford  
Chapter Meeting, open to all.  
Contact Michele Bank at email [michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:michele.bank@gmail.com).

## Saturday, May 24- Sunday May 25

### We Care Presents - The Honky Tonk Chicks

7:30PM-9:30PM, Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium, 1 Laker Lane, Meredith, NH.  
The ultimate Country Music Party on Memorial Day Weekend in the Lakes Region.  
The cost is \$42.00.  
Contact Barbara Katz at 443-254-6994 or email [barbarakbinh@gmail.com](mailto:barbarakbinh@gmail.com), <http://www.tbinh.org>

A gift from the  
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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

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

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

Harold Grinspoon  
FOUNDATION

Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
[jewishnh.org](http://jewishnh.org)

**SIGN UP** Ages birth through 8  
[pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org)  
Ages 9 through 12  
[pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org)

## The Youngest Members of the NH Jewish Community Enjoy Their Own Film Festival

The youngest members of the NH Jewish community got to enjoy their own Film Festival event on Sunday, April 6 with a showing of the classic 1998 Passover film "The Prince of Egypt" at Concord's Red River Theaters!



### Temple Israel Manchester & The Shepler Financial Group Proudly Present



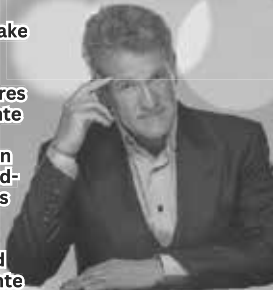
Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and get ready for a night of elegance, entertainment, and philanthropy!

We have an exciting lineup to make this night truly magical:

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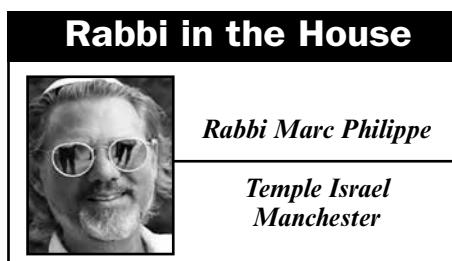
Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite:  
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## What a Truly Wondrous Gift

What a truly wondrous gift, this time between the holidays of Pesach and Shavuot. Seven complete weeks of opportunity for spiritual growth and evolution where our tradition offers a way to become an open vessel ready to receive Torah on Shavuot. Year after year, if we are mindful during this specific holiday, great mystical forces of the Universe converge in our personal world, filling our open vessel — us — with Torah energy. The idea is to be prepared and ready for this!

As we know, the period we find ourselves in right now is called the Omer. We are instructed to count each day, starting on the second night of Passover for seven complete weeks. This reminds us, by the way, not only to be mindful of time, but also to make time count.

Ultimately, the idea is to accomplish a seven-week spiritual cleansing through the kabbalistic tools that Judaism offers.



By following even the simple procedure, our ego gets cleansed and our inner-energies get aligned, ready and open to receive. One might wonder what we actually receive. We must remember that G'd consistently sends life sustenance our way. The question is, how much are we taking in?

When we use the symbol of an open or closed vessel as a state of spiritual being, it is precisely that: We can be like a martini glass, wide open and ready to receive and be filled, or we can be like a bucket with a lid on top, never receiving

the full potential of G'd's blessings. The Omer happens to be a powerful spiritual tool that helps us remove that lid and gets rid of what is not needed inside, making room for a flow of Divine sustenance, with its blessings of Light.

Not doing this work doesn't change much in our life, and this is precisely the point. To stagnate means that our Jewish soul will get thirsty, lacking an important connection with the Source of All.

The procedure for the Omer is quite simple. Each night, starting at the end of the second Seder, there is a blessing to recite after which we mention which day of the Omer it is. This is it. We do this for 49 consecutive days, seven complete weeks. The blessing and the words to say are easily found online and in any Prayer Book.

Digging a little bit more will yield fun and accessible information about Jewish mysticism. Each day of the Omer happens to correspond to a particular Divine attribute. Since we are created in the image of G'd, each of these attributes live within us, 49 Divine attributes waiting to be refined and activated.

You might know about the kabbalistic "Tree" that contains 10 Divine emanations. It happens that the top three represent the intellectual attributes of G'd and the bottom seven represent the different emotional attributes. These are the ones we focus on during this period, one attribute for each week, and each of these attributes for each day of the week. At the end of the seven weeks, we will have gone through all the permutations possible. Meditating even for one minute on each one every day has the power to open up our mind and soul to abundance of blessings and heart expansion.

[ You can sign up to receive reminders every day: [MyZmanim.com](http://MyZmanim.com) and you can read a short inspiration for each day at: <https://laish.com/daily-omer-meditation/> ]

One interesting point about the Omer is that it is traditionally a time of semi-mourning. The reason is that Rabbi Akiva, the great second-century sage, lost 24,000 of his students due to a plague. The semi-mourning practices include not having celebrations with live music, for example, because this doesn't align with the somber mood. Two thousand years later, this is still part of Jewish custom. The focus isn't that much on the death of Rabbi Akiva's students, but what happens inside of us. So, let's call it a sober time rather than a somber time, in order to let go of materialism and pay attention to our spiritual development.

According to tradition, on the 33rd day of the Omer, what we call Lag b'Omer, the plague abated and to this day, we celebrate Lag b'Omer with bonfires and weddings. Another reason for this celebration is because of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's death. This might seem counterintuitive, but it is actually a happy moment. Rabbi Shimon, also a second century sage, is attributed with writing the most well-known book in kabbalistic literature: the Zohar. On his deathbed, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai opened his eyes and there was a fire whirling around the house, which is a reason why we light bonfires. This fire, of course, symbolizes fiery passion, Jewish unity and "ahavat Israel", the love of fellow Jew. Rabbi Shimon called the last day of his life his "wedding celebration" -- "All of them, in that world, are invited to my wedding celebration. Happy is my portion."

Mystically, on Lag b'Omer, the heavens are wide open to manifest our intentions in stronger ways than usual. What we want to manifest is Rabbi Shimon's fiery passion and with it, much needed peace.

Wishing you blessings for a joyful Lag b'Omer!

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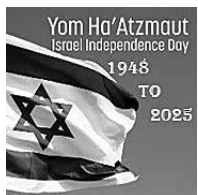
# In the Community

## Temple B'nai Israel - The Center of Jewish Life in the Center of New Hampshire: Celebrating a Summer of Tradition and Connection in The Lakes Region

**Laconia, NH** – For over a century, Temple B'nai Israel (TBI) has been the heart of Jewish life in New Hampshire's picturesque Lakes Region. Built on a foundation of resilience and community outreach, TBI continues to honor its founders' legacy by offering diverse and enriching programs. This summer, TBI invites the entire Jewish community and Lakes Region residents to participate in a series of exceptional events that celebrate Jewish heritage, culture, and the spirit of giving.

### Celebrate Israel's Independence with Insight and Festivity

On **Saturday, May 10th**, TBI's Adult Education committee presents a special Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. Join TBI member, Professor Laurie Eisenberg, for a captivating exploration of Israel's Proclamation of Independence. Delve into the historical context, uncover the behind-the-scenes decisions that shaped the nation, and en-



gage in thoughtful reflection on the complex realities of the region. Following the insightful presentation, enjoy a festive Israeli-style dinner, complete with singing and dancing. This event is free, but registration is required, and donations are gratefully accepted. Secure your spot at <https://tbinh.org>.

### Honky Tonk Chicks Deliver Country Charm for a Cause

On **Saturday, May 24th**, don't miss a boot-stomping, heart-warming country music extravaganza featuring the Honky Tonk Chicks, a dynamic vocal trio delivering a high-energy, theatrical style experience, at the Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium in Meredith. This special concert on Memorial Day Weekend benefits Veterans Count, a vital program of Easterseals NH that provides critical support to veterans and their families. Enjoy a celebration of country music, community, and



giving back. Tickets are \$42, with no additional fees and ample free parking. Purchase yours online at <https://tbinh.org> or at select retail locations (details on the website).

### Savor the Flavors of the 28th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival

Prepare your taste buds for the highly anticipated return of the 28th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival this June. A Lakes Region summer tradition, this festival offers an array of au-



thentic Jewish delicacies. Stock up on fresh corned beef, pastrami, and tongue from Evan's Deli (Marlborough, MA), and indulge in homemade favorites like brisket, matza ball soup, knishes, latkes, rugelach, and much more. The complete menu is available at <https://tbinh.org>, with orders accepted from **June 8th through July 6th**. Convenient curbside, drive-through pickup will be available on **July 19th and 20th**.

Temple B'nai Israel is committed to providing meaningful and engaging experiences and warmly invites everyone to join in the festivities and offerings throughout the Lakes Region this summer.




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Secure the future of our Jewish community

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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.

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



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# In the Community

## Purim in OZ Brings Down the House with Megillah Reading, Hebrew School Spiel, and Carnival Fun

Portsmouth, NH — This year's *Purim in OZ* celebration dazzled the community with a whimsical blend of tradition, theater, and fun for all ages. The festivities kicked off with a spirited **community Megillah reading**, setting the tone for a day full of joy and connection. Immediately following was a show-stopping *Wizard of Oz*-themed **Purim spiel**, led by our incredibly talented **Hebrew School students**. Directed by the visionary **Jeremy Kasten**, the production featured clever parody songs based on iconic *Oz* tunes—such as “If I Only Had a Brain” and “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”—each reimagined with a delightful Purim twist. The performance had the audience laughing, clapping, and singing along in true holiday spirit.

Following the theatrical fun, families and friends continued their journey

down the yellow brick road into the heart of the **Purim in OZ Carnival**. The afternoon was packed with exciting carnival games, fantastic prizes, and a mesmerizing magic show that left attendees of all ages spellbound. Costumes ranged from classic Purim characters to Dorothy, the Tin Man, and even a few flying monkeys, bringing the Land of Oz vividly to life. The carnival atmosphere was electric, with children and adults alike



embracing the festivities through creative activities and high-energy entertainment. Delicious concessions, both sweet and savory, kept everyone fueled as they explored the colorful world of Purim in OZ.

More than just a party, the event was a beautiful expression of community spirit—celebrating **resilience, joy, and togetherness**. It was heartwarming to see so many families, volunteers, and community members come together to share in the fun, strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories.

A **huge thank you** goes out to all the organizers, volunteers, and participants who made this celebration possible and a

special thanks to Ron Sher who captured these memories with his fantastic photos. With hearts full and spirits lifted, we're already clicking our heels and saying, “There's no place like home... for Purim!” We can't wait to see you next year for another magical adventure.



## Celebrating Our Past and Our Future: Reflections from Temple Israel Portsmouth

As we move beyond the spring holidays of Purim and Passover, we reflect on the powerful themes they brought to light—joy, resilience, liberation, and faith. Purim reminded us of the strength found in hidden courage and communal celebration, while Passover invited us to retell the story of our exodus from bondage to freedom. Now we find ourselves at a sacred intersection—one that bridges memory with hope, exile with freedom, and tradition with vision. These holidays root us in our past, even as they call us to act with courage and conviction in our present.

In today's world, celebrating Israel is

more vital than ever. It affirms our shared story, our spiritual homeland, and our unity as a global Jewish people. These holidays of joy and reflection remind us that being Jewish means honoring where we've been—and investing in where we're going. A powerful way to make your voice heard is by voting in the World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections, helping shape the future of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. Links can be found on our website ([Templeisraelnh.org](http://Templeisraelnh.org)) to cast your vote today!



At Temple Israel Portsmouth, we are also marking a meaningful milestone and turning point: five years of dedicated leadership from Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Her wisdom, compassion, and presence have guided our community through growth and transformation. We will be celebrating Rabba Kaya's service on May 4th!

As Rabba Kaya prepares to conclude her tenure as our rabbi, we honor her impact and begin the process of turning a new leaf—carrying forward the values she has nurtured while opening our

hearts to new possibilities.

Clearly this season is one of transition—for Israel, for the Jewish people, and for our congregation. As we move forward in both our interim and long-term rabbinic searches, we do so with gratitude, intention, and a renewed commitment to our values and vision for both the Jewish people as a whole, and our local Seacoast Jewish community.

Reach out to our Temple Office to get involved and to connect with your Seacoast Jewish community by emailing [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org) or by calling 603-436-5301 ext. 10

## Save the Date at TBA: Galeet Dardashti

Dr. Galeet Dardashti will join Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on the weekend of May 16 for a scholar-in-residence program. The weekend will kick off with a Persian-inspired dinner Friday night where Dr. Galeet Dardashti will talk about her family's history and then lead a participatory Sephardi/Mizrahi Kabbalat Shabbat service using prayers from diverse Middle Eastern/North African Jewish communities.



ry of their Iranian grandfather, known as “The Nightingale of Iran” and reveal painful secrets unspoken for generations.

As a scholar, Dardashti holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and specializes in Mizrahi culture and music; her current book project explores the Mizrahi piyyut (sacred song) phenomenon in contemporary Israel. She held Assistant Professor positions at New York University

and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dardashti is currently a Fellow at University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. For more info on Dr. Dardashti, see <https://www.galeetdardashti.com>. Please visit [tbanashua.org](https://tbanashua.org) to find more information about the weekend. Register here: <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/Galeet-Dardashti>

*This event is funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Jewish Federation and the Benjamin Freedman Fund for Cultural Enrichment.*

### About Dr. Dardashti:

A vocalist, composer and anthropologist, Dr. Galeet Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing performer and advocate for Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture. Dardashti is the first woman to continue her family's tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship. In the 2024 hit audio documentary series, *The Nightingale of Iran* — which Dardashti co-created and co-produced with her sister, Danielle Dardashti, the sisters explore the sto-

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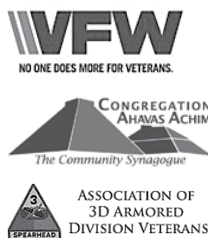
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# In the Community

## Veterans Groups and Keene Synagogue Commemorate 80th Anniversary of Liberation of Dora-Mittelbau Concentration Camp

In the spring of 1945 the allied forces in Europe, who were advancing on Nazi Germany in the final days of Hitler's "Third Reich," began making gruesome discoveries of concentration camps. American soldiers bore the first outside witness to the horrors of what would become known as the Holocaust or the "Shoah" in Hebrew. Today, the United States Army and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum recognize 36 Army Divisions as Liberating Units.

One of those units is the 3rd Armored Division, and one of those concentration camps was Dora-Mittelbau, a sub-camp of the infamous Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany. On April 11th, 1945, the 3rd Armored Division liberated Dora-Mittelbau. Soldiers worked to save survivors of the Nazi



cruelty, while witnessing death on a scale no one, not even these hardened combat veterans, could have imagined.

Our first duty is to remember. In this ceremony, we commemorated the liberation of the concentration camps, honored the liberators, remembered and honored the victims of the Holocaust, and remembered and honored those American service members who made the supreme sacrifice during WWII and all who made Victory in Europe Day

(V-E Day) possible.

Master of Ceremonies was Brian Willette, VFW National Sergeant-at-Arms. Guest Speakers included Anthony L. Olson, Association of 3d Armored Division Veterans National President, and Rabbi Daniel Aronson, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene, NH. Taps were played by Jade Martin-Willis, and Dr. Elaine Ginsberg provided musical accompaniment and sung the National Anthem. This event was free and open to the public.

For more than 100 years, the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology has played a vital role in building the infrastructure, economy, and security of Israel. No other institution holds greater promise for Israel's future.

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Fundamental research born in Technion labs is brought to life by visionary Technion alumni serving in the IDF and defense industries. This year especially, millions of Israeli lives have been protected by Iron Dome, the Arrow Antimissile System, and more. This powerful Technion-driven ecosystem strengthens Israel's security, ensuring its military superiority and deterrence capabilities.

Since 1940, the American Technion Society has been the Technion's philanthropic lifeblood. If you love Israel, there is simply no more impactful investment in its people, economy, and security than a gift to ATS.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



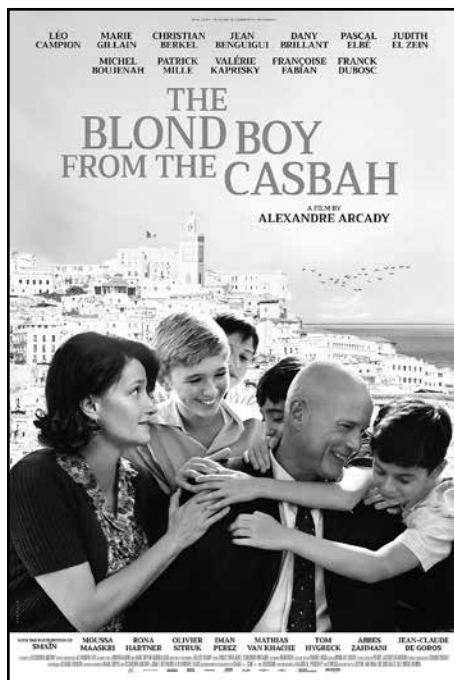
# Arts & Entertainment



## Best of the Fest!

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee Member

Our “Audience Award: Best of the Fest” votes from the 2025 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival are in! We are happy to announce winners in two categories this year: *Best Feature Film* and *Best Documentary*.



For Best Feature Film, the French drama *The Blond Boy from the Casbah* received the most votes. A semi-autobiographical story of an Algerian filmmaker who travels to his native Algiers to pres-

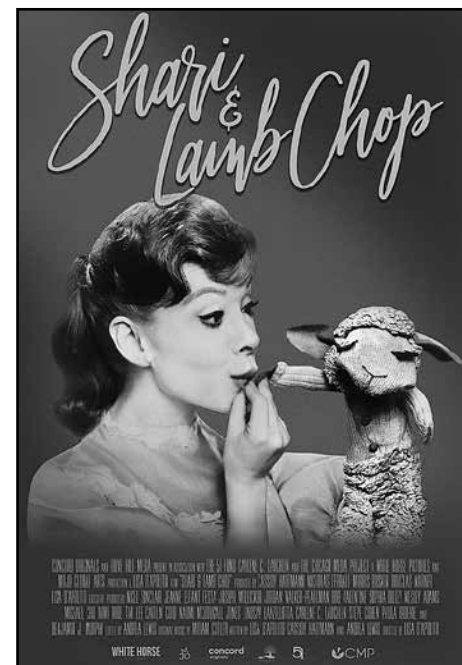
ent his newest movie, this feature largely follows young Antoine in flashback. Growing up in a Jewish family during the final years of Algerian pre-independence, Antoine discovers his love for cinema and comes to terms with himself amidst the ups and downs of childhood and young adulthood.

While audiences in Hanover got the chance to see this outstanding movie in person at Nugget Theaters, many also viewed it at home during our Bonus Week. Amidst our great lineup of dramas and comedies, this film winning the top prize truly shows that storytelling transcends the lines in the sand. We congratulate the whole acting, directing, and production teams behind *The Blond Boy from the Casbah* for this amazing honor!



For our Best Documentary award, we are pleased to announce that *Shari & Lamb Chop* was the victor of the five outstanding and uniquely different films we screened in this category.

*Shari & Lamb Chop*, which was shown at The Rex Theatre in Manchester as our opening film, played to an audience who delighted in the nostalgia of entertainer



and ventriloquist extraordinaire Shari Lewis as her life was celebrated in this charming movie. A “feel good” story with so much to love, this wonderful film about Lewis’ career, and particularly her beloved sock puppet Lamb Chop, drew one of our largest crowds. We were so pleased that her inspiring story as a female entertainer and children’s television pioneer reached audiences across the state and are thrilled to bestow the production team of the film with this incredible honor.

We were fortunate to have another great slate of movies this year – and to have had one of our most successful years yet! Thanks to readers like you, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, donors, our enormous volunteer team, sponsors, friends, and the staff and board at the Federation, we continue to thrive. We look forward to seeing you at the movies again in 2026 and hope you continue to follow us in the year ahead!

Cheers!



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Dear Friends,

I'm sorry that I can't join you to celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival.

The NH Jewish Film Festival provides Granite Staters with the opportunity to reflect on Jewish stories, uplift Jewish actors and filmmakers, and share and discuss memorable and meaningful stories and performances. Opportunities like this, supported in part by the NH State Council on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts, enrich our culture and make our country stronger.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's film festival possible. Your efforts help us to celebrate, honor, and learn about Jewish stories and history. I hope that everyone enjoys the films and special events.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

JEANNE SHAHEEN  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

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HART BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2841

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2025

Dear Friends,

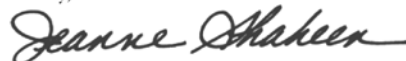
I wish I could be with you in person at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. Please know that I join in spirit as filmgoers from across the state come together to watch award-winning films that prompt consideration of a variety of topics and issues. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, filmmakers, speakers and everyone else who works so hard to make this festival a resounding success year after year.

All art – including film – tells a story that enriches the understanding of our past, informs the present and allows future generations to gain valuable insight into the ideas, subjects and discoveries that defined a given era. These stories can be challenging, inspirational, poignant and illuminating, sometimes all at once. At the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, attendees have the chance to experience this powerful independent cinema and talk with fellow filmgoers about the meaning, subtlety and nuance found in excellent pieces.

These particular films will invite thoughtful reflection on important issues through a Jewish perspective. We may not only see pieces of ourselves in one or all of these 15 movies, but also gain a greater understanding of the viewpoints and backgrounds of our friends and neighbors. This process of engaging and listening to people from all walks of life is vital to building cohesive communities where all people feel welcomed and empowered to share their own stories with others.

Thank you once again to the organizers and attendees of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival for sustaining the impact of this meaningful yearly event. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



# Thank You Friends of the Festival

**For Helping Make The 2025  
NH Jewish Film Festival Possible.**

We couldn't do it without you.

Anonymous • Michele and Michael Bank  
Kathy Brodsky • William Craig • Marilyn Cavanaugh  
Arlene Fishbein and Leon Cornell • Linda Gerson  
JoAnn Meyers • Jon Morgan • Brenda Schadick  
Renee Snow • Madeline Taube • Nancy Tobi  
Nancy Webster and Martin Bender



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

[nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://nhjewishfilmfestival.org) 

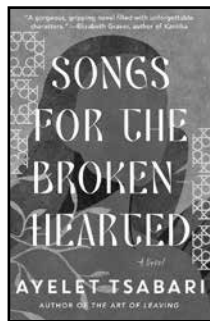
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

**Songs for the Brokenhearted by Ayelet Tsabari**

Author Ayelet Tsabari brings us her latest masterpiece of writing in *Songs for the Brokenhearted*. Though the voice may sound similar to her nonfiction book, *The Art of Leaving*, (which featured essays about her family and their lives as Yemeni Jews in Israel), this time she has fictionalized the storyline.

It is critical that we read books by Israeli and Jewish authors both to give them a voice and for the powerful message we send that these books are important. But it is also amazing to read books written by Israeli and Jewish authors because they always teach us something new, some new historic knowledge or a new perspective on news that we grew up with but may not have looked back at lately. *Songs for the Brokenhearted* does all of that and more. This is the story of many Yemeni Jews immigrating to Israel in the 1950s, living in an overcrowded immigrant camp in Rosh HaAyin. They are living under harsh conditions, not accept-



ed by the Israelis as full citizens, looking for work and learning a new language. We follow the narrative of Yaqub, a shy young man who is trying to find his promised golden future; we learn about how hard it was for

these immigrants to get settled. He meets the beautiful Saida in the camp but his love for her cannot be acted upon because she is already married.

Then we meet Zohara, a young thirty-year-old woman who is returning to Israel from New York, for her mother's funeral. Zohara is at loose ends, confused, angry and not sure she is following the path she really wants. She had left to study in the United States and felt she had escaped the life of poverty and embarrassment of having an illiterate Yemeni mother. Grow-

ing up surrounded by Ashkenazi Jews, she always wished her skin was lighter and that her father was still alive. Coming back now to Israel, and trying to get along with her older sister, Lizzie – who Zohara thinks does not understand her – she finds she may have been wrong about quite a few things. She may have misunderstood her mother and the relationship her parents had. She finds out her mother was a beautiful singer of Yemeni women's songs. This is an important part of the Yemeni culture that Tsabari weaves throughout the narrative.

Tsabari also brings in a little known harsh historic fact that nurses in the camps were taking Yemeni children away from their families and giving them up for adoption. They were telling the parents their children had gotten sick, were taken to a hospital and then the nurses told the parents the child had died. Also setting Zohara's story in 1995 means that this book covers the historic

events of the Oslo Accords, and the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin plays a large role in this novel. Zohara's nephew, Yoni gets caught up with a group of Israeli reactionary young men who attend rallies and protests. Tsabari offers us viewpoints from the different sides of the political argument around peace in the Middle East during this time period.

The book also offers beautifully written glimpse at a very emotional time in everyone's life: When a loved one's life ends and you not only reevaluate yourself and your relationship to that person, but you also find out secrets about their lives. The book follows multiple romantic plotlines, as well as the relationships between sisters, and between friends. It is interesting to read about historical facts that have led to where Israel and its neighbors are now, and to look back on a time when peace in the Middle East was thought to really be an imminent possibility.

**The Art of Repair: The Critical Role of Tzedakah in the Arts**

By Jordana Pomeroy, PhD

Years ago, a friend of mine — who plays first violin for a renowned European orchestra — told me that she knew of other violinists who assumed Jewish names. To be a Jew, it was thought, gave you a foot up in the competitive world of orchestras. This story struck me as both preposterous and ironic, a backhanded compliment or an antisemitic slap in the face. Your faith and ethnicity dictate your talents as a musician or reflect a bias toward Jewish violinists.

Jews have long been associated with artistic creativity, philanthropy in the arts, and cultural preservation. I write this article in the face of grave danger, as the fragile New Hampshire cultural ecosystem faces severe cuts to funding and advocacy. It's our duty as Jews to support the arts as part of our tradition of *tzedakah* (charitable giving) and *tikkun olam*

(repairing the world), imperatives as ingrained in Jewish culture as sitting down to a seder.

Stripped down to its etymological roots, *tzedakah* means justice or righteousness. If you grew up with the concept of acting justly and defending the vulnerable, you are familiar with *tzedakah*. Somewhere along the lines, the idea of *tzedakah* shifted to mean charitable giving. Whatever propelled the evolution of the term, the connection between justice and generosity feels powerful. We give because we have a moral imperative to protect others.

In 19th-century Europe, with the rise in mobility grew the desire to collect art as a marker of sophistication, education, and status. Jewish patrons such as Gertrude Stein and Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler, helped liberate artists from their academic shackles by supporting their livelihoods. While Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and

Juan Gris rejected conventional creative values, Stein and Kahnweiler saw a future where others saw none. They placed their winning bets on change, innovation, and new ideas in the arts.

Across the ocean, department store magnate Benjamin Altman voraciously collected the Old Masters, including 13 works by Rembrandt. At his death in 1913, he bequeathed his art collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at the time, the museum's biggest gift to date. The son of Bavarian-Jewish immigrant parents, Altman established his philanthropy during his lifetime and posthumously through his foundation. He gave back to New York, the city which made him a wealthy man, a form of "*tzedakah* justice."

Where does *tikkun olam* fit into the Jewish tradition of philanthropy in the arts? I'd start with the humanistic vision of social justice and civic engagement. You need to look no further than Leonard Baskin's illustrations of the Passover Haggadah many of us grew up with. First published in 1969, the Baskin Haggadah combined text with a new visual language. An American Jewish sculptor, print maker, and book designer, Baskin took the radical approach of using art to engage the reader in religious text. I connected viscerally with Baskin's colorful

prints that told the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt and upending of an ancient system of oppression. The seder commands us to see ourselves as if we personally came out of Egypt; Baskin's illustrations implore us to do so. They are broadsides for an historical story about empathy and compassion, the celebration of a communal ritual from which nobody should be excluded. *Tikkun olam*.

This year's Passover coincides with a complex time in the arts. In New Hampshire, our more vulnerable institutions are those that don't have the benefit of a long history. The stiff competition for funding from companies, foundations, and individuals will eliminate young, weak, and small organizations, who cannot effectively advocate for their survival. As Jews, we have a moral imperative to see the arts as something about much more than ourselves, to support innovation and creative ideas as a way of healing the world. Supporting the arts is one of the ways we Jews can help New Hampshire not only survive but thrive—short of taking up the violin.

*Jordana Pomeroy is the Director CEO of the Currier Museum of Arts, Manchester, NH.*

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

By Randi Gelfman

Dear friends,

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

However, a living donor kidney transplant would offer me much more freedom and the ability to live a longer, healthier, and more meaningful life. A transplant would also give me more time to do the things I love most, such as spending time with my family and friends, my partner Nick, my pets, helping others, and being outdoors.

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

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

I want to share with you some basic information about kidney donation. First, you only need one kidney to live a long, healthy life. Also, the surgery for a donor is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions, and the recuperation period is fairly quick, generally only a few weeks. The cost of an evaluation and surgery would be covered by my insurance. Although my blood type is O+, you do not necessarily need to have the same blood type or tissue type to be a match. Finally, there is no age limit to be a donor. You just have to have a healthy kidney.



In order to express your interest in becoming my kidney donor, you can fill out the form at this link: [mmc.donorscreen.org/register/nov](http://mmc.donorscreen.org/register/nov). Upon submission, the Maine Transplant Program will be in touch with you. To learn more about kidney donation, you can call Randi's Transplant Navigator, Jullie Hoggan at Square Knot Health: 617-468-1382, or go to the National Kidney Foundation's website: [www.kidney.org/livingdonation](http://www.kidney.org/livingdonation). There are also many other websites that can help you learn about kidney disease and donation.

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

With much appreciation,

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

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Email Dinah at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org) with questions or call the office.  
Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund, The Paul and Fran Gordon Fund and The Singer Family Trust Fund

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## Trip Report: Legislative Educational Delegation to Israel - Dates: January 26 – January 31, 2025

By NH Representative James Spillane -  
Chairman, Fish and Game and Marine  
Resources Committee, Co-Chair  
Bipartisan NH-Israel Relations Caucus,  
State Chair, ALEC

In January of 2025 the State of Israel's Foreign Affairs hosted a delegation of bipartisan New England legislators to take part in an exclusive study tour of Israel. Representative Spillane shares his experience with the NH Jewish community.

### Sunday, January 26, 2025 – Arrival in Israel

Upon arriving at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, our delegation proceeded directly to Jerusalem, where we checked in at the Inbal Hotel. After a long journey, we were warmly welcomed with a group dinner, which provided an opportunity for introductions, orientation, and setting the tone for the emotionally and intellectually demanding days ahead.

### Monday, January 27, 2025 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day

We began the day with a walking tour of Jerusalem's Old City, tracing the footsteps of history through its ancient alleyways. As part of the tour, we visited a small Orthodox church, normally closed to the public, which offered a rare and intimate look at Jerusalem's diverse religious fabric.

At the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, we reflected on centuries of faith, conflict, and reverence. We then visited the Western Wall, the holiest accessible site in Judaism. We continued into the Western Wall tunnels, where the magnitude of the site's spiritual and historical depth became even more tangible. It was there, at the wall directly below the holiest part of the site, that I joined the others in placing a personal prayer into one of the cracks in the wall and spent a moment in quiet reflection. We then proceeded out of the tunnels to the main part of the wall and paid our respects there as well.

From there, we traveled to Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial. Touring the museum was a deeply moving experience—an unflinching confrontation with the horrors of the Holocaust. On behalf of our legislative delegation, we laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame Memorial, honoring the six million Jews murdered. The solemnity of the moment was profound.

Following this, we toured the Knesset,



Israel's parliament. We met with several Members of Knesset (MKs) over lunch and had productive discussions on Israeli democracy, current policy challenges, and U.S.-Israel relations. Later, we visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for high-level confidential briefings. These detailed sessions covered the evolving regional security situation, with insights into operations in Gaza, rising tensions in Lebanon, and Iran's role in regional destabilization. We concluded the day with dinner at Mahane Yehuda Market, experiencing a taste of modern Israeli culture amidst the buzz of this vibrant open-air food haven.

### Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – Gaza Envelope and October 7th Massacre Sites

After breakfast, we drove south to Nir Oz, a kibbutz just a half-mile from Gaza, devastated by the Hamas terror attacks on October 7. From atop one of the burned-out homes, we could see Gaza clearly across the open fields. Our guide, Rita Lifshitz, a resident of Nir Oz, shared her story. She survived the attack only because she happened to be away for work that day. Her father, tragically, was taken hostage and later killed.

We walked through the ruins of homes riddled with bullet holes, torched by fire, and still bearing the traces of unspeakable violence. One of the most haunting moments was standing in the kibbutz dining hall, where a long table had been set with a chair and photo for every hostage taken—each life a story interrupted.

From there, we traveled to the site of the Nova Music Festival, where one of the worst massacres occurred. We listened to a young Israeli woman—a survivor—who told us how she was beaten with a rifle and lay semi-conscious while her friends were executed next to her. Miraculously, she survived by pretending to be dead until she could flee hours later.

*Trip Report continued on page 19*





# Israel News and Events



## Trip Report

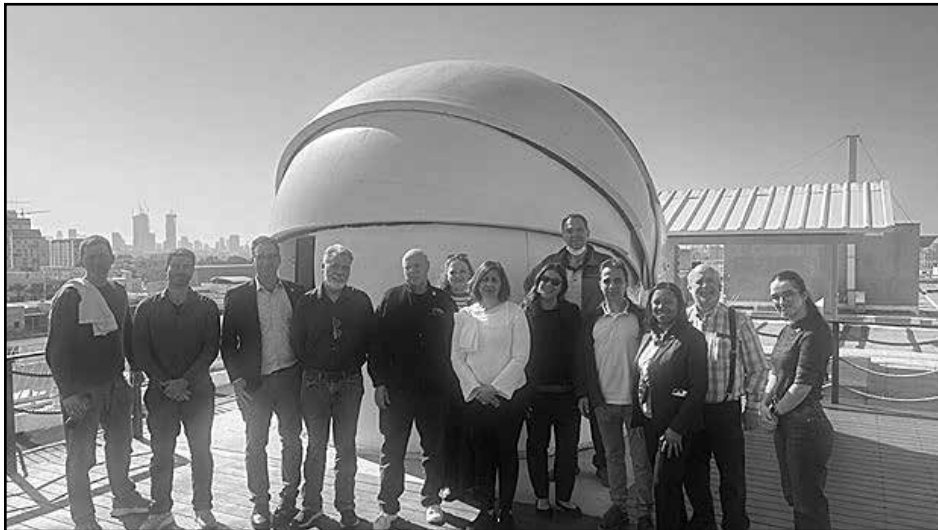
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We then traveled up the road a way to the Tekuma site, where we saw the charred and bullet-ridden remains of vehicles recovered from the Nova site. One vehicle, a burned ambulance destroyed by a rocket-propelled grenade, stood as a silent witness to the horror—eight people had died inside.

We concluded the day with a visit to an Iron Dome defense site, observing first-

hand how Israel defends its civilians from incoming rocket fire. In Tel Aviv, we checked in at the Dan Hotel and had a sobering but insightful dinner conversation with Dr. Einat Wilf, a former MK and author, who helped contextualize the ideological and geopolitical dimensions of the conflict.

### Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – Northern Border: Lebanon and the Druze Community



Our day began early with a drive to Metula, a town situated on the Israeli-Lebanese border. Accompanied by a security detail of IDF soldiers, we witnessed the destruction inflicted by Hezbollah rocket attacks. The proximity of the threat was stunning—some of the rockets were launched straight across the valley, requiring no arc. Entire homes were destroyed, their contents strewn in the rubble.

From there, we continued to Majdal Shams, a Druze town nestled in the Golan Heights. Welcomed by a Druze family, we were treated to a traditional lunch and learned about their unique identity, their patriotism, and their deep-rooted connection to the land.

One of the most emotional parts of the day was visiting a soccer field where twelve children were killed in a Hezbollah rocket attack. The community has since built a center in their memory—used for counseling, healing, and hope. Speaking with the families brought the human cost of terrorism into heartbreaking clarity.

We then visited the home of the community's spiritual and cultural leader. His hospitality was humbling, and his appeal to help with apple exports—now impossible due to the closed borders—was a reminder of how geopolitical conflict impacts the most basic human livelihoods. We returned to Tel Aviv for dinner and reflection.

### Thursday, January 30, 2025 – Innovation, Recovery, and Hostage Advocacy

Our final full day began at the ARC Innovation Center and Sheba Medical Center. We saw the medical unit where hostages are first brought upon their release—a place of both trauma and tentative joy. It was sobering to imagine the range of emotions those halls must hold.

We then visited a facility for disabled

IDF veterans and saw the extensive care offered to those who've served and sacrificed. The visit underscored the resilience and strength of Israeli society in supporting its wounded warriors.

Later, we toured Tel Aviv University, where we engaged with Prof. Itzhak Ben Israel, a renowned expert in defense and technology. A special tour of the rooftop telescope and the Quantum Science Center gave us a glimpse into the forefront of Israeli scientific advancement.

In the afternoon, we visited Hostage Square in Tel Aviv. In a private tent, we sat with family members of those still held hostage. Their grief, strength, and determination left an indelible impression. Their stories and pleas were deeply personal and universally human.

After returning to our hotel, we had some personal time. I chose to walk the Tel Aviv streets and took a quiet moment by the Mediterranean—watching the sunset, reflecting on the experiences, and taking a brief swim in the sea.

We gathered for a final farewell dinner at a small local restaurant, sharing closing thoughts and acknowledgments. At midnight, we departed for Ben Gurion Airport to begin our journey home.

### Conclusion

This educational trip was not merely a tour—it was an immersion into the living history, present challenges, and resilient spirit of Israel. From the ancient stones of Jerusalem to the frontline towns near Gaza and Lebanon, and the scientific innovation in Tel Aviv, the experiences were profoundly moving. Most of all, the testimonies from survivors and families made this trip unforgettable. Their voices now echo within us as we return to our duties with a deeper understanding of the human cost of conflict and the imperative for security, peace, and justice.

## Israel: Did You Know?

By Richard England

In late March, the Economic Affairs Committee of the Israeli Knesset approved construction of a second international airport 82 miles south of Tel Aviv in the Negev region. Ben Gurion Airport is nearing its annual capacity of 40 million passengers and the new airport will accommodate an additional 15 million passengers per year.

This new airport will be located east of Be'er Sheva, a rapidly growing city in Israel's lightly populated south. Construction and operation of the airport is



expected to create fifty thousand jobs for Bedouins and other residents of Israel's arid Negev. Creation of a new international airport will dovetail nicely with the Jewish National Fund's Blueprint Negev initiative, a plan that encourages a population shift away from the crowded and expensive center of Israel to its southern frontier.



## May Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah participated in a very meaningful Shabbat Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun, with Rabbi Beth Davidson. Cantor Shira Nafshi lent her beautiful cantorial voice and members of the chapter prepared the delicious Oneg. Kimberly Mager, president of Hadassah Northern New England, spoke to the congregation about the history of Hadassah and Henrietta Szold, updated us on the Hadassah Medical Organization and the importance of the World Zionist Organization (WZO).

The WZO strives to enhance the impact of Zionist ideology and activity in Jewish communities around the world, including Israel. From now until May 4, elections are being held for delegates to the 39th World Zionist Congress. Ameri-

can Jews over 18 can vote. The results of this election will have a significant impact on Jewish people around the world. Your vote helps guide how funding flows to Jewish communities in Israel and in the diaspora. With antisemitism and anti-Zionism continuing to rise, this election is an invaluable opportunity to speak out and stand up for what you believe in. There are 21 slates competing for seats, each with its own platform. Slates with more votes get more seats and play a larger part in deciding who will oversee \$1.2 billion annually and prioritizing which policies and needs get funded. If you want people who think like you to decide where money is allocated or which policies matter, you must choose the slate that best matches your values. Hadassah received special status in 1994 from the Zionist General Council, which granted our organization 32

permanent seats with full voting rights. These 32 delegates vote according to Hadassah's values. We encourage our members to vote while considering our shared values: religious pluralism, women's leadership, diversity of opinions and strengthening Israel-diaspora relations. You may vote through May 4 at [zionistelection.org](http://zionistelection.org)

In recent Israeli news, Hadassah Neurim Youth Aliyah Village robotics team competed against 44 teams at the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. After rising to the finals at the regional tournament and winning the coveted Creativity Award, the team will not move ahead to the world championship. These students are champions in the eyes of the village — and Hadassah. They have worked hard year-round to develop the skills to build robots that

can perform multiple functions. In the words of Ami Magen, Hadassah Neurim's director, "Our robotics team is a reflection of the entire educational process that has been taking place in the village in recent years." And what a process that is; teamwork, creativity, problem-solving and exceptional skills are paving the path to a better future for the students of Hadassah Neurim. Hadassah Neurim has participated in the FIRST program for seven years now, working each season to design and build a robot that conforms to the tournament requirements.

The next meeting of Manchester Hadassah will be on Thursday, May 22 at 1PM. All are welcome to attend at 273 South River Road, Bedford, NH. For information about Hadassah, please contact Michele Bank at [michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:michele.bank@gmail.com).

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**May 4** Theme: Lag B'Omer

**June 1** Theme: Shavuot

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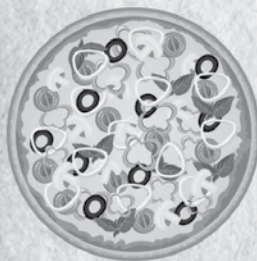
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## JFNH Tributes

Received by March 10, 2025

### Campaign

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Mrs. Deb Sklar and family in memory of her mother, Rita Roth – Andrea and Norm Kushner

In memory of Betty Kushner – Andrea and Norm Kushner

In memory of Carol Kushner - Andrea and Norm Kushner

### How to submit an obituary

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

### Simchas

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

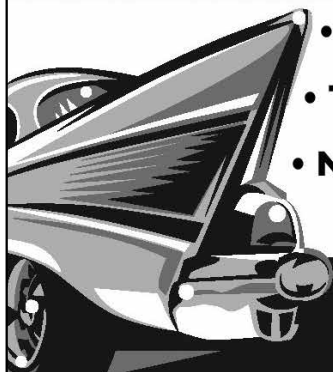
When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

### Amount of Contribution:

\$10    \$18    \$36    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Designated to the following fund:

- Annual Campaign
- Friends of the Reporter
- NH Jewish Film Festival
- PJ Library
- Senior Programs
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- Social Services
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Contribution:    in honor    in memory of    on the occasion of

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Name of Tribute Card recipient

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Address of Tribute Card recipient

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

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

