



FALL & GIVING

**New Hampshire Jewish Community Gathers  
at State House for October 7th Memorial**

On the first anniversary of the tragic October 7th attack on Israel, the Jewish community of New Hampshire gathered at the State House in Concord to remember the lives lost and to honor those still held hostage in Gaza. The event brought together community members, leaders, and allies in a powerful display of unity and solidarity.

Speakers included JFNH Israel Chair Jeremy Berger, Executive Director Ally-

son Guertin, Sarit Tsor of Temple Beth Abraham, and Congressman Chris Pappas along with several allies of the Jewish community and Israel. Cantor Shira Nafshi with choir and Rabbi Marc Philippe offered songs and prayers, creating a moving atmosphere of reflection and hope.

At the close of the memorial, candles were left by pillars listing the names of the victims and the hostages, serving as



a solemn reminder of the lives impacted by the ongoing violence. The gathering stood as a testament to the resilience of the Jewish community and its commit-

ment to honoring those who suffer while working toward a future of peace and security.

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*The following speech was shared with the community by JFNH Director Allyson Guertin during the New Hampshire Gathering of Memory and Hope on the first anniversary of October 7th. It is reprinted for you here now.*

October 7th. One year ago today, the unimaginable became reality. It was a day that shook us to our core as the world witnessed the brutal and devastating attacks against Israel, resulting in the loss of so many innocent lives. It was a day that reminded us of the fragility of peace, the depth of our vulnerability, and the resilience of the Jewish spirit.

**One Year Later**

**Allyson Guertin**

**JFNH Director**



As we stand here together, we remember those lives taken too soon, and we honor their memory. We remember the families torn apart, the communities scarred, and the sense of security that was shattered.

And we cannot forget those who are still suffering today. One year after the attacks, there are still hostages being held


in Gaza—innocent men, women, and children who have been torn from their families and their homes. We stand with their loved ones in their pain and demand their immediate release. Their ongoing captivity reminds us that the struggle is not over, and we cannot rest until all are free and safe. October 7th was not just an attack on Israel; it was an attack on all Jews, wherever we live. It was a stark reminder that antisemitism remains alive, and in many ways, is growing.

In the aftermath of that terrible day, we have seen a disturbing rise in antisemitic incidents, both here in New Hamp-

*One Year Later continued on page 3*

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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.  
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 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)



November 1 5:19 PM  
November 8 4:11 PM  
November 15 4:04 PM  
November 22 3:58 PM  
November 29 3:55 PM

## Kindness, Shoes and Reading Guides

It's cool and wet out – a perfect October morning, grey with swatches of brilliant oranges and reds. Rayna's teething, so we're cuddling on the couch as I introduce her to episodes of *Shaboom!* and *Shalom Sesame* on YouTube. I'm considering making a cup of hot apple cider with cinnamon and nutmeg while I contemplate shoes.


Cayden wore out his latest sneakers in under three months. Rayna stood up today, so she'll likely need some sort of footwear soon. I don't remember the last time I bought Kira or Cayden new snow boots, so they both probably need those too. At least the winter coats appear to still fit. In the spirit of *tzedakah* I should really find, sort, wash and then donate our unneeded shoes and boots and coats to organizations that will distribute these items to children who need them.

November and December are marked with moments for charity and giving, philanthropy and loving-kindness. #GivingTuesday is December 3rd this year – an annual day of giving and an opportunity to support your favorite charities. Plug: make a gift to PJ Library New Hampshire at [givebutter.com/PJNH2024](https://givebutter.com/PJNH2024)! PJ Library has a hub all about the

**Dinah Berch**

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**JFNH  
Program  
Coordinator**



Jewish value of *tzedakah* and different ways to give – see QR code or visit <https://pjlibrary.org/jewish-values/tzedakah>.



There's a list of community project ideas like gathering food for a food bank or making cards for people at a nursing home. The hub has videos for parents and kids, podcast episodes and reading lists – everything you need to incorporate *tzedakah* into your family's life.

There's no parenting class that explained to me how to impart ethics to my children. I ask my parents, and we talk about modeling behaviors, our kids seeing what we do. Children get ideas from the books we read, the shows we watch, the conversations we share. When Cayden first started school, rather than asking what he did that day, I took to asking him if he was kind to anyone. He would talk about his friends



**26 Big Things Small Hands Do**

Written by Coleen Paratore  
Illustrated by Mike Reed

Ages: 2 to 3 Years, 3 to 4 Years  
Last Sent to Families: September 2020  
Publisher: Free Spirit  
Download Reading Guide

and how he helped them clean up games or gave them hugs or shared snacks. This was my small way of encouraging Cayden to perform acts of kindness – of *gemilut hasadim*.

PJ Library has helped me to feel confident and intentional in imparting Jewish values to my children. We read the PJ Library books *The Bagel King* written by Andrew Larsen, *Estie the Mensch* written by Jane Kohuth, *How to Be a Mensch by A. Monster* written by Leslie Kimmelman, and we talk about how to be a good person, a kind person. Another favorite of mine is *One Good Deed* written by Terri Fields, which focuses on the phrase “pay it forward” known in Judaism as *mitzvah goreret mitzvah* -- one good deed brings another good deed. PJ Library's explanation about loving-kind-

ness and *chesed* can be found at this QR code.



I was recently reminded about PJ Library reading guides. Try searching on [pjlibrary.org](https://pjlibrary.org) for your favorite book. For example, look up *26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do* by Coleen Paratore, and note the link for “download reading guide.” Most PJ Library books have a reading guide, with information that is often included on the book flaps of newer PJ Library books. These guides have craft projects, details about the Jewish value, and talking points to help parents like me and you to use these books intentionally.

I support PJ Library proudly because PJ Library books and resources have helped me to parent Jewishly, and I hope to raise my children to be kind and generous.

### One Year Later

*continued from page 1*

shire and across the globe. The hateful rhetoric, the threats, the violence—they are all part of an alarming resurgence of the same prejudice and intolerance we thought we had left behind. But in the face of this darkness, we must remember we are not powerless. Tonight, is a powerful and deeply meaningful gathering, not only because we are joined by so many from across the New Hampshire Jewish community, but because of the broader community support we see around us. Representatives from local organizations, interfaith partners, and elected officials are standing with us. Your presence here tonight sends a powerful message of solidarity—it reaffirms that we do not stand alone in the face of hate. Our struggles, our grief, and our resilience are shared by many, and together we will continue to fight for a world free of antisemitism and hatred of all kinds.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the descendants of Holocaust survivors who are with us this evening. Your presence carries with it a deep significance. You are the living proof of survival, of endurance, and of the indomi-

table spirit of the Jewish people. In the face of unspeakable horrors, your families rebuilt their lives, and your stories remind us that, even in the darkest of times, there is hope. And as we reflect on the events of the past year, we must remember the lessons of history—that silence in the face of evil only allows it to grow.

Tonight, as we gather with heavy hearts, we also stand as a testament to the strength of our community. We are here, not just as individuals, but as a unified force of Jewish organizations from across New Hampshire. I want to take a moment to recognize our partners who have come together for this evening's memorial: Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Hillel at Dartmouth College, Seacoast Chabad, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Temple Beth Abraham, Temple Beth Jacob, Temple B'nai Israel, Temple Israel Manchester, Temple Israel Portsmouth, and the Upper Valley Jewish Community. It is through this collective strength that we find hope. In the past year, we have come together time and time again to support one another—to stand in solidarity, to educate, to commemorate, and to fight against hate in all its forms. We have stood side by side, not

just as Jews, but with our friends, allies, and neighbors from all faiths and backgrounds. And together, we have sent a powerful message: hate will not divide us, and terror will not defeat us.

The Jewish people have survived for thousands of years, through exile and persecution, not because we were silent, but because we held fast to the values that define us—values of justice, compassion, and community. As David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, once said, “In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.” And indeed, it is a miracle that we are here tonight—stronger,

more resilient, and more united than ever.

In this moment of reflection, we must commit ourselves anew to the work ahead. We must continue to stand up to antisemitism in all its forms, we must advocate for the safety and security of Israel, and we must nurture the bonds of community that have held us together through this past year of grief and challenge.

Let us honor the memory of those lost by living with purpose and by continuing to come together as one. For it is in community that we find strength, and it is in unity that we find hope for a better tomorrow.

Keeping you connected



eNEWS

[jewishnh.org](https://jewishnh.org)



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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, November 1

### Temple Adath Yeshurun Family Shabbat Service

6:00PM – 8:00PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Family Shabbat Service followed by Pizza. RSVP required by Oct. 29th.

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

## Saturday, November 2

### Temple Adath Yeshurun Blessing of the Pets

9:00AM – 11:00AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Please call in advance to reserve and confirm the time of the event.

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

## Sunday, November 3

### Greater Nashua Crop Hunger Walk

12:00PM – 4:30PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk: "We walk because they walk." This is our 40th year! Registration and celebration are in the Temple Beth Abraham tent. Here is the website link: <https://events.crophunger-walk.org/cropwalks/event/nashuanh>

You can also find us on Facebook; just search for Nashua Cropwalk.

If you can't walk, be sure to sponsor a walker, or make a team donation. We can also always use volunteer help at the event if your feet aren't made for walking!

For any questions or to volunteer please contact Becky Green at [nashuacropwalk@gmail.com](mailto:nashuacropwalk@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

## Monday, November 4

### TAY Sisterhood MEMBERS Paid up Dues Dinner and Program

6:00PM – 8:00PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Members Paid up Dinner Event. All Sisterhood Members who have paid their dues for 2024-2025 are invited.

Dues may be paid at the door. Dues are \$45, over 70 \$40 or Non-TAY Members \$60

The History of Bukharian Jews, Sisterhood Woman of the Year Award will be presented.

RSVP required by October 25th to [rockenmacher@comcast.net](mailto:rockenmacher@comcast.net).

## Sunday, November 10

### Shavua Tov Storytime – Shabbat

8:30AM – 8:50AM, Zoom

Cost \$18

A program designed for families with children ages 2-5.

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom. 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. Please register through our website calendar at <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar>

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Men's Group Bagel Brunch

10:00AM – 12:00PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
Cost \$5/pp

The Men's Group of Etz Hayim Synagogue will be streaming Expedition Unknown episode titled, "The Ark of the Covenant." Josh follows in the footsteps of Indiana Jones as he searches in Israel and Ethiopia for the lost Ark of the Covenant, the sacred relic said to contain the Ten Commandments and possess extraordinary powers. Breakfast will be bagels, cream cheese, etc. \$5.00/pp.

Please RSVP to Jay by November 8 at [jay.madnick@icloud.com](mailto:jay.madnick@icloud.com), so we know how much to buy.

## Thursday, November 14

### Lunch & Learn: Visual Arts Meets Jewish Music

11:30AM – 1:30PM, Jewish Federation of NH, Bedford, and Zoom

Cost \$8/pp

Join Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for a Lunch & Learn creative journey where visual arts, photography, and music convene. These disciplines enrich our sensory feelings by seeing and hearing how visual compositions come to life from the lens of a camera and how melodies and rhythms enhance the emotional impact of imagery. We will hear and see through this interdisciplinary experience many Jewish artists and musicians. Guest speaker Jerry Goldberg.

Pizza and salad lunch provided.

Zoom link provided upon request.

Please register through our website calendar at <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar>

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents The Jewish Wedding

7:00PM – 8:00PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz presents – The Jewish Wedding. What has G-d been doing since He finished making the world? He has been matching couples. In Judaism, marriage has always been considered a sacred institution. It has been viewed as a holy covenant.

There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff.

## Sunday, November 17

### Temple Israel presents Jewish Nation Building with Jared Goldfarb

10:00AM – 12:00PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
Spotlight on Israel Fall 2024 Class Series at Temple Israel Portsmouth. Jared Goldfarb leads four sessions discussing Israel's complex history, politics, and culture. Classes may be taken individually or as a series of four. Free and open to all; register via the temple website calendar.

Sessions include:

Sunday, 11/17, 10:00AM – 12:00PM. Jewish Nation Building. We explore the complex and colorful history of Zionism, including its many definitions and movements, beyond romantic narrative of "making the desert bloom."

Wednesday, 11/20 7:00PM – 9:00PM. Kingdom of Israel or Knesset Yisrael? We consider the intertwined identities of the Jewish-Democratic State, as well as its political structures, electoral process, and national institutions.

Wednesday, 12/4, 7:00PM – 9:00PM. Kibbutz Galuyot, in gathering of the Exiles. We survey the diverse Jewish communities that call Israel home –

from Ashkenaz to Yemen – and look at the successes and the failures of the attempt to create a unified Israeli identity.

Sunday, 12/8. 10:00AM – 12:00PM. "From the River to the Sea" Is There Room for You and Me? We take a deep dive into modern Palestine and discuss geography, identity, nationalism, relationship with Israel, and hope for the future.

About our speaker: An independent educator and licensed tour guide living in Jerusalem, Jared Goldfarb teaches history of Israel and Palestine to religious leaders of all faiths, educators, seminarians and university students from around the world.

## Monday, November 18

### Inside Israel with Ra'anán

1:00PM – 2:30PM Jewish Federation of NH and Zoom

Join former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anán de Haas to discuss news and hot topics in Israel.

Ra'anán will cover everything from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics. Occasionally pertinent articles will be shared in advance, and each session will allow for questions and discussion.

This program will meet on the third Monday of each month for 90 minutes. We will be offering this program hybrid – bring your dairy lunch and join us at the JFNH office in Bedford or attend from your home via Zoom.

Third Monday of each month (October 21, November 18, December 16, etc).

Please register through our website calendar at <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar>

## Wednesday, November 20

### Temple Israel – Kingdom of Israel or Knesset Yisrael? With Jared Goldfarb

7:00PM – 9:00PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
Spotlight on Israel Fall 2024 Class Series at Temple Israel Portsmouth. Jared Goldfarb leads four sessions discussing Israel's complex history, politics, and culture. Classes may be taken individually or as a series of four. Free and open to all; register via the temple website calendar.

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Sunday, 12/8. 10:00AM – 12:00PM. "From the River to the Sea" Is There Room for You and Me? We take a deep dive into modern Palestine and discuss geography, identity, nationalism, relationship with Israel, and hope for the future.

## Tuesday, November 26

### Etz Hayim Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

7:15PM – 8:30PM, Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Derry

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be shared between Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Church of Transfiguration on the interfaith campus. This year, the Church will host the event located at 1 Hood Road, Derry. Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz will be delivering the sermon. All are welcome.

A gift from the  
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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

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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)

## Etz Hayim Synagogue and Church of the Transfiguration Host Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

On Tuesday, November 26 at 7:15pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Derry Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration will hold their annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service. The two have shared a close relationship since 1993, and in 2013, the Eagle Tribune identified the relationship between Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Church as one of the top 603 reasons to live in New Hampshire. One of the most important of their joint efforts is the creation of Elijah's Table, a free monthly meals program.

The warm relationship developed between Etz Hayim and the Church in 1993, when Etz Hayim outgrew its then current quarters. Having been co-sponsors of a Thanksgiving Service the previous year, the Church offered to share its home, allowing Etz Hayim to hold its worship services, educational programs and other events at the Church.

As Etz Hayim continued to grow, a search began for land and a building of its own. The Church then made a stunning offer to subdivide a portion of its lot for Etz Hayim to purchase and build their new home. The establishment of the "interfaith campus" was underway.

Through changes in clergy and leadership, of utmost importance has been the preservation of this close relationship. To this day, the two continue their annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service, collaborate on Elijah's Table, and participate in each other's holidays, social events, and celebrations.

This year, the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will take place at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration location at 1 Hood, Rd, Derry, with Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz delivering the sermon. All are welcome.

## The Jewish Wedding

Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz will present a talk on The Jewish Wedding at Etz Hayim Synagogue on Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 PM. The Rabbi describes his presentation this way: "What has God been doing since He finished making the world? He has been matching couples. In Judaism, marriage has always been considered a sacred institution. It has been viewed as a holy covenant."

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](http://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](mailto:soreffs15@aol.com) or 603-895-6120.



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## Temple Adath Yeshurun's Old Jewish Manchester Walking Tour

On September 14th, a Saturday afternoon, 25 Temple Adath Yeshurun members and friends met in downtown Manchester to walk in the footsteps of the Jews who first arrived in the city back in the 1800s. The tour began on Hanover Street where the first Jewish wedding was celebrated in 1893, where the YMHA and YWHA started and later formed the Jewish Community Center, where businesses were established by Jews who began their lives as peddlers and became successful downtown merchants.



The group included several Manchester natives who shared their stories and memories. "I didn't know that" was a frequent refrain as we made our way south to where the earliest Jews in Manchester lived and prayed. In 1897, the B'nai Yeshurun (Adath Yeshurun) Synagogue membership split, and Congregation Anshe Sephard (later named Temple Israel)

came into being.

The highlight of our walk was on Central Street where the original structures of Temple Adath Yeshurun and Anshe Sephard, dedicated in 1911 and 1916 respectively, still stand. We gathered on the steps of the TAY building talking about the time when children didn't have to stay in Services and instead sprinted between the synagogues playing with their buddies or ran around the corner to have a milk shake at Metz's Drugstore with their friends.

Our tour ended at Bronstein Park, named for Dr. Ben Bronstein, who was the first NH naval officer to die in WWII. Many of us continued sharing anecdotes while we enjoyed refreshments at Restoration Café across the street. The day's warmth and sunshine reflected our deep sense of camaraderie and connection to our Manchester Jewish history.



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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.

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- **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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- **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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## Mah Jongg at JFNH

We welcome you to join the fun! Mah Jongg is alive and well at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Did you know that the word mah jongg means sparrows, an allusion to the pictures of birds engraved on some of the tiles? Join

us on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM for some tile clicking, socializing, and mental stimulation. For a few hours, escape and take your mind off from everything else – global politics, antisemitism, family issues. Come and join us!

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## New Beginnings at Temple Israel Portsmouth

To the entire Jewish Community, we would like to wish you a happy and healthy new year: *L'Shanah Tovah!*

While 5784 has had no shortage of strife and struggle, we at Temple Israel Portsmouth enter 5785 on the wings of hope and positivity. For our high holiday services, we welcomed special guests, Cantor Julie Newman and Reb Beni Summers to the bimah. In coordination with our very own, Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman, we held a beautiful series of celebrations over the new year and commemorative events for those who have perished in the year following the events of October 7th.

Moving forward, Temple Israel Portsmouth wishes to extend our hand in joining us for our upcoming Tikkun Olam events. Our Mitzvah Day on October 20th was a smashing success, where we helped clean up the area around the Seacoast Science Center and then enjoyed Hoagies in the Hut with all who came out to the event. Throughout the coming months, we will have many more opportunities to give back and to help our local seacoast region. These events include our annual Coat Drive to provide coats for our veterans, our Social Action Shabbat service, and more events to come with partnership from amazing organizations such as the Black Heritage Trail and Le-ket Israel. If you would like to join us at any of our Tikkun Olam events, please reach out to the temple office.

Our highlighted event in November is a 4-part class series led by Jared Goldfarb, an independent Israeli educator who teaches the complex geopolitical history of the region to leaders all over the world and people of all faiths and backgrounds. We will be meeting on 11/17 and 12/8 at 10:00 am, 11/20 and 12/4 at

7:00 pm. We ask that those wishing to attend, please sign up through the calendar on our Temple website.

Finally, 5785 is a time for new beginnings and new connections, so to

those who are Shul shopping or searching for a Jewish community in the region, we encourage you to reach out! Temple Israel Portsmouth's new and innovative Terumah dues model opens membership

to all. If you are interested in becoming a member of our historic yet progressive congregation, please reach out to our new Administrative Director, Ryan Bernstein, at [templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org).

# WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE ISRAEL



WITH RA'ANAN DE HAAS

MONDAY, NOV. 18TH

Join Former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anán deHaas once a month to discuss news and hot topics in Israel from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics.

Monthly on the 3rd Monday  
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# PJ Library Storytime at Minot-Sleeper Library in Bristol, NH



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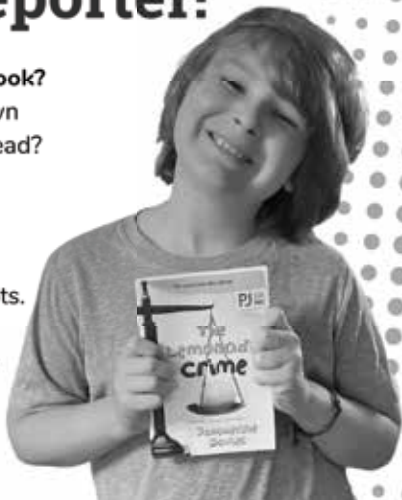
Do you have a favorite PJ Our Way book? Something you just couldn't put down or that you think **EVERYONE** should read?

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 Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

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## October 7th Memorial

continued from page 1

October 7, 2024

Allyson Guertin  
Executive Director  
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire  
273 South River Road  
Bedford, New Hampshire  
03110

Dear Friends,

Today, we pause to reflect on the one-year anniversary of the horrific October 7th terrorist attacks on Israel—the deadliest assault on the Jewish people since the Holocaust—carried out at the hands of Hamas terrorists. While I cannot be with you tonight in person, please know my heart is with you as you commemorate the anniversary of this tragic day. Today and every day, we remember those who lost their lives and the innocent hostages still held captive.

These terrorists indiscriminately attacked Jewish neighborhoods, families, and children, killing more than 1,200 innocent Israelis and taking hundreds of hostages—including American citizens—in a brazen affront to humanity and the dignity of life. Please know that the United States will always stand with our friends and allies in Israel as they continue to reckon with the aftermath of this brutal massacre. Israel will always have the right to self-defense and must protect itself for the safety and security of the Jewish people, especially in the face of rising threats of terror in the region.

Over the past year, we have seen a disturbing rise in Antisemitic rhetoric and violence against our Jewish friends and neighbors here in New Hampshire and across the world. On this solemn day, we pause to reflect and stand in solidarity with the Jewish community and recommit to rejecting hate and bigotry in every form. On behalf of myself and the entire Second Congressional District, know that we stand with you and will never forget.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## United States Senate

October 7, 2024

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire  
273 S River Road  
Bedford, NH 03110

Dear Friends,

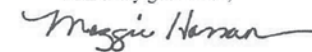
I'm sorry that I can't join you today, but I wanted to take a moment to offer my support on this difficult day.

Tomorrow marks one year since Hamas terrorists launched a horrific attack on Israel, during which they murdered 1,200 innocent people — massacring entire families and using rape and sexual violence as weapons. Hamas's attack was pure barbarism and represented the single most terrible day of violence toward Jews since the Holocaust. As you know, Hamas also took hostages — including some Americans. My heart breaks for the victims of Hamas's attack, for the hostages still in captivity, and for the families who continue to await anxiously for their loved ones to return. We cannot forget them and we need to do everything that we can to bring the hostages home.

I know that this is a difficult time for the Jewish community. Disturbingly, in the wake of Hamas's attack, there has been a surge in antisemitism—in word and deed—unlike anything that we have seen since the Second World War. Synagogues, Jewish businesses, and even Holocaust memorials have been vandalized. Peaceful debate is good for democracy, but during the last year too often we heard rhetoric that veered into antisemitism, both implicit and explicit, and that in some cases spurred violence and extremism. As we mark this anniversary, we should redouble our commitment to opposing hate, including antisemitism, no matter what corner of our society it comes from. America is the world's greatest democracy and must be a place where everyone counts. Hate can have no safe harbor here.

We have challenges, to be sure, but I know that we have the capacity to overcome hate and build a better future, including one where Israelis and Palestinians live in peace, dignity, and security. There are still difficult days ahead, but please know that you do not walk alone. I am proud to stand with you during this hour of trial and I am grateful for your efforts to ensure that the victims of October 7 will not — indeed, must not — be forgotten.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

JEANNE SHAHEEN  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUITE SH-506  
HART BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2841

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 7, 2024

Dear Friends,

I join you all in remembering the lives lost on October 7, 2023. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for organizing a meaningful tribute in Concord that captures both the profound loss and the spirit of hope and solidarity that emerged from that painful day.

As we mark one year since the horrific attack, we are reminded of how many lives were affected by the heinous, barbaric actions of Hamas terrorists. We mourn the lives that were viciously taken. We stand with the families and friends of those who are no longer with us. We remember the many who endured — and continue to endure — unimaginable experiences as hostages. We join together in the face of an alarming rise in antisemitism in America and across the world. And we find a Jewish community standing strong together — bonded by both grief and resilience — to endure another dark chapter in the long story of its people.

There are still 101 hostages—including Americans Keith Siegel, Edan Alexander, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Omer Neutra, Itay Chen, Judith Weinstein and Gadi Haggai—being held by terrorists in Gaza. We mourn the loss of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an Israeli American who was kidnapped on October 7th and murdered just over a month ago. There is no time to waste in getting the hostages out alive and returning the remains of those who have been killed to their families.

I join people of all faiths in New Hampshire in supporting a grieving Jewish community, and I stand with you in confronting divisive and destructive forces like antisemitism. You are not alone in this struggle. We all must do a better job of speaking out when we encounter prejudice, indignities and discrimination toward our Jewish neighbors. We all must redouble our efforts to root out all forms of hate wherever they exist.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the many families affected by this horrible terrorist attack.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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# October 7th Memorial

continued from page 9

*The State of New Hampshire  
By His Excellency  
Christopher T. Sununu, Governor  
A Proclamation*

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Four

**DAY OF OBSERVANCE TO HONOR VICTIMS OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAEL  
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

*WHEREAS*, on October 7, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas launched brutal and unprovoked attacks on innocent Israeli civilians, resulting in widespread destruction and loss of life; and

*WHEREAS*, these heinous assaults, which the resilient Israeli people have bravely endured, led to the tragic deaths of over a thousand civilians, the abuse of many more, and the taking of hundreds of hostages; and

*WHEREAS*, New Hampshire has long been a steadfast ally to Israel, providing humanitarian aid, fostering cultural exchanges, and supporting diplomatic efforts for peace, and has consistently fought antisemitism within our borders, taking proactive measures to combat discrimination, ensuring Holocaust and genocide education in our schools, and preventing state investments or contracts with companies participating in boycotts against Israel; and


*WHEREAS*, New Hampshire stands unwavering in its support of the people of Israel today and every day, reaffirming Israel's right to defend itself against the Iran-backed terror group Hamas; and

*WHEREAS*, we must never forget the innocent lives lost in the senseless atrocities of October 7, 2023, a day of remembrance that is more than just a mark on the calendar, but a solemn occasion to honor the memory of the victims and show our solidarity with their families;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 7, 2024 as DAY OF OBSERVANCE TO HONOR VICTIMS OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ON ISRAEL in the State of New Hampshire. I urge all citizens to join in a day of remembrance for the innocent men, women, and children killed, and for the seven Americans still held hostage by Hamas as a result of these attacks.

*IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024.


*Christopher T. Sununu*  
Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor




## October 7th Memorial

*continued from page 10*



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**Wednesday, December 11, 2024**

7:00-8:00 p.m.

On Campus Open House:

**Thursday, January 9, 2025**

6:00-8:00 p.m.



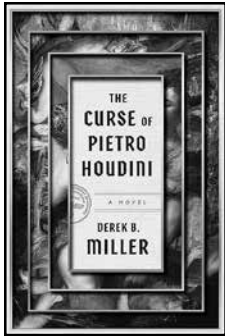
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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Curse of Pietro Houdini by Derek B. Miller

There are so many different angles an author can explore when writing about the horrific events of World War II and the Holocaust. Author Derek Miller has found an unusual and very interesting path to follow, as he depicts the Nazi attack on Italy and its historic art and architecture.



The setting is a Benedictine Abbey near Montecassino, Italy. It is 1944, as the Allied Forces are trying to push back the German army. The story Miller tells in this novel is about a major military operation that has gone mostly unnoticed. It is

not a heroic story, like the attack at Normandy Beach. In this instance, the Americans mistakenly believed the monastery to be occupied by Nazi forces. Their pilots dropped more bombs on this building than any other single building during the war. Many people were killed, as the battle raged on for months. There had been a large influx of thousands of irreplaceable manuscripts, paintings and other art hidden in the abbey for safekeeping the year before. But two officers, a German and an Austrian, worked with the monks to load much of the art onto carts and move it out to Rome ahead of the invasion.

Miller presents two protagonists, Pietro Houdini and the young person he rescues, who was left beaten in a gutter. As his name implies Pietro is a master of illusion. He is a larger-than-life character,

who by his own description claims to be a "master artist and confidant of the Vatican." His assistant is Massimo, a fourteen-year-old orphan whose parents were killed during a bombing in Rome. Both characters, along with the many others they encounter, have something to hide.

Massimo is the narrator of this story, recounting the tale that brought them to Montecassino and the experiences that led Houdini to perform the stunts he did and what he taught Massimo along the way. Houdini educates Massimo in the art of misdirection and sleight of hand to save the artwork hidden in the monastery. Through a variety of experiences and tribulations they are joined by a monk, a cafe owner who will murder to protect her family, a nurse with a past to conceal, and a wounded German soldier

who does not want to return to battle. The group becomes, in the author's words, "a posse of misfits who had nothing in common but a generic and shared compulsion to keep on living." Together they will try to thwart the Nazi forces, and save lives.

This book features a rich historical story propelled by intrigue, drama and high stakes that explore the horrors of life during World War II. The characters learn that powerful bonds can grow tight as relationships are created, and as tragic situations put people together. And though the artwork that features so prominently in this novel's plot is fictitious, the author reveals to readers a piece of amazing, little-known history, thereby exposing a real masterpiece—covered by layers of confusion and misdirection.



November 14, 2024, 11:30am

Lunch & Learn:

"Visual Arts Meets Jewish Music"

Join Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for a Lunch & Learn creative journey where visual arts, photography, and music convene. These disciplines enrich our sensory feelings by seeing and hearing how visual compositions come to life from the lens of a camera and how melodies and rhythms enhance the emotional impact of imagery. We will hear and see through this interdisciplinary experience many Jewish artists and musicians. Guest speaker Jerry Goldberg. Pizza and salad lunch provided.

In person at Jewish Federation of New Hampshire \$8/person. Registration requested. Zoom link available upon request.

To register please scan the QR code below to pay online, call 603-627-7679 to pay by credit card over the phone, or mail payment to JFNH, 273 S. River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110



Email Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org or call the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire at (603) 627-7679 with questions.



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

# Jewish Journeys

## Letters from Camp



*By Laela Zoll of Dover: Grade 6*

I am so grateful that I got to go to Pembroke this year because of the generosity of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Because of JFNH I got to meet other Jewish girls like me this summer, learn more about my Jewish heritage and have fun. I learned to kneeboard on the water behind a motorboat and I got to be in a musical. It was really cool getting to meet and spend time with other Jewish girls and live in a community of Jews, especially considering I come from NH where there are less Jews than other places.

My favorite part of camp was...Everything! I don't think that I could choose.

What made me happy at camp was everything! I don't think that I could choose but I really liked Shabbat. We would all gather in the pine grove standing in circles and sing the prayers. There were new tunes that I have never heard and dances and that was just so cool. Now I love the "Golden Boy" song in Hebrew by Nadav Gudej and play it all the time for my family in the car.

Thank you again for this amazing opportunity. It was the best!



*By Lily Rubin of Newmarket: Grade 7*

There are many reasons why I chose to attend Camp Tel Noar, a Cohen camp in Hampstead, New Hampshire. First, I wanted to be in a group of Jewish youth who all have similar experiences as me. In this way, I was in a community of people who all had something in common. We all had fun and played together. In addition, I chose to attend Camp Tel Noar to bond and make connections with people. I wanted to make friends that I would remember forever. Now, thinking back, the friends that I made were amazing. They were there by my side to support me, encourage me, and to have fun whenever possible. Finally, I chose to attend Camp Tel Noar so I could be myself. I wanted to have a chance to explore my Jewish identity which I was able to do there. I made friends, participated in Jewish traditions, and was so happy!

The most important thing I learned from my experience at Camp Tel Noar was that communities shape my life and give me a sense of self. Before attending this camp, communities didn't mean as much as they do now to me. I know now that communities like Camp Tel Noar are unforgettable and will always be my home. I'm so grateful I was able to learn this.

Overall, Camp Tel Noar is an amazing place for Jewish children to grow together and be themselves. This place is my home now and I can't wait to go back next year!





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## Visiting Israel During Wartime

By Helena and Richard England

In early September, we traveled to Israel to visit our son, Jeremy, and his family for several weeks. They made *aliyah* from Massachusetts several years ago and now live in Modi'in, a city halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Modi'in is a burgeoning and modern city with plenty of "Anglo" newcomers from North America, Britain, South Africa and Australia. It is also the place where the Maccabees revolted against ancient invaders, a revolt that led to rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem.

It was fascinating to get a glimpse of daily life in Israel during our stay. We had a lovely lunch with Ra'anana de Haas, former shaliach to New Hampshire, and learned about his new life in Israel. Helena, a retired reading specialist, volunteered at our grandsons' elementary school in an English class for native

speakers of English. We also enjoyed learning to make sushi at a class in the home of a recent immigrant from South Africa who had lived in Hong Kong. One evening we attended a garden party that was a combination of wine tasting and religious service. Our host provided samples of his own vintages while several guests offered shiurim—that is, short lectures on Torah.

These events might seem surprisingly idyllic for a country at war, but that didn't last. On the morning of September 15, we were awakened by a "red alert" siren announcing a security threat. We retreated to the safe room of our apartment and soon heard the thud of Iron Dome interceptors. It seems that the Iranian-backed Houthis of Yemen had launched a ballistic missile at central Israel that morning. The interceptors worked, but shrapnel from the Houthi missile damaged the Modi'in train station.

Only two hours later, we saw children on their way to school. What this revealed to us was the determination of Israelis to carry on their daily lives as normally as possible despite the security threats from nearby enemies. This determination became even clearer to us when we attended a Friday morning assembly at our grandsons' school. The students and teachers sang and danced joyfully, but the principal wore a sidearm just in case a bad actor showed up from the nearby West Bank.

Now that we have returned from Israel, we are more aware that fending off attacks from Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iran has taken a toll on Israeli society. National defense is expensive, and the government has a huge budget deficit. Nearly a hundred thousand Israelis evacuated from their homes a year ago remain internal refugees. A number of communities near the Lebanese border

have been devastated by rocket attacks from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

We urge you to consider how you can help Israel during this difficult period. Here are a few suggestions. Invest in Israel government bonds (<https://www.israelbonds.com/>) to earn a good interest rate and help Israel recover financially from the war. Support the efforts of Jewish National Fund USA to rebuild communities near Gaza and Lebanon (<https://www.jnf.org/our-work/community-building>). Consider mentoring an Israeli high school student online and help them improve their English skills (<https://israelconnect.today/>).

This is a good time to help our Israeli brothers and sisters.

*Helena and Richard England live in Durham. They love to visit family and friends in Israel.*

## Opinion

### The Price of Being Jewish: From the Son of a Holocaust Survivor

By Jeff Weiss

When I was a little boy, my father told me about a Yiddish word used to describe fellow prisoners at Auschwitz, whom at the very end of their lives would display a deep, vacant, hollow look in their eyes—a chasm, a blank stare through their vision; empty, vacant, soulless. My father would explain that you could tell who was next, who would no longer be there tomorrow. Often, they never made it through the night.

When I look into the eyes of the fami-

lies who've lost loved ones on October 7th; when I look into the people whose loved ones are still held hostage in Gaza; I see what can only be described as an eerily similar gaze to what my father had described. I don't know what the Yiddish word would be. It's not an end-of-life stare; I believe it can only be described as a look of ultimate sadness, a decay in hope, a demonstrable haziness that screams where in G-d is the humanity in this world?

What is the price to be Jewish? What is the reason to criminalize a religion that

only wants family, peace, to relish the holidays and their children, who just wants to live by honoring our historic blessings from a rich history?

To the six million souls lost 76 years ago; to the thousands that have died by the hands of terrorists; to our brave IDF soldiers who have sacrificed their lives to protect Israel; at what cost? At what cost can peace be found; acceptance of a people to live their lives without persecution; when does condemnation of terrorism appear, when does humanity make an entrance to our world? And there, floating

in our consciousness, lies a hopelessness. It's not that we will ever give up our strength or resilience; we know our collective strength will ultimately win out, but the road there is a continuum of sadness.

I have forgotten the Yiddish word my father told me so many years ago. It was at 94 years old that he finally passed. He said his biggest gift of life was seeing, and being there for, his children and grandchildren. That was his biggest revenge towards Hitler: That he lived, that he thrived. He did not relive the horrors

*Price continued on page 17*



## November Hadassah Update

By Michele Bank

Israel has been at war for over a year and is in a fight for its very survival. As unprecedented attacks against Israel escalate, the support for the Hadassah Medical Organization is even more critical. The need for war-related funding has increased.

Last month, Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem moved its neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) underground, and at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, the NICU moved underground for the time being. The maternity ward and babies were also moved underground. The attacks follow warnings from the IDF Homefront Command and the US. Other areas have been moved temporarily.

Hadassah can add six more underground operating theaters to the existing 13 in the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hos-

pital Tower. They also hope to complete the ICU facilities in the iconic Round Building at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, significantly enhancing HMO's capacity to treat soldiers and mass civilian casualties and greatly increasing wartime hospital capacity.

With the generous support of Hadassah members, the Meir Shfeyah and Hadassah Neurim youth villages have upgraded and properly outfitted bomb shelters to protect students and staff. With continued support of Hadassah, these youth villages will be able to provide critical psychological support and shelter for its students and faculty, as well as the ability to take in students from the north if needed.

The situation in Israel is quite difficult. With this New Year, let us continue to focus on tikkun olam. It is an excellent time to support Hadassah's lifesaving

work. Hadassah's work in Israel at this time of crises is especially essential right now. The hospitals and youth villages need our support. Help Hadassah protect and heal the people of Israel. Every donation made to Hadassah is meaningful. The difference we make together is bigger than the impact any of us could make as individuals.

In other Hadassah news, in Newsweek's 2025 rankings, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) was named "Best Specialized Hospital" for Cardiology and Oncology and this is the fifth consecutive year that HMO is on the list of the top hospitals for cardiology and the fourth year for oncology. Hadassah was also recognized for its use of smart technologies, including digital imaging, artificial intelligence, and robotics.

On November 21 at 7pm, there will be

a Zoom discussion on Hadassah Magazine's article, "Are Jews Being Written Out of the Book World?" Editor Lisa Hostein will facilitate a panel discussion of best-selling authors and publishing insiders to discuss the increasing of incidents, exclusions, antisemitism, and anti-Israel bias in the book industry. Register at Hadassah.org.

We continue to pray for the safety of our Hadassah family and everyone in our beloved Israel; for the immediate, safe return of the hostages; and for all who have been displaced to be able to return to their homes. With the generosity of our donors, Hadassah will remain ready and able to help during these trying times. May 5785 be a better year for all of us. For additional information about Hadassah and any of its initiatives and programs, please contact [michele.bank@gmail.com](mailto:michele.bank@gmail.com).

## Israel: A Lesson in Democracy

By Paul Etkind

At the invitation of the synagogue's Israel Affairs Committee on September 15, Hanan Miron spoke with the Upper Valley Jewish Community located in Hanover, NH about Israel's judicial reforms. This lecture was a distillation of eight hours of material presented as a course by Mr. Miron in the Osher at Dartmouth adult education program.

The judicial reform effort began in January 2023, shortly after the current government in Israel was installed. The first law proposed in this initiative was a change in the composition of the committee that selects judges and expanding the size of the Supreme Court. Expanding the committee's size and its composition would have given more authority to the Executive Branch when appointing judges. It also expanded the number of judges sitting on the Supreme Court. Other planned measures include enabling a simple majority of the Knesset to overrule Supreme Court decisions; allow the Knesset, and essentially the ruling coalition, to be the deciding body to appoint judges, including those of the Supreme Court; and eliminate the requirement of ministers to obey the advice of their legal advisors, who are guided by the Attorney General. The government has justified these changes because it claims the judiciary interferes with the will of the people by overturning legislation, is historically biased toward liberal positions, and

judge selection is an undemocratic process. Opponents say these proposals would strengthen the Executive Branch at the expense of Israel's Judicial Branch. Minority rights could be threatened. The checks-and-balances built into the Israeli government would be threatened.

Mr. Miron then gave some background on Israeli government. It is a parliamentary system, with 120 members of the one-house Knesset (parliament). Each party gets seats in accordance with the proportions of the vote. One party or coalition needs 61 votes to lead the government. Coalitions are the only way to make and pass legislation.

Israel has never had a Constitution. It has a set of "Basic Laws" that have acted in lieu of a Constitution. One of these, the Reasonableness Law, gave the Supreme Court the authority to void government decisions that were deemed to be "extremely unreasonable." One impact of the Reasonableness Law was its relation to human rights. It prevented discrimination against, or favoring of, any group based on race, gender, religion, or national origin. This is the only basic law to be struck down in a ruling of the Supreme Court sitting in its first ever session with the expanded number of 15 judges.

Demonstrations racked the country after the changes were proposed. Thousands to hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets. Several Mossad chiefs and thousands of reservists said they would not fight to preserve a non-

democratic country. The Defense Minister stated the dispute was a threat to national security. High tech firms threatened to leave the country since political instability was a threat to business. Trade unions called for strikes, and Ben Gurion Airport had to briefly close. This was a protest of people, not politicians. The President of Israel tried to present a set of compromises for discussions and negotiations. Instead, Prime Minister Netanyahu called for a pause in the reform process. The pause lasted 15 weeks, after which the government re-started its efforts. Demonstrations also re-started.

Demonstrations came to a halt after the attacks on October 7. All attention was paid to the hostages and victims of the attacks, as well as supporting the military response to October 7.

In January 2024, there was an attempt by the Knesset to overturn the Reasonableness Clause. However, this was overturned by the Supreme Court. This was the first time a Basic Law was threatened in such fashion.

Current demonstrations have two concerns. The first is to demand a deal to return the hostages. Over time, however, support for returning the hostages morphed into a more political, anti-government message adding complaints about judicial reform efforts and the absence of any investigation into Israel's lack of preparation to prevent or blunt the October 7 attacks.

Mr. Miron posed the question: How

robust is Israeli democracy? The issue of judicial reform continues to divide the country. Opponents point to procedures of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court as demonstrating the importance of an independent judiciary.

He posited that continuing efforts to weaken the Judiciary is degrading the sense of unity in the wake of October 7 into something that is only short-term. People are waiting to see what happens when the government returns from adjournment in November. Elections are expected at that time.

An example of new laws the government is proposing when it reconvenes is to exempt Haredi from conscription. This would be blocked if the Reasonableness Law remains in effect.

There are two paths to new elections. One would be for the Knesset to decide to dissolve itself. Elections would have to be held within 90 days. The other is if the Knesset decides to re-form itself and create a new coalition. Either of these might improve the status of democracy in Israel, but it is unclear how or if it might improve the chances of a solution to the Palestinian statehood question.

Is there another pathway toward a solution? Creating a constitution would help greatly, but that would be a long process. It would require a high level of consensus, which would be difficult to achieve given the current cleavages in

*Democracy continued on page 17*

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## Landmark Gift Elevates Holocaust and Genocide Center to Institute at Keene State College

Keene, NH (September 12, 2024) — Keene State College has received a transformative gift from Jan and Rick Cohen to establish the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The Cohen Institute is the only Institute of its kind in the Northern New England region and absorbs and significantly elevates the work of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

The Cohen Institute will produce new research to shape and advance the field of Holocaust and genocide studies and will equip current and future leaders – including Keene State students – with knowledge about the genocidal process and practical tools to combat the root causes of mass violence.

“I am ever grateful for the privilege to know Jan and Rick Cohen and for the passion, commitment, and shared dream for Keene State College to do even more to make a difference,” said Keene State President Dr. Melinda D. Treadwell. “The creation of the Cohen Institute marks the beginning of a new era of ever-expanding and internationally relevant thought leadership, scholarship, research, and educational opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and community members.

The gift, she added, is also a commitment to provide leadership and a focus

on problem-solving and sustainable solution-based approaches in a tense, often volatile, geopolitical landscape.

“Now, more than ever, the world needs the insights and hope that grows from the scholarship, service, and engagement of our faculty, students, alumni, and visiting scholars,” Treadwell said.

The Cohen Institute builds on the work and reputation of the Cohen Center, which has roots that date back more than four decades. The Center has served as an academic resource center that offers programs, events, and educational materials to people both on and off campus. The work and staff of the Center will be the foundation on which the new Institute will deliver its mission.

The Institute will organize its work around high-impact practices, innovative and interdisciplinary research, and thought-provoking programs for the campus community and audiences across the globe. The Institute will offer opportunities for synergistic work with faculty and students across all departments. Many new programs and opportunities will be student-centered: internships, graduate fellowships, research positions, experiential learning trips, a Youth Leadership Institute, and more.

Additionally, the Institute will house a research division and seek experts

from across the globe to both conduct research and teach in residence, Dr. Kate Gibeault, director of the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, said.

“Hundreds of Keene State College students will benefit directly from the Institute’s offerings, and beyond campus, the Institute’s impact will be exponential, with funded opportunities for youth leadership initiatives, new forms of support for local educators, and more,” Gibeault said.

“We cannot thank the Cohen family enough for their continued belief in the importance of our mission, and for their landmark gift that will launch the Institute.”

Keene State also houses one of the few dedicated undergraduate majors in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the country and was the first U.S. college or university to offer it, in 2009.

Additionally, the college recently updated its graduate offerings in Holocaust and Genocide Studies to include a Master of Arts in Holocaust and genocide studies and a graduate certificate in genocide prevention and human security.

The Institute will remain distinct from the academic program but will offer formalized and expanded partnerships between the Holocaust and Genocide Studies department and the Institute.

Well-known events associated with the Cohen Center – including the annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture – will continue through the Institute. The Cohens’

gift also provides funding to ensure the long-term viability of programs like the Genocide Awareness Lecture and the domestic and international study tour program that brings together area educators, community members, elected officials, alumni, and Keene State faculty and staff.

The Center opened in 1983 as an academic resource center featuring a collection of books and resources brought together by founder Dr. Charles Hildebrandt, then a Keene State professor. The Center marked its 40th anniversary during the 2023-24 academic year.

Hildebrandt coined the mission “to remember ... and to teach.”

“The Cohens’ gift assures us that that powerful and enduring resolve will continue for generations,” Treadwell said.

“Together, we will build awareness; create new knowledge and practice; forge tools to fight ignorance, othering, and hate; and find creative inroads to move beyond conflict to a more hopeful world.”

### About Keene State College

Keene State College is a preeminent public liberal arts college that ensures student access to world-class academic programs. Integrating academics with real-world application and active community and civic engagement, Keene State College prepares graduates to meet society’s challenges by thinking critically, acting creatively, and serving the greater good. Learn more about Keene State here [www.keene.edu](http://www.keene.edu).

### Price

*continued from page 14*

of camp. Instead, he devoted 25 years of his later life to speaking throughout the country for the US Holocaust Museum, and to educating people about what can happen when populations become complacent, when countries become dormant to horrors inflicted on others.

Strength during these times is an elusive commodity. We need to remember that our parents and grandparents persevered under tyranny, that our strength unites us, and that within our collective memories is a millennium of human drama that’s not finished.

*Jeff Weiss lives in Nashua, NH. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor.*

### Democracy

*continued from page 15*

Israeli society.

How did we get to this point? This is part of a global populist wave. The speaker posited that perhaps Prime Minister Netanyahu misread the will of the people regarding judicial reform. A larger-than-expected portion of society opposes judicial overhaul.

As with anything related to Israel, the most insightful response to questions seems to be “It’s complicated.” Solu-

tions to this issue, like so many others, have many layers in which social and political bridges across multiple divides need to be constructed before calm and cohesion is restored.

Hanan Miron has held various CEO and CFO positions with technology and investment companies based in Israel and the U.S. He holds an LLB from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, MBA from the Tuck Business School in Dartmouth, and an LLM, as well as an MA, in Government from the Reichman University in Israel.

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

### Simchas

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

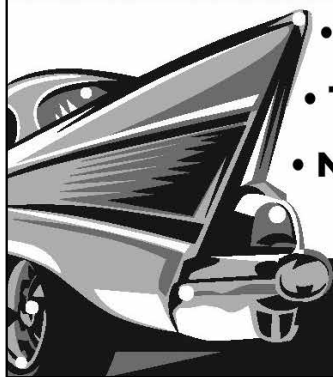
When submitting a Letter to the Editor, please include your name, town of residence, and contact information. Letters to the Editor must be under 300 words in length to be considered for publication. Send your letter by email to the reporter@jewishnh.org with "letter to the editor" in the subject line.

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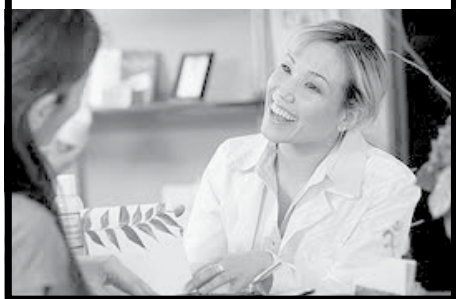
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