



## MEMORIES & HERITAGE

### Highlights from the 2026 JFNH Annual Meeting



*Annual Meeting continued on pages 12-13*

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### What We Carry Forward

**Erik Martin**

**JFNH  
Executive  
Director**



October invites us to reflect on the relationship between memory and heritage. Between the stories we inherit and the choices we make about carrying them forward.

The month begins with the final days of Sukkot, a holiday that reminds us of both the fragility of life and the strength we find in community. We leave the security of our homes to gather in a temporary shelter, surrounded by family and friends. Immediately afterward, we celebrate Simchat Torah, completing the annual cycle of Torah readings and immediately beginning again.

That transition carries an important message: our heritage is not something we simply preserve on a shelf. Each generation must return to it, engage with it, and add its own chapter. We remember where we came from so that we can bet-

ter understand who we are and decide who we hope to become.

This year, as in the past several years, the joy of Simchat Torah is inseparable from the memory of October 7, 2023. We remember the lives taken, the families forever changed, the communities shattered, and all those who continue to live with the physical and emotional consequences of that day. We also remember the extraordinary courage and resilience demonstrated by Israelis and Jewish communities around the world.

Commemoration asks more of us than simply recalling what happened. It calls upon us to create space for grief, learning, conversation, and connection.

In observance of the anniversary of October 7, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will present two community screenings of *October Shadows*, one in Manchester and one in Portsmouth. The film explores the human stories and lasting impact of October 7 and its aftermath. Each screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion, giving participants an opportunity to reflect, ask questions, and process this difficult chapter together.

These gatherings are not intended to provide easy answers. There are none. They are meant to ensure that memory does not become passive and that we continue to bear witness, deepen our un-

*Carry Forward continued on page 5*



# CONGREGATIONS

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

## BETHLEHEM

**BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION**  
Rabbi Hazzan Jeremy Lipton - Summer & High Holidays  
39 Strawberry Hill Road  
PO Box 395, Bethlehem  
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian  
(802) 284-8890  
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 - 7:00 PM  
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

## DERRY

**ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE (URJ)**  
Rabbi Lisë Stern  
1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 432-0004  
www.etzhayim.org  
office@etzhayim.org  
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM  
Saturday 9:30 AM  
Torah Study - Saturday 10:45 AM  
Check the website for updates  
Monthly Family Pizza Shabbat at 5:30 PM  
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar for optional Zoom link.

## HANOVER

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

## KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mark Melamut  
Roth Center for Jewish Life  
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover  
Nondenominational, Unaffiliated  
(603) 646-0460  
www.uvjc.org  
office@uvjc.org  
Services: Friday night Shabbat service at 6:00 PM  
Saturday morning Shabbat service at 10:00 AM

## KEENE

**CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM**  
Rabbi Dan Aronson  
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene  
Nondenominational/Unaffiliated  
(603) 352-6747  
www.keenesynagogue.org  
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org  
office@keenesynagogue.org  
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7:00 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 Andy Bachman  
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

**BERNICE AND IRVING SINGER CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING**  
Rabbi Levi Krinsky  
1234 River Rd., Manchester  
Orthodox, Chabad  
(603) 647-0204  
www.chabadofnh.com  
rabbi@chabadofnh.com  
Services:  
Shabbat morning at 10:00am  
Sunday morning at 9:00am

**TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN**  
Cantor Harriet Dunkerley  
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 6:00 PM  
All other Friday nights at 7:00 PM with some exceptions.  
Alternating Shabbat services or Torah study Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM

**TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER**  
Rabbi Rafi Kantor, interim  
66 Salmon Street, Manchester  
Conservative Affiliated USCJ  
(603) 622-6171  
office@templeisraelmht.org  
www.templeisraelmht.org  
Shabbat Services: Every month we offer one Friday night Shabbat with a catered community dinner (rsvp required), and two Saturday Shabbat services followed by a light kiddush (no rsvp necessary).  
Every Wednesday, we offer a 7:00 AM

in-person morning minyan and a 6:30 PM Torah study via Zoom. Please check our website www.templeisraelmht.org, call our office at (603) 622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org for information on specific service dates and times.

## NASHUA

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

## NEWINGTON

**UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER**  
Rabbi Berel Slavaticki  
2299 Woodbury Avenue, Newington  
Orthodox, Chabad  
(603) 584-4111  
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com  
www.JewishSeacoast.com  
Services:  
Saturday morning at 10:00am followed by Kiddush.

## NORTH CONWAY

**KEHILAT HAR LAVAN**  
Hazzan Marlana Fuerstman  
PO Box 474, Bartlett  
(207) 256-0060  
harlavancommunity@gmail.com  
Services: Wed. mornings 9:00 AM online via Zoom  
Enter meeting ID https://zoom.us/j/381930069  
Holiday service times, locations TBA.

## PORTSMOUTH

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

# The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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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.

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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| <b>October 2</b>  | <b>6:07 PM</b> |
| <b>October 9</b>  | <b>5:55 PM</b> |
| <b>October 16</b> | <b>5:43 PM</b> |
| <b>October 23</b> | <b>5:32 PM</b> |
| <b>October 30</b> | <b>5:22 PM</b> |

## What If Stories Stopped Being Told?

Sit with that for a moment. Imagine all the books on all your shelves simply vanished. TV shows don't exist. Movies, songs, theater, video games—all gone. We don't know who we're named for; there are no specific foods we eat or rituals to perform. What are traditions, after all, if not stories remembered and reenacted?

The Rosh Hashanah service includes a section entitled *Zikhronot*: Remembrance. Perhaps because this month's *Reporter* theme of "Memories & Heritage" was on my mind, these prayers stood out to me. Why on earth would we dedicate an entire set of prayers to remembrance?

I checked the PJ Library website to see if Remembrance was perhaps a Jewish value. I checked my list of Jewish *middot* (values) that I keep by my desk. I finally checked Google. Apparently, the word appears more than 200 times in the Bible and is considered a "vital spiritual and communal commandment."

Communal. Huh. This isn't about where I put my keys. *Zakhor* is about the stories, and about making sure the stories get told and remembered. Abraham Joshua Heschel put it beautifully: "The authentic individual is neither an end nor a beginning but a link between ages, both memory and

**Dinah Berch**

**JFNH  
Program  
Coordinator**



expectation." A link between ages. *L'dor vador*. Maybe that's what the passing on of traditions really is: sharing a story, continuing the narrative, making sure there is a next person to hear it.

I've been thinking about that in the context of my hometown of Burlington, Vermont, where generations of my family have lived. My father, Aaron Goldberg, has spent years researching Burlington's Jewish community and making sure its stories don't disappear. One of those stories is the Lost Mural - a historic synagogue mural now housed at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue.

The mural was painted by Ben Zion Black for Burlington's Chai Adam synagogue in 1910. Eventually, the synagogue closed, the building changed hands, and the mural was hidden behind a wall. Years passed, but my father remembered that the mural was there. Eventually, re-

membering became doing. He helped raise the money and interest to get the mural out of the building and move it to its new home at Ohavi Zedek, where it could be restored and seen again. Today, people can stand in front of it and wonder about the people who painted it, the people who worshipped beneath it, and the Jewish community that existed around it. The mural survived because someone remembered it.

That, to me, is the essence of being Jewish. No matter what happened to us, someone remembered. Someone told the story again. Someone kept singing the song. Someone kept the book on the shelf. We often encounter Jewish remembrance through *yahrzeit*, Yizkor and Holocaust remembrance—important and often painful forms of memory—but remembrance is bigger than mourning. We remember through our senses, too: a melody, the smell of challah, the taste of apples and honey, the sound of a shofar, a familiar prayer, a holiday table, a book pulled from a shelf. Today, we tell the stories in Instagram memes and sensory bins and fidgets.

For so many of us, PJ Library has been the conduit that put Jewish stories into

our children's hands and gently convinced us that we, as parents, could tell these stories. PJ Library's website, Family Resource Guides, podcasts and playlists gently guide us in remembering so that our children have a choice: to carry something forward, question it, change it, or make it their own. We are a people of the Book, but we're also a people of stories. And storytellers are rememberers.

This is why people from all over the world felt such a sense of loss when Dolly Parton died. She understood something fundamental: stories matter, and storytellers need to be encouraged and empowered. We don't know which book our child will ask us to read 47 times, which one they'll forget completely, or which one will come back to them twenty years later. We're just making sure the stories are there.

On October 25, I hope you'll join me for a trip to see Burlington's historic synagogue mural. Come see the artwork, but also come see what happens when someone remembers something long enough, and cares enough, that it survives for the rest of us.

Because the story is still here. Someone remembered.

## A New Leaf: Welcome to the Newly Reconstituted Antisemitism Committee

Right up there with birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations is the celebration of the birth of a renewed Jewish Federation committee. I am delighted to report, as the committee's staff liaison, that the Antisemitism Committee has been reconstituted here at JFNH! Wednesday, September 9, marked our inaugural meeting, with subsequent meetings to be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

At the beginning of the meeting, special guests from the Israeli-American Council spoke about the work the IAC is doing to combat antisemitism. Israeli-American Council representatives Sagit Sade Attia and Rachel Raz presented their Magen program, which means "shield" in Hebrew. The Magen program provides support and resources for victims of antisemitism, including legal counseling, community support, and educational initiatives.

Among other topics, committee members shared personal experiences with antisemitism and discussed the need for proactive engagement with political candidates.

Lee Ann Potter was elected chairperson of the committee. With a distinguished professional background in both counter-

**Jessie Mocle**

**JFNH Director  
of Community  
Advocacy**



terrorism and politics, Lee Ann will provide stable and balanced leadership, as will Sarah Chadzynski, who was elected vice chairperson. Sarah has devoted decades of her life to public service, most recently running in the congressional race to fill Chris Pappas's vacated House seat. Having been publicly attacked by a political rival for being Jewish, Sarah understands the frustration and helplessness of being a blatant target of antisemitism.

The group is still seeking a volunteer to serve as committee secretary, responsible for meeting notes and agendas. If this role interests you and you would like to make a difference, please contact Jessie Mocle at [jessie.mocle@jewishnh.org](mailto:jessie.mocle@jewishnh.org).

Finally, when you next hear about the Antisemitism Committee, it might very well have a new name. The group dis-

cussed potential names for the committee, including "Antisemitism Awareness Committee" and "Confronting Antisemitism Committee," with members agreeing to vote on a final name at the next meeting.

Next steps for the committee include electing a secretary, updating the draft charter to be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval, and getting down to the exciting work of the committee.

Another accomplishment to celebrate is the update to the antisemitism portion of our website. We now have two ways to report antisemitic incidents. For general cases of antisemitism, reporters are encouraged to use the Secure Communities Network form. If an act of antisemitism occurs in a school, reporters are encouraged to use the Stop Hate in Schools form. Each reporting option saves data locally and shares data with the ADL and law enforcement.

Finally, as Director of Community Advocacy, I am always available should someone want to speak with a real person. You can email me directly at [jessie.mocle@jewishnh.org](mailto:jessie.mocle@jewishnh.org).

The final steps for the website include

uploading antisemitism resource links for educators and students, so that JFNH can direct visitors to educational and support resources. This portion of the website is ongoing, with an anticipated completion date sometime in October.

May the celebrations keep on coming as we fill the coming year with new and exciting opportunities!

### Popsicles on the Ark

Bring your pets and stuffed pets for a story time and special Blessing of the Animals with Noah and Mrs. Noah! Enjoy a PJ Library craft project.

PJ Library events are geared towards families with children ages 0-8; siblings, grownups and grandfriends welcome!

Sunday, October 18, 10:30 AM  
Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

**Registration Required**

Scan QR code or visit  
<https://forms.gle/6FxpQajD86ntQJ9>

Dinah Berch | 603-427-7979 ext 1002 | [danab@jewishnh.org](mailto:danab@jewishnh.org)

# Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

## Thursday, October 1

### A Treasured Yiddish Book That Stayed Hidden for 75 Years

7:00 PM, Yiddish Book Center via Zoom  
Yiddish writer Chava Rosenfarb is now celebrated in Canada, her adopted home, and Poland, the country of her birth. But in 1949, as a young Holocaust survivor and refugee, she faced an uncertain future. One evening in London changed everything. Invited over from Belgium to launch her new book, Rosenfarb was feted by London's Yiddish writers and hailed as a promising new voice in Yiddish poetry. Rosenfarb's daughter, Goldie Morgentaler, has just found her mother's treasured copy of that book, signed by everyone present that evening. Goldie and Yiddish Book Center chief curator David Mazower will share stories of Rosenfarb's and London's Yiddish writers and discuss what this tribute evening meant to the young writer. Contact [programs@yiddishbookcenter.org](mailto:programs@yiddishbookcenter.org) for more information.

**Shemini Atzeret begins at sundown on Friday, October 2nd followed by Simchat Torah on October 3rd. Sukkot began at sundown on Friday, September 25, 2026, and ends at nightfall on Friday, October 2, 2026**

## Friday, October 2

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Monthly Family Pizza Shabbat Services

5:30 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH  
Etz Hayim Synagogue continues its monthly Family Pizza Shabbat for all generations, beginning Friday, October 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM. A free pizza dinner will be followed by an intergenerational service with Rabbi Lisë Stern. There will be kids' activities, including story time with our Book Bubbe Leslie Kirshman. Bring a nosh to share for our potluck oneg! Join us to share in the mitzvah of L'Dor V'Dor, transmitting Jewish heritage and values across generations. RSVP by October 1 to [office@etzhayim.org](mailto:office@etzhayim.org) if you are joining us for pizza. We are located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit <https://www.etzhayim.org/pray/family-pizza-shabbat> for our full schedule of Family Pizza Shabbat Services.

## Sunday, October 4

### Mah Jongg

10:00 AM Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH  
Do you enjoy playing Mah Jongg?  
Want to join a group at TAY on Sunday mornings at 10 AM?  
Notify Linda Rockenmacher at [rockenmacher@comcast.net](mailto:rockenmacher@comcast.net) if you wish to join!

## Wednesday, October 7 ~ Anniversary of the October 7th attack by Hamas

**October Shadows: Remembering October 7**  
7:00 PM, Manchester and Portsmouth, Addresses sent to registered attendees.

In commemoration of the events of October 7 and their lasting impact on Israel and Jewish communities around the world, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will host community screenings of *October Shadows* in both Manchester and Portsmouth. This powerful and thought-provoking film explores the human stories, challenges, and resilience that emerged in the aftermath of October 7, offering viewers an opportunity to deepen their understanding of one of the most significant moments in recent Jewish history. Following each screening, participants will engage in a facilitated discussion led by subject matter experts who will provide additional context, share insights, and create space for meaningful dialogue and reflection. Open to the entire community, these programs are intended to foster learning, remembrance, and conversation while strengthening our collective understanding of the ongoing impact of October 7 on Israel, the Jewish people, and the broader global community. Whether attendees are seeking to learn more, process recent events, or connect with others in a thoughtful setting, this program will offer an important opportunity for education, reflection, and community engagement.

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

## Thursday, October 8

### Schmooze and Brews with Jews

5:30 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, 84 Hastings Avenue, Keene, NH

Join us for these after-hours to get together at a location in Keene. Casually hang out to Schmooze with Jews over Brews! No registration is required. Just check out our website to see where the current meet up location will be and just show up. Go to [www.keenesynagogue.org](http://www.keenesynagogue.org) for more up-to-date information or contact Daniella Yitzchak at 603-352-6747 or at [office@keenesynagogue.org](mailto:office@keenesynagogue.org).

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents Jews & the American Revolution

7:00 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH  
Discover the key roles Jews played in the War for Independence. This offers fascinating insight into our history as we celebrate our nation's 250th Anniversary. All programs are held at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. These presentations are 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.

## Friday, October 9

### Kommuna Lux: Benefit Concert for Ukraine's Children

4:00 PM, Collis Center, 2 N Main St, Hanover, NH  
Kommuna Lux brings its blend of klezmer, Balkan and Ukrainian folk music from Odesa to Hanover for a free benefit concert supporting Common Man for Ukraine. The concert takes place Friday, October 9, from 4 to 7 PM at the Collis Center, 2 N Main St. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Donations support humanitarian aid and trauma counseling for Ukrainian children and widowed mothers affected by war. The program includes a short presentation about Common Man for Ukraine's

work, with light food available after the concert. Hanover Rotary Club, Lebanon Rotary Club and Dartmouth College co-host the event. Admission is free; donations and sponsorships are welcome. Sponsor: Common Man for Ukraine, Dartmouth College, Hanover Rotary Club, Lebanon Rotary Club  
Contact Susan Mathison at 603-530-2314 or [info@commonmanforukraine.org](mailto:info@commonmanforukraine.org) or visit <https://commonmanforukraine.org> for more information.

## Sunday, October 11

### Shavua Tov Story Time: Fall Festivals

8:30 AM, PJ Library via Zoom  
Shavua Tov Story Time, a program designed for families with children ages 2-5  
Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM. 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 the JFNH office at [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org). The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Please email the JFNH office at [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org) with questions. \*\*Please note - crafts are mailed out a week before each program. Anyone registering less than a week in advance will not receive that month's craft.  
Sponsor: PJ Library New Hampshire

### Mah Jongg

10:00AM Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH  
Do you enjoy playing Mah Jongg?  
Want to join a group at TAY on Sunday mornings at 10 AM?  
Notify Linda Rockenmacher at [rockenmacher@comcast.net](mailto:rockenmacher@comcast.net) if you wish to join!

## Thursday, October 15

### Israel Symphony Orchestra String Trio Benefit Concert

7:00 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH  
Temple Adath Yeshurun is bringing the Israel Symphony Orchestra String Trio to our community and hosting a concert on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 7:00PM. We are the only NH stop in this 7-city concert tour in the U.S. and are honored to have been chosen as a venue for this important event. This is a fundraising concert to directly benefit the musicians of the Israel Symphony Orchestra and to support the importance of the arts, especially in uplifting us in times of struggle. In times of war, the arts are significantly impacted as government monies are diverted to support safety and military efforts. Music has always found a way to make its way to people and to be a beacon for the importance of holding hope. In this small way, this is our opportunity to be a part of maintaining hope through music. Please make checks payable to TAY with "ISO String Trio Concert" in the memo line or make your donation online: [Taynh.org](http://Taynh.org)  
Sponsor: Temple Adath Yeshurun, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

## Friday, October 16

### Archives Workshop: Caring for Family Collections

1:00 PM, Mason Library at Keene State College  
Judith Jungels, Senior Conservator at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, will lead this special workshop, which is free and open to everyone. She will offer tips and demonstrations on how to care for and preserve family papers, photographs, and memorabilia. There will be time for attendees

with collections of their own to ask questions — guests are invited to bring materials or your collection to discuss with Judith. Prof. Rodney Obien, Head of Special Collections & Archives at Keene State, will also be on hand to assist at this workshop. Register at: [keenestate.wufoo.com/forms/](http://keenestate.wufoo.com/forms/)

## Sunday, October 18

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Sunday Family Camp

10:00 AM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH  
Join us for our free monthly Sunday Family Camp program. This month's theme is Hebrew letters. We will learn some letters, play some letter games and create artwork based on the letters. RSVP to [hsadmin@etzhayim.org](mailto:hsadmin@etzhayim.org) by Friday, October 16 to ensure we have enough materials for the project. Visit <https://www.etzhayim.org> to learn more about this free monthly program. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH.

Sponsor: The L. Lou Schloss Memorial Education Fund

### Mah Jongg

10:00AM Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH  
Do you enjoy playing Mah Jongg?  
Want to join a group at TAY on Sunday mornings at 10 AM?  
Notify Linda Rockenmacher at [rockenmacher@comcast.net](mailto:rockenmacher@comcast.net) if you wish to join!

### Popsicles In The Ark

11:30 AM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, 84 Hastings Ave, Keene, NH  
Join PJ Library and Congregation Ahavas Achim for a celebration of Noah's Ark, Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim - the Jewish Value of Caring for Animals, and a special Blessing of the Pets! We invite families with young children to meet other families, join us for some books and crafts, and cool down with a popsicle treat. Free event! Registration requested. Email PJ Library Coordinator Dinah Berch at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org) with questions.

## Sunday, October 25

### Lost Mural and Little Jerusalem: A Field Trip to Burlington, VT

8:00 AM, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, 188 N Prospect Street, Burlington, VT  
Join Jewish Federation of New Hampshire on a community day trip to Burlington, VT! We will see the historic *Lost Mural* ([www.lostmural.org](http://www.lostmural.org)) and learn about the history of Jewish Burlington. This program is intended for adults and seniors in the New Hampshire Jewish community. Full logistics are still in progress, but tentatively:

- Bus will leave Temple Israel in Portsmouth at 8am
- Bus will make additional stops either at the JFNH office in Bedford OR synagogues along the route (likely Concord and Hanover)
- We will be in Burlington, VT from about 12 PM - 3 PM (roughly)
- Return the same day, getting in by 8pm

In addition to visiting the mural, we may offer an optional walking tour of the historic "Little Jerusalem" neighborhood for those comfortable with a guided walk. A Kosher catered lunch will be provided at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington, VT.  
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

### Mah Jongg

10:00 AM Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH  
Do you enjoy playing Mah Jongg?  
Want to join a group at TAY on Sunday mornings at 10 AM?  
Notify Linda Rockenmacher at [rockenmacher@comcast.net](mailto:rockenmacher@comcast.net) if you wish to join!

## What We Carry Forward

continued from page 1

derstanding, and support one another.

At the same time, Jewish memory has never been defined solely by tragedy. Our heritage is also found in celebration, learning, family traditions, music, food, and the delight of children discovering that these stories belong to them.

That spirit was on full display at our PJ Library Stuffies in the Sukkah program in Bethlehem on September 27. Families and their favorite stuffed companions came together to celebrate Sukkot, connect with one another, and experience Jewish tradition in a playful and welcoming way. Programs like this help bring Jewish life directly to families throughout New Hampshire while creating the relationships and shared memories that will sustain our community for years to come.

This balance, between remembrance and renewal, is also guiding our work within JFNH. We are revitalizing both our Israel Committee and our Antisemitism Committee, bringing together community members who are eager to help Federation respond thoughtfully and effectively to two of the most important is-

ssues facing Jewish life today.

The Israel Committee will help strengthen connections between New Hampshire and Israel through education, cultural programs, community partnerships, and opportunities for meaningful engagement. The Antisemitism Committee will support our efforts to educate the broader community, respond to incidents, strengthen relationships with schools and public officials, and ensure that Jewish Granite Staters know where to turn when they experience hatred or discrimination.

These committees represent more than organizational structure. They are opportunities for our community to transform concern into action and memory into responsibility.

Our memories tell us what has shaped us. Our heritage reminds us what generations before us struggled to preserve. But neither determines the ending of our story. That remains ours to write.

As we dance again with the Torah, remember those we lost, welcome young families into Jewish life, and strengthen our collective voice, may we carry forward a Jewish story rooted not only in what has happened to us, but in what we continue to build together.

## New Beginnings and a New Year

As the new year begins, I find myself thinking about how much can change in a year. This year, that feeling is especially meaningful to me as I begin a new chapter of my life here in New Hampshire, far from my home in Israel.

The High Holidays are a time to pause, reflect, and appreciate the people who have become part of my journey. I'm grateful for the warm welcome I've received and for the new friendships already starting to take root here and I'm excited to reach more people and create more meaningful connections all around New Hampshire.

Rosh Hashanah reminds us that every new year is also a new beginning. It's an opportunity to learn from the past, em-

Elad Aharoni

**Incoming  
JFNH Shaliach**



brace the present, and look toward the future with optimism.

I want to wish everyone a Shana Tova U'Metuka, a happy, sweet, and meaningful new year. May this year bring happiness, health, new adventures, and many opportunities to come together and celebrate what makes this community special. Shana Tova.

## High Holidays Greetings



**"Shana Tovah," and best wishes for  
a happy and healthy New Year**

*~From Dick and Debbie Lutsk, Andrea, Samir, Cooper, and Sloane Ragab, Stephen Lutsk, and Allie, Jason, Jack and Reid Kehoe*

# An Advisor You Can Trust



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[investwithcohen.com](http://investwithcohen.com)

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## Jewish Holiday Story Time at Minot-Sleeper Library in Bristol



On Wednesday, September 9, PJ Library New Hampshire hosted a Jewish Holiday Story Time at Minot-Sleeper Library in Bristol. Children heard Rosh Hashanah stories and songs, learned about the shofar, made their own shofars and apple suncatchers, and sampled apples and honey. Many thanks to the wonderful library staff and the volunteers from Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia who helped make the morning such a success.

### PJ Library Pajamas & Passports: A Journey Somewhere Out There

Come in your pajamas and join us for a special celebration of the 40th anniversary of the movie "An American Tail"! This family program explores themes of immigration, family, travel, and finding home through an evening of hands-on activities, Havdalah, food, and Fievel's unforgettable journey.

**Temple Adath Yeshurun**  
152 Prospect Street,  
Manchester, NH

**Saturday, Nov. 21, 4pm**  
**FREE Program**  
**Registration required.**

Register by scanning the QR Code below or go to <https://bit.ly/fievel40>

Dinah Berch | 603-627-7679 ext 1002 | [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org)

## Shavua Tov Story Time

A program for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail for the year! The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Grandparents and grandfriends welcome too! Scan QR code to register or go to [bit.ly/shavuatov26](https://bit.ly/shavuatov26).

|            |                       |             |                 |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| August 30  | Theme: Rosh Hashanah  | February 14 | Theme: Mitzvot  |
| October 11 | Theme: Fall Festivals | March 14    | Theme: Purim    |
| November 8 | Theme: Shabbat        | April 11    | Theme: Passover |
| December 6 | Theme: Hanukkah       | May 16      | Theme: Israel   |
| January 24 | Theme: Tu B'shevat    | June 6      | Theme: Shavuot  |

No Shavua Tov Story Time in September for the High Holidays, or in July or August for Summer Vacation

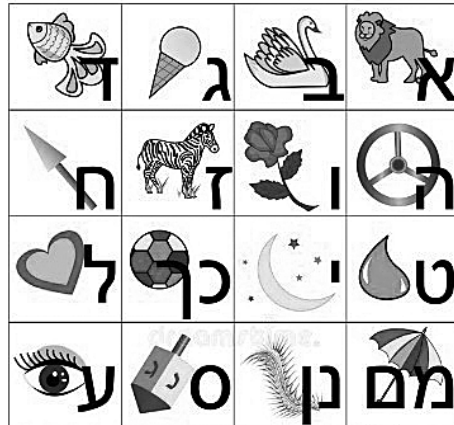
Visit <https://bit.ly/shavuatov26> to register or email PJ Library Program Coordinator Dinah Berch at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org) with questions.

### See what's happening in the community at

[www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org)

## Etz Hayim Synagogue Sunday Family Camp – Learn, Grow, Connect With Us

Join us for our free monthly Sunday Family Camp program on Sunday, October 18 from 10am-Noon. This month's theme is Hebrew letters. We will learn some letters, play some letter games, and create artwork based on the letters. RSVP to [hsadmin@etzhayim.org](mailto:hsadmin@etzhayim.org) by Friday, October 16 to ensure we have enough materials for the project. Visit <https://www.etzhayim.org/learn/grades-0-1> to learn more about this free monthly program. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at [www.etzhayim.org](http://www.etzhayim.org).



## October 13: Masua Sagiv Program

By Zach Camenker, Second Vice President, Temple Beth Jacob

Temple Beth Jacob in Concord is pleased to announce the 17th program in the Shapiro Family Lecture Series on Tuesday, October 13 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Dr. Masua Sagiv will present a program that unpacks the key forces shaping the October 2026 Israeli election. She will discuss the leaders and parties competing for power, as well as the pertinent issues that are driving Israeli voters.

With legislative elections scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 in Israel, all 120 members of the 26th Knesset are up for reelection, which will determine the governing coalition and whether or not Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stays in power.

Dr. Sagiv's focus on inside issues and specific candidates will help shine light on the way Israelis are currently leaning.

This event is free and open to the community. For those outside of TBJ, please email Sue at [office@tbjconcord.org](mailto:office@tbjconcord.org) to get the Zoom link.

A senior faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute and the academic advisor of its Center for Shared Society, Dr. Sagiv's work addresses fundamental challenges facing both Israeli society and North American Jewish communities, from rising antisemitism and campus tensions to Jewish peoplehood and the complex relationship between Israel and world Jewry.

A senior fellow at the Helen Diller Institute at U.C. Berkeley, Dr. Sagiv's scholarly work focuses on the development of contemporary Judaism in Israel as a culture, religion, nationality, and part of Israel's Jewish democratic identity. Her research explores the role of law, state actors, and

civil society organizations in promoting social change across diverse issues such as shared society, religion and gender, religion and state, and Jewish peoplehood.

She recently returned to Israel after four years in Berkeley, California, where she was on the faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and served as the Koret Visiting Assistant Professor at the Helen Diller Institute at U.C. Berkeley.

Prior to her tenure in the Bay Area, Masua was the Academic Director of the Menomadin Center for Jewish and Democratic Law at Bar-Ilan University and taught at the Schools of Law at Bar-Ilan and Tel-Aviv University. She co-led a leadership program for high school students, for which she received the Israeli Hope in Academia Prize from former Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, and was awarded the Gorney Prize for Young Scholar in Public Law.

Her book, *Radical Conservatism* (in Hebrew), on the Halachic Feminist struggle in Israel, was published by Carmel Publishing House in 2024.

We at TBJ hope you will join us for this direct look into the impending election in Israel and the high stakes it creates for maintaining a strong democracy in the Middle East.

## Jewish Trivia

While the symbol itself is obviously far more ancient, the Star of David only began being used as a more universal symbol for Judaism and the Jewish people from the 1700s onward.



A gift from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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

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

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

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

**Harold Grinspoon FOUNDATION**

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



**Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## PLANNED GIVING

Secure the future of our Jewish community

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

### ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

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

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

### WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

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

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

**Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

## Seeing the Dark and the Light in Noah's Story

*"Elu v'elu divrei Elokim chayim"*—  
"These and these are the words of the  
living God" (Talmud, Eruvin 13b).

The phrase validates opposing views  
in some of our tradition's great debates.  
It can also help us reconcile radically  
different ways of reading and teaching  
difficult Torah texts. Consider the story  
of Noah.

Few Torah stories are darker. Ap-  
palled by humanity's corruption and  
lawlessness, God resolves to destroy life  
on earth and begin again. Noah—  
"righteous in his generation"—is chosen  
to survive with his wife, his sons, and  
their wives. To replenish the earth's wild-  
life, God commands them to gather "all

**Rabbi in the House**



**Rabbi Daniel Aronson**  
Congregation Ahavas  
Achim, Keene, NH

beasts of every kind, all cattle of every  
kind, all creatures of every kind that  
creep on the earth, and all birds of every  
kind" (Genesis 7:14). Humans and ani-  
mals endure the catastrophe together in  
confinement, with light entering through  
a single opening.

When the waters recede, they emerge

into a devastated world. Noah immedi-  
ately builds an altar and sacrifices some  
of the animals he had preserved. Soon  
afterward, the story turns to drunken-  
ness, exposure, and a family curse. None  
of this is for the fainthearted.

Against that backdrop, how can I re-  
cover the glee I felt as a child in 1972,  
singing "Rise and Shine" on the bus to  
Jewish Community Center Day Camp  
on Sebago Lake? More remarkably, how  
have I spent years donning a Noah cos-  
tume, channeling Mel Brooks's  
"*2,000-Year-Old Man*," and blessing my  
congregation's pets? I feel the same dis-  
sonance whenever I turn the Ten Plagues  
into playthings at the Passover seder. Is  
it right to transform Torah's scenes of  
death and despair into family-friendly  
entertainment?

Jewish communities have treated  
Noah, the plagues, and other fraught sto-  
ries playfully for generations. I am not  
ready to abandon that approach. Instead,  
I return to the Talmud: "These and these  
are the words of the living God."

Our tradition teaches that learning be-  
gins with the learner. The Four Children  
in the Passover Haggadah remind us

that people begin in different places and  
learn in different ways. Mature learners  
must confront the moral questions in  
Noah's story: What does divine justice  
mean here? What is the value of righ-  
teousness in a corrupt society? How do  
we live with a sacred text that can trou-  
ble us?

Young children need not begin there.  
They can first learn that Noah cared  
faithfully for living creatures and that  
we, too, must care for God's creation.  
When we introduce Torah with sweet-  
ness and joy, we help children develop a  
love of learning that can sustain them  
into adulthood. Playfulness does not  
have to erase the story's darkness; it can  
open the door to deeper study later.

Elu v'elu. As adults, we must acknowl-  
edge the horror in Noah's story and  
wrestle with its questions of justice.  
Children, however, may first encounter  
joyful lessons about righteousness, re-  
sponsibility, and the natural world. Both  
readings have value when offered at the  
right time and in the right measure. To-  
rah asks us to see both the darkness and  
the light—and to recognize that each  
can lead us toward truth.

# ADDRESSING HUNGER *in Israel*

Join us for a presentation by  
**Gilad Skolnick,**  
American Friends of Leket Israel

Learn how Leket **rescues food**  
that would otherwise go to waste  
and distributes it to Israelis in need.





WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER 4, 2026



7:00 P.M.



SEACOAST CHABAD  
JEWISH CENTER



**REGISTER:** [JewishSeacoast.com/Leket](https://JewishSeacoast.com/Leket)

REScue FOOD. NOURISH LIVES.

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## Jewish Learning Collective of Manchester



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Stacy Garnick

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- ✓ Hebrew reading & prayer fluency
- ✓ Explore Jewish heritage, history & culture

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



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



# Experience Israel with JFNH & Birthright Israel

Join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and Birthright Israel for a meaningful journey to Israel, combining volunteer service, immersive experiences, special briefings, and opportunities to connect firsthand with the people and communities shaping Israel today.

**March 14-23, 2027**

**Starting at \$975**

Open to Adults 40-70  
years old

**Space will be limited.  
Start your journey with us.**

## Interested in Joining Us?



Scan the QR  
code to complete  
the Interest Form

## A Busy Corner for Little Jews Comes to Temple Adath Yeshurun

Just in time for Rosh Hashanah, Temple Adath Yeshurun unveiled a new Busy Corner for Little Jews in its sanctuary, created through a partnership with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and PJ Library New Hampshire.

The idea is simple: kids aren't always designed for sitting still—and that's okay.

The corner offers books, fidgets, quiet activities, and service scavenger hunts that give children different ways to engage during services. Families can use the corner itself or bring something back to their seats. The goal isn't simply to keep kids occupied, but to reduce some of the stigma around children in the synagogue and make Jewish spaces more welcoming to families, caregivers, and grandparents.

A child who is squirming, reading a

book, or using a fidget is still participating in Jewish life.

TAY's Busy Corner is the second in New Hampshire. A similar space at Temple Israel in Portsmouth has been available for several years and was PJ Library New Hampshire's first experiment with the idea. The experience has shown how useful these simple resources can be—including for the PJ Library team and their own families.

Both Busy Corners include resources for families: a Parent Resource folder with blessings, a Jewish holiday calendar, QR codes to additional resources, and sensory activities to try at home. Copies of PJ Library's Family Holiday Resource Guides offer practical ideas for celebrating Jewish holidays and bringing Jewish traditions



### Help Your Community Receive PJ Library Family Guides! Donate to PJ Library New Hampshire Today



Scan QR Code and donate \$36 and PJ Library Family Guides *A Time to Grow* and *A Time to Hope* will be sent to the Jewish community or synagogue of your choice. Email Dinah at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org) with questions.



PJ Library is brought to New Hampshire through the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Questions? Email Dinah Berch.

and values into family life. Families can browse the guides at either synagogue and contact PJ Library New Hampshire if they'd like copies of their own.

The service scavenger hunts give children another way to engage with what's happening around them, using stickers to mark things they see or hear during the service. It's a small way to turn "sit quietly and listen" into "look around and see what you can find."

With two Busy Corners now in place, PJ Library New Hampshire and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire are working to expand the program. The goal is to have Busy Corners in at least

five New Hampshire synagogues over the next two years. Each can be adapted to the congregation and its practices, but the goal is the same: to give families practical tools that make it easier to participate in Jewish communal life.

Other synagogues interested in creating a Busy Corner—or looking for PJ Library resources, Family Holiday Resource Guides, books, or other ideas for engaging families with young children—are encouraged to reach out to Dinah Berch at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org).

Let's make our Jewish spaces places where kids—and the grown-ups who love them—can come as they are.

## Join us for 'Jews and the American Revolution'

On October 8, 2026, Etz Hayim Synagogue will host "Jews and the American Revolution" at 7pm.

Steph Landau will talk about the important roles Jews played in our War for Independence. As our nation celebrates our 250th Anniversary, he will present the key parts, too often either not known or not appreciated, that Jews contributed in many years of that struggle. 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



*Steph Landau, Select Board Chair of Chester, NH, re-enacts being presented the Declaration of Independence that was read in the Center of Chester 250 years ago.*

Soreff, MD, at [soreffs15@aol.com](mailto:soreffs15@aol.com) or 603-895-6120.

## Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Candidates Forum Sunday October 25th

The Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood is pleased to announce that its highly anticipated Candidates Forum will be held on October 25th. The event, a long-standing tradition, will take place at Temple Adath Yeshurun, located at 152 Prospect Street, Manchester. Doors will open at 8:45 AM. All are welcome to attend.

The forum will be moderated by George Bruno, former Ambassador to Belize, who returns to guide the discussion through an engaging and informative program. The event will feature prominent political figures, including:

- **Gubernatorial Candidates:** Cinde Warmington and Kelly Ayotte
- **US Senate Candidates:** Chris Pappas and John E. Sununu
- **Congressional Candidates for House**



**District 1:** Stefany Shaheen and Anthony DiLorenzo

- **Congressional Candidates for House**
- District 2:** Maggie Goodlander and Lily Tang Williams.

The format of the forum will include opening statements from each candidate, followed by a Q&A session where questions from the audience will be selected and addressed.

As always, security will be a top priority to ensure a safe and smooth event. The Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood has a proud history of hosting this forum, consistently attracting candidates who are eager to engage with the community.

Bagels, coffee and other refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Please RSVP to the Temple Adath Yeshurun Office at 603-669-5650 or email to: [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org)

See what's happening in the community at [www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org)



New  
Hampshire  
Jewish Adult  
Field Trip

October 25, 2026  
Burlington, VT

# Lost Mural & Little Jerusalem

An unforgettable heritage tour of an historical Jewish neighborhood and an international treasure.

Join this round-trip journey to Burlington, VT on Sunday, October 25th from any of three locations along our route across the state. Watch the PBS Documentary **Little Jerusalem** on the bus. Enjoy a **Kosher lunch** at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue followed by a presentation by Aaron Goldberg and Jeff Potash about the **Lost Mural Project**. Then enjoy a guided walk or bus trip around the historic **Little Jerusalem neighborhood**, with plenty of time for questions. Return the same day.

This program is brought to you in partnership with:



Photo Courtesy Lost Mural Project & Eric Bessette. 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

**REGISTER NOW**

Scan QR Code to register or call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679. Email Dinah at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org) with questions.



## Highlights from the 2026 JFNH Annual Meeting

*continued from page 1*



# *Your Federation at Work*

## Highlights from the 2026 JFNH Annual Meeting



## An Afternoon of Pure Joy: Anat Cohen Delights at North Country Performance

On Sunday, September 6, members of Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation (BHC), along with locals and visitors to the North Country, gathered at Bethlehem's historic Colonial Theatre for the grand finale to this year's Sounds in the Sanctuary concert series. Sponsored by members of BHC and the Consulate General of Israel to New England, the afternoon featured the world-renowned Israeli-American Anat Cohen Quartet, delivering a performance that was equal parts virtuoso mastery, global rhythm, and pure, infectious joy.

From the moment Cohen took the stage with her signature warmth, the energy in the theatre was electric. Moving effortlessly between soulful Israeli melodies, buoyant Brazilian choro, and classic New Orleans swing, her clarinet seemed to speak a language all its own—one that bypassed barriers and brought every person in the room together.

Following the performance, Cohen shared her appreciation for the warm North Country welcome. "It was absolutely wonderful to play for such a magnificent audience in Bethlehem, NH! It



Anat Cohen (photo © 2026 Douglas M. Weisman)

was very, very special, and we loved it... Great energy and people!"

Melissa Potter, Co-President of BHC, commented, "I'm not a big fan of jazz, so I went just to support Sounds in the Sanctuary... but I enjoyed it immensely! So glad I went!"

BHC extends its heartfelt thanks to the staff and volunteers at The Colonial



Pianist Gadi Lehavi, Anat Cohen, Bassist Tal Mashiach (photo © 2026 Douglas M. Weisman)

Theatre; the organizers of the Sounds in the Sanctuary series; BHC members who sponsored the concert—Les Apple and Debra Saunders, Lucy Goodhart and Gordon Bennett, Laura Wilson and Ed Clark, Martin Kessel and Gail Robinson, and Mike Adler; the Consulate General of Israel to New England; and everyone who attended to support live music and community fellowship. We look forward to continuing to bring inspiring cultural programs to our sanctuary and beyond in the seasons to come.



(Right to left) Anat Cohen with BHC members Martin Kessel, Gail Robinson, and Gary Robinson. (photo © 2026 Douglas M. Weisman)

## Lox & Loaded Opens New Chapter in Manchester, New Hampshire

*Monthly events will provide professional firearms instruction in a safe, welcoming environment*

Lox & Loaded is proud to announce the opening of a new chapter in Manchester, New Hampshire, with monthly events hosted at Manchester Firing Line. Lox & Loaded is a Jewish-owned and operated shooting club dedicated to building confidence, promoting firearm safety, and strengthening community through professional education and responsible training. The organization welcomes members of the Jewish community as

well as supportive allies of all experience levels—from first-time shooters to experienced firearm owners.

The Manchester Chapter will meet on the third Monday of each month. Our inaugural event will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026.

### Event Details

**Location:** Manchester Firing Line  
2540 Brown Avenue, Manchester, NH 03103

**Event time:** 6:30–8:00 p.m.

**Range fee:** \$75 per person

The range fee includes:

- Professional instruction
- Eye and hearing protection
- Targets
- Range fees
- Firearm rental

Ammunition is not included and must be purchased separately. Anyone using a Manchester Firing Line rental firearm must use ammunition purchased from the range. Whether you have never handled a firearm before or want to continue developing your skills, these events will provide a structured and supportive opportunity to train alongside others who value safety,

preparedness, and community.

Our goal is not simply to spend time at the range. It is to help people become safer, more knowledgeable, and more confident through responsible firearm education and ongoing practice.

Come be part of the beginning of Lox & Loaded Manchester as we build a strong, welcoming community here in New Hampshire.

For membership information and event registration, visit [LoxandLoaded.org](http://LoxandLoaded.org). You can also contact: Elliot Benn, 708-945-3000, [elliottbenn@gmail.com](mailto:elliottbenn@gmail.com)

## Save the Date: NH Premiere of 'A Collective Descent Into Evil'

NH4Israel is proud to present the New Hampshire premiere of *A Collective Descent into Evil: The Lethal Obsession with the Jews and the Jewish State* in the Manchester area on October 22, 2026. This program is in partnership with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire as a community sponsor. The 81-minute documentary is the latest work from award-winning filmmaker Gloria Z. Greenfield and Doc Emet Productions. Following the screening, Greenfield will participate



in an in-person discussion with the audience. The documentary features commentary from analysts, journalists, military experts, legal advocates, and schol-

ars, including Irwin Cotler, Brooke Goldstein, Itamar Marcus, Michal Cotler-Wunsh, Alan Dershowitz, Ruth Wisse, Kenneth Marcus, Jonathan Schanzer, Brandy Shufutinsky, Richard Kemp, Gerald Steinberg, and others. According to the filmmakers, the documentary examines the history, ideologies, and strategies behind contemporary antisemitism and hostility toward Israel, as well as their implications for Jewish communities, Israel, and Western democracies.

"Gloria Greenfield's films are powerful documentaries exposing the raw truth—one sees nowhere else—about issues of critical importance to all Americans."

—Morton A. Klein, National President, Zionist Organization of America

Additional information regarding the venue, tickets, registration, and security procedures will be announced soon. For more information, visit [www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org), email [info@jewishnh.org](mailto:info@jewishnh.org), or call 603-627-7679.

## In the Community

### We're Hiring! Part-Time Building Caretaker/Custodian at Temple Adath Yeshurun

**\$20–\$24/hour •**  
**Approximately 15 hours/week**  
**Friday evenings REQUIRED •**  
**Sunday availability •**  
**Flexible weekday hours**

Approximately 15 hours/week | Paid vacation provided

**Interested?**  
**Email:** [community@taynh.org](mailto:community@taynh.org)

Or mail or drop off a résumé or brief summary of your work experience and contact information:

**Temple Adath Yeshurun**  
152 Prospect St.

Manchester, NH 03104

**Attn: Building Caretaker Search**

**No résumé? No problem!** A brief written summary of your work experience and contact information is perfectly fine.

Temple Adath Yeshurun is looking for a **dependable, hands-on person** to help keep our building and grounds clean, safe, welcoming, and well-maintained.

**This position may be a great fit for a semi-retired person or someone looking for a flexible, non-traditional part-time schedule.**

**The Schedule: Friday evening availability is required.**

- **Every Friday, 3:00–9:00 p.m.** – Shabbat service support and building preparation
- **3 Sundays/month during the school year** – approximately 2 hours each
- **Approximately 6 flexible weekday hours/week**, generally over two weekdays
- Weekly Temple staff meeting during weekday hours
- **Occasional Saturdays** and additional hours for special events, holidays, and High Holy Days
- Occasional building emergencies or urgent needs

#### What You'll Do

- Clean and maintain Temple offices, classrooms, sanctuary, kitchen, bathrooms, and common areas
- Handle basic building maintenance and minor repairs
- Maintain grounds, including seasonal landscaping and snow/ice removal
- Set up and clean up rooms for services, school, meetings, and events
- Support Shabbat, holidays, lifecycle events, and other Temple programs
- Work with Temple staff, volunteers, congregants, and contractors

#### What We're Looking For

- Experience in custodial, facilities, maintenance, building operations, or similar work **preferred**
- Basic handyman/maintenance skills
- Dependable, organized, and comfortable working independently
- Friendly and comfortable working around people of all ages
- Able to lift 50 pounds, climb ladders, and work indoors and outdoors year-round
- Background check required

#### Compensation

**\$20–\$24/hour, depending on experience**



**NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

**Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Film provided by **ISRAEL** | The Consulate General of Israel to New England

**Redstone Family FOUNDATION**

# OCTOBER SHADOWS

A FILM EXPLORING TRAUMA AND HEALING AFTER OCTOBER 7

## OCT 7 | 7:00 PM

SCREENING IN TWO LOCATIONS  
MANCHESTER | PORTSMOUTH

SCAN QR FOR TICKETS OR VISIT  
[GIVEBUTTER.COM/OCTOBERSHADOWS](https://givebutter.com/octobershadows)



## Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

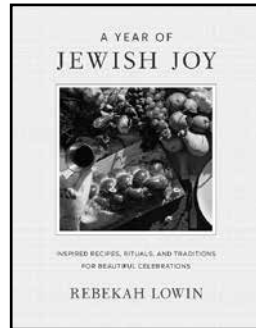
### A Year of Jewish Joy by Rebekah Lowin

*A Year of Jewish Joy* is a beautiful new book written by Rebekah Lowin. This book includes many recipes, but it also is much more than a cookbook: It also includes rituals, traditions, table decorations, and other projects that enhance the meaning of each holiday. Following the year through the order of the holidays, starting with Shabbat, each chapter takes us through the succession of Rosh Hashanah all the way to Shavuot. There is also a chapter for unrelated recipes in the chapter titled, "Anytime Ideas for Everyday Joy".

There are delicious recipe ideas including many standards—challah, chicken soup, and potato latkes. Then there are variations on some of the standard recipes such as borekas filled with butternut squash, even spinach artichoke matzah brei and even black and white cookies that are elevated with marshmallow frosting on the opposite side of the chocolate glaze.

Of course there are quite a few different fillings for your hamantaschen. Also included are a variety of drink recipes to round out the celebration of Purim, such as the Sushan Sour, the Queen's Secret and A Twist of Fate. There are many recipes for each celebration meal along with table decoration suggestions to set the scene.

Lowin has been referred to as the Martha Stewart of Jewish entertainment. She has an incredible team of photographers and designers who have created beautiful photographs of the



food and the table settings. There are illustrations and calligraphy that contribute to the beauty of the book. Some of the fun inventive ideas that elevate the holiday tables are "fasting recovery kits" to decorate the Yom Kippur break-fast buffet table. Small cloth bags filled with little items like over-the-counter pain relievers, mints, and electrolyte packets. In the Chanukah section there are directions for creating flowers from the chocolate gelt wrappers, and on Passover, Lowin has decorated pieces of matzah with pressed flowers and written names for place cards.

Rebekah Lowin is a writer and content creator. She is known for her whimsical design-forward approach to Jewish holiday cooking, decor, craft projects and storytelling. She has worked at *Martha Stewart Living* and *Good Housekeeping* magazines. She grew up in a home where Jewish tradition ran deep. She shares her ideas for Jewish celebrations on *Food Network Magazine*, *Bon Appétit*, PBS and *Women's Day*. Rebekah lives in Connecticut with her husband Dr. Andre Shomorny and their two sons. She is a lifestyle editor at *Forbes*.

#### Recipe: Muffin Tin Tahdig

Tahdig means "bottom of the pot" in Farsi. Traditional Persian tahdig is a big, impressive rice dish built around its signature golden, saffron-scented crust. This is a simpler small muffin approach (there is a longer explanation in the cookbook).

Makes 22 to 24 muffins

Time: 2 1/2 hours

- 2 cups long grain white rice such as basmati
- 3 TBS plus 1/4 tsp Kosher salt divided
- 3/4 stick (6 TBS) unsalted butter, divided
- 1 large yellow onion finely chopped
- 1/4 gram (1/2 tsp lightly packed) saffron thread
- 1/4 tsp ground turmeric (optional for added color)
- 2 TBS boiling water
- 2/3 cup plain full-fat yogurt
- 2 large egg yolks
- Vegetable oil for brushing the muffin tins

Place rice and 1 tablespoon of salt in a bowl and cover completely with water. Let soak at room temperature for 1 hour. Then drain well. Meanwhile, melt 4 tablespoons of the butter in a medium skillet over a medium heat. Add the onion and 1/4 teaspoon of the salt and cook for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until softened. Set aside to cool.

Using a mortar and pestle, crush the saffron threads. Transfer them to a large bowl and add the turmeric, if using, then pour the boiling water over the top and let it stand for about 5 minutes, until the threads have dissolved and the water is deep red. Whisk in the yogurt and egg yolks until well combined. Stir in the cooked onions.

Preheat the oven to 375°F with a rack set in the lower third. Brush the cups of the muffin tins with oil. Bring a large pot of water to boil and stir in the remaining 2 tablespoons of salt. Add the drained rice and cook for about 3 minutes until al dente. Drain and add to the yogurt mixture, stirring until well combined.

Distribute the rice mixture evenly among the muffin cups, pressing firmly to pack it all in, then chop the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter into small cubes and dot them over all the cups. Cover the pans completely and tightly with aluminum foil.

Bake for 45 to 60 minutes, until the rice is fully cooked and tender and the bottoms of the tahdigs are deeply golden brown and crisp. Let cool for 5 minutes, then loosen with a knife and lift each piece out with a spoon or offset spatula and serve.

## Movie Review

### The Red Sea Diving Resort (2019)

*The Red Sea Diving Resort*, released in 2019 and now available on Netflix, is a dramatic retelling of the true story of the Mossad's 1981-84 "Operation Brothers." This was a rescue mission of persecuted Ethiopian Jews (known as "Beta Yisrael"). Directed by Israeli Gideon Raff (*Prisoners of War/Homeland*), the film features Hollywood A-listers Chris Evans, Ben Kingsley, and Greg Kinnear, as well as actors from the Ethiopian community.

*The Red Sea Diving Resort* is beautifully filmed in South Africa, Namibia, and Morocco. Amidst this scenery, Raff recreates the tense desert atmosphere of



conflict, oppression, and fear at a time of civil war and unrest in Ethiopia. We witness the dangers and tragedies as Ethiopians seek refuge from the war and escape to Sudanese refugee camps.

Beta Yisrael activist Kabidi Bimro (Michael Kenneth Williams) and Mossad operative Ari Levinson (Evans) hatch a plan to use an abandoned Sudanese resort on the shores of the Red Sea as cover to

smuggle the Ethiopian Jews out of Sudan and into Israel. Sending Israeli agents to a war-torn and hostile Muslim country was a shocking idea that Levinson needed to sell to his superiors. Just the idea of "disappearing" refugees from the camp was risky in and of itself. As CIA operative Bowen (Kinnear) warned: "The UN offers a stipend for every refugee the Sudanese house, so when they disappear it's just bad for business" - and catches the attention of the brutal Sudanese militia.

Getting refugees out of the camp is one thing but concealing them at the "resort" is another thing altogether. As the refugees huddle in hiding, we hear

echoes of the Israelites in their cries to Moses in the desert. "I left my beautiful home because you promised to take us to Jerusalem...but you brought us to Hell!" says a desperate mother to Kabidi and Ari. "I don't know what you have to do to take us out of here, but do it, and do it fast!" Watching this scene, we can only hope the Ethiopians, too, will somehow reach the Promised Land.

At the time of release, the film received mixed reviews. One critique was that the film reinforced a "white savior" narrative of "white" Mossad agents rescuing the Ethiopians. Granted, by placing Chris

*Movie Review continued on page 18*

## Sarah Aroeste to Release *Orijinal* (en bivo), Marking 25 Years as a Pioneering Voice in Ladino Music

*The eleven-track live recording revisits a quarter-century of original songwriting in Ladino, the endangered Judeo-Spanish language Aroeste has spent her career proving is still very much alive.*

Award-winning singer-songwriter Sarah Aroeste will release *Orijinal* (en bivo), a new live album revisiting eleven original Ladino compositions spanning her 25-year career, on **October 23, 2026** (self-release).

The album is both a milestone and a mission statement. For 25 years, Aroeste has been one of a small handful of composers writing original new music in Ladino, the historic language of Sephardic Jews descended from those expelled from Spain in 1492, widely considered endangered today with few remaining native speakers worldwide. Where much of the surviving Ladino repertoire is folkloric or liturgical, Aroeste has built a career on a different premise: that Ladino can still generate brand-new art, written and performed by a living voice.

*Orijinal* (en bivo) makes that case directly. Recorded in live performance at NYC's Vibromonk Studio, the album brings together songs written across Aroeste's career and revisited now as the body of work she considers most essential to her artistic identity. Each of the



eleven tracks began, as Aroeste describes it, "with a question, image, or story I couldn't let go of" - from the folkloric figure of the chika morena to the story of 16th-century Sephardic humanitarian Doña Grasia Nasi; from a rediscovered 16th-century ballad to a song written in the sleepless early days of motherhood. Together, the songs explore ancestry and belonging, grief and gratitude, resilience and hope.

"Ladino is often celebrated as a language of memory. It certainly is," Aroeste said. "But for me, it is also a language of creativity - a living language that continues to grow through the voices of those who speak, sing, write, and create in it today."

That evolution is at the heart of *Orijinal* (en bivo). Aroeste's earliest Ladino recordings were devoted to preserving Sephardic musical tradition and introducing it to new audiences. Over time,

her relationship to the language shifted. "I realized that Ladino had become more than a language through which I could honor the past," she said. "It had become the language through which I could tell my own story."

Highlights include "Monastir," written for the Sephardic Balkan city where Aroeste's family lived for generations before the Holocaust; "Grasia," an homage to Doña Grasia Nasi, who used her wealth to help Jews escape the Inquisition; "Espinelo," for which Aroeste composed an entirely new melody for a centuries-old ballad text whose original tune had been lost to history (a gesture she describes as becoming "part of the ballad's long history") and "Chika Morena," the first Ladino song Aroeste ever wrote, which set the course for everything that followed.

"People sometimes ask why I write original songs in Ladino," Aroeste said. "The answer is simple: because this is the language in which my creativity feels most at home."

### About Sarah Aroeste:

For more than two decades, Sarah Aroeste has been reimagining Sephardic culture for new generations. An award-winning singer/songwriter, author, educator, and cultural advocate, she brings Sephardic stories to life through origi-

nal music, books, performances, and educational initiatives. Inspired by her family's Sephardic roots in North Macedonia and Greece, she has dedicated her career to sharing the Ladino language and Sephardic culture with audiences around the world.

One of the few composers writing new music in Ladino today, Aroeste has released nine acclaimed recordings, including *Monastir*, her award-winning homage to the lost Sephardic Balkan city, and *Savor*, a collaboration with chef Susan Barocas pairing

Sephardic music with culinary tradition. Her honors include the Sephardic Prize at the International Jewish Music Festival in Amsterdam, a performance at Carnegie Hall's Migrations Festival, and the Young Leadership Award from the Sephardic Jewish Brotherhood of America.

Aroeste is also the author of multiple Sephardic-themed children's books distributed through PJ Library, where she mentors emerging writers through the Sephardic Stories Initiative. Through projects including the Livros Lookout book community and the Kantikas Countdown, she continues to create new opportunities for audiences of all ages to discover the richness of Sephardic culture.

Learn more at [saraharoeste.com](http://saraharoeste.com).

## Temple Adath Yeshurun Presents "American Jewish Humor: The Television Years"

What do *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Laverne & Shirley* and *Seinfeld* have in common? Behind many of television's most memorable laughs were Jewish writers, performers, producers and comedians whose creativity helped shape American comedy. That history—and plenty of laughter—will be explored when Hal Slifer presents "American Jewish Humor: The Television Years" on Sunday, October 18, at 3 p.m. at Temple Adath Yeshurun.

Slifer, a WERS radio host and multimedia presenter, will lead us on an entertaining journey through the golden years of television comedy. Through rare and memorable video clips, fascinating stories and plenty of audience participation, he will explore the Jewish personalities behind some of television's

funniest moments.

The program will trace the evolution of television comedy from its early days through the classic sitcoms and comedians whose work continues to make us laugh today. Along the way, we will revisit familiar characters and unforgettable comic moments while discovering the Jewish connections and influences behind them.

It is a story not only about television, but also about the ways Jewish writers and performers brought their experiences, observations and distinctive sense of humor into American popular culture. Their work helped define American comedy—and created a legacy of laughter that continues to connect generations.

Whether you remember watching these shows when they first aired or discovered



them later through reruns, "American Jewish Humor: The Television Years" promises an afternoon of nostalgia, surprises and, of course, lots of laughs.

The program is free and open to the community, but registration is required. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/jW9V5PhNvD36vr4a7>.

## Israel Symphony Orchestra String Trio to Perform at Temple Adath Yeshurun on October 15

Temple Adath Yeshurun will welcome the Israel Symphony Orchestra String Trio to Manchester on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. as part of the ensemble's seven-city U.S. concert tour. The Manchester performance is the only New Hampshire stop on the tour.

The concert is a fundraiser benefiting the musicians of the Israel Symphony Orchestra, made possible by the support of community partners and sponsors including the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. It is intended to highlight the enduring importance of the arts — particularly music — as a source of connection, resilience and hope during difficult times.

"Music has a remarkable ability to

bring people together and offer hope, even in the most challenging circumstances," said Cantor Harriet Dunkerley, Spiritual Leader of TAY. "We are honored to welcome these musicians to New Hampshire and to have the opportunity to support them while sharing this extraordinary music with our community."

The one-hour program will feature classical works by Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart, as well as the complete Trio for Strings by Gideon Klein, a Jewish Czech composer who wrote the work while imprisoned in the Terezin ghetto during the Holocaust.

Klein completed the String Trio shortly before his departure to Auschwitz. He was later sent to the Fürstengrube labor camp, where he was murdered in 1945.

His String Trio stands as a remarkable testament to artistic creativity and human resilience in the face of unimaginable circumstances.

The first half of the program will also include a dance performance by the New Hampshire Dance Collaborative/Joan Brodsky. The second half will feature "Shirim Shel Yerushalayim" — Songs of Jerusalem, celebrating the music and spirit of Jerusalem.

For Temple Adath Yeshurun, hosting the ensemble is a tangible way to support the musicians and the vital role of the arts during difficult times. "Throughout history, music has found its way to people, even in times of war and uncertainty," said Cantor Dunkerley. "This concert is our small way of

helping keep that music alive while standing with the musicians who bring it to us."

Following the concert, attendees are invited to an 8:00 p.m. dessert reception, where they can meet and speak to the musicians.

### Event Details

- Israel Symphony Orchestra String Trio
- Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 7:00 p.m.
- Temple Adath Yeshurun  
152 Prospect St, Manchester, NH
- Dessert reception immediately following the concert at 8:00 p.m. Suggested admission donation is \$27 for adults and \$18 for students.
- Tickets and information: <https://forms.gle/v9rPfVSKDVE1AAQY6>

## Camp YJ Alum Jacob Kaplan Returns to His New Hampshire Jewish Summer Camp's Boston Community for Tiny Fugitives Opening Weekend

*New R-rated comedy co-written by Kaplan — starring Johnny Knoxville and produced by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg — inspired by his summers at Camp YJ, opened nationwide September 18; Kaplan joined the camp's Boston-area community for a screening and conversation on September 19*

BOSTON — Camp YJ, a Jewish overnight summer camp in Amherst, New Hampshire that draws a large contingent of campers and families from Greater Boston, is having a Hollywood moment.

Camp alum Jacob Kaplan, co-writer and executive producer of the new comedy *Tiny Fugitives*, returned to the Boston area on Saturday, September 19, for an opening-weekend screening and conversation with the YJ community that shaped him.

*Tiny Fugitives* opened in theaters nationwide on Friday, September 18. The R-rated comedy stars Johnny Knoxville and follows a group of 12-year-olds determined to spend the rest of their lives at sleepaway camp, while a relentless veteran counselor stands in their way. The film

was co-written by Kaplan and director Michael Lewen, and its producers include Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg.

For Kaplan, the film and the screening are rooted in the same place. He grew up attending Camp YJ, and his creative career has continued to return to the world of Jewish summer camp ever since: his comedy show *Kings of Camp* has toured nationally, including an appearance at the 2024 Netflix *Is a Joke* festival, and *Tiny Fugitives* marks his feature-film debut as a writer.

"My camp experiences are the main

source of my comedy," Kaplan has said. "YJ was the first time in my life that I really felt like a part of something. And, in turn, I have this very emotional connection to it. And I think that's what makes it such an easy, free-flowing place to write about."

Kaplan is a New York City-based writer, actor and comedian, originally from the Washington, D.C. area, and a graduate of Columbia University. He has worked at *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and served as a writers' assistant at *Saturday Night Live*.

### Movie Review

*continued from page 16*

Evans (*Captain America*) into the lead role, Raff may have inadvertently invited this reaction. This critique may resonate with the current American trend for attaching labels to all beings and motivations. However, it deflects from, and has little relevance to, the historical Jewish experience and Israeli reality.

Geographically positioned between Africa and Asia, Israel and its people don't fall into the category of "racially white." Beyond this basic anthropological fact, the Mossad's mission was deeply rooted in modern Israel's Declaration of Independence promise that "The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles..."

Following his 1977 election, Prime

Minister Menachim Begin aspired to manifest this seminal promise by intensifying international pressure for the rights of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, and at the same time ordering actions for the evacuation of the persecuted community of Ethiopian Jews. (Begin's extraordinary story is told in the documentary *Upheaval* freely available on YouTube.)

It is within this context that *The Red Sea Diving Resort* tells its story. This is not a "white savior" story; it is a chapter in the miraculous tale of Israel's rebirth. While *The Red Sea Diving Resort* isn't the type of movie to sweep at the Oscars, it earns its place within the repertoire of cinema that celebrates and resonates with the diverse myriad of Jewish cultural identity. It is a thrilling spy story of Israeli agents and Ethiopian activists ex-

ecuting a daring, and ultimately successful, mission of freedom and "ingathering of exiles" from Ethiopia. It's a story worthy of the retelling. If the film in-

spires viewers to learn more about the community of Beta Yisrael and Israel's courageous and generous outstretched arm to Am Yisrael, all the better.



## Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive



A special yasher koach to Temple Israel's Stephen Singer for carrying on the incredible legacy of the Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive for its 43rd year. TAY was proud to join our TI friends today with volunteers and donors... a wonderful example of Tikkun Olam and two temples working together with the broader local community to make a difference.

## Temple B'nai Israel's We Care Initiative Announces Benefit Concert for Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association

Let's "Come Together" with a Premier Beatles Tribute Band to Support Home Health Care Services in the Lakes Region

LACONIA, NH - September 8, 2026 - The We Care initiative of Temple B'nai Israel is proud to announce its upcoming fall benefit concert to support the Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association (LRVNA).

Studio Two, one of the country's premier Beatles tribute bands, is set to deliver a rocking evening of music, dancing, and community connection on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at the Interlakes High School at 1 Laker Lane in Meredith, NH. This fun and energetic performance will celebrate the timeless music of the legendary Beatles, while raising critical funds that help the LRVNA provide compassionate homecare, hospice and support services throughout the Lakes Region.

"This featured show will bring the Lakes Region community together for an enjoyable, top-notch Beatles musical experience that also raises important funds for the LRVNA which does really important work here in our local community," said Stu Needleman, committee chair of the We Care Initiative. "We're thrilled to have our second We Care concert event of the year feature the diverse music of the Beatles."

All proceeds from the concert will benefit the LRVNA which provides exceptional, accessible and compassionate home health and hospice services to support Lakes Region area residents lead healthy, productive and fulfilling lives, and to support those individuals facing the end of their lives with dignity, grace and comfort.

"The financial support generated by the



We Care concert will help ensure that families receive expert care, comfort and dignity when they need it most," said Jim Harnett, finance director of the LRVNA. "With the generous support of business sponsors of the We Care concert, and those that purchase tickets to the event, we can continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors. We are incredibly grateful to the We Care Initiative and to everyone who attends this concert for assisting our efforts."

Tickets are available online and at select retail locations in the Lakes Region. Visit [www.tbinh.org/we-care-concerts](http://www.tbinh.org/we-care-concerts) for more information and to purchase tickets. For those unable to attend, you can still show your support by purchasing tickets to be donated to Lakes Region Visiting Nurse Association employees and volunteers.

About the We Care Initiative:

Since 2013, the We Care Initiative has been lending a helping hand to Lakes Region non-profits providing a ready-made fundraising platform that allows organizations to focus on their mission while benefiting from professionally produced entertainment events. To date, We Care has helped raise over \$460,000 for more than a dozen Lakes Region non-profit organizations, some multiple times.

We Care thanks its generous sponsors: Interlakes Family Dental, Miracle Farms

Landscaping, Northeast Communications Corporation, The Platinum Group of RE/MAX Bayside Realty, Golden View Healthcare Center, The Laconia

Sun, and Northeast Radio Group, and the businesses of the Lakes Region Caring Network: [www.tbinh.org/lakes-region-business-directory/](http://www.tbinh.org/lakes-region-business-directory/)

# CAMPAPALOOZA

## NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH SUMMER CAMP FAIR

Beat the winter doldrums with a taste of Jewish summer camp—indoors!

Campapalooza is where families meet the people who make camp magic happen, connect with a vital part of Jewish life in our state, get answers about camp options and affordability, and enjoy a hands-on, high-energy camp experience — come for the info, the fun, or both.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 15**  
**2PM - 4PM**

SCAN QR TO REGISTER for this FREE event or visit <https://forms.gle/BtHPn7uYcnVCJcD6>

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Bounce House
- Gaga Ball
- Arts & Crafts
- Camp Games
- Temporary Tattoos
- Friendship Bracelets
- Kosher s'mores
- and lots more!

## Join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire on a Transformative Journey: Taglit Birthright Volontourism to Israel

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is thrilled to announce an extraordinary opportunity for our community: a Taglit Birthright Volontourism trip to Israel from **March 14-24, 2027**. We invite all members of New Hampshire's Jewish communities to join us on this once-in-a-lifetime experience that combines meaningful service, cultural immersion, and personal connection to the Jewish homeland.

### What Is Birthright Volontourism?

**This is not your typical Birthright.** Even if you went on a Birthright trip as a teen or young adult, you are still eligible for this highly subsidized flight program.

This innovative program extends beyond the traditional Birthright experience. Participants don't just visit Israel—they become part of it. Over 9 transformative days (and 2 travel days), you'll engage in structured volunteer work addressing genuine needs across Israeli society while deepening your understanding of the people, communities, and broader context shaping modern Israel today.

**The trip embraces four essential dimensions:**

- **Serve:** Contribute through practical, hands-on volunteer work responding to real needs in Israeli communities
- **Understand:** Explore the context surrounding your volunteer work through facilitated learning and meaningful conversation
- **Connect:** Meet Israelis, strengthen your bond with fellow participants, and develop a deeply personal relationship with Israel
- **Carry It Forward:** Return home with stories, relationships, and ongoing opportunities to engage with your community

### Who Should Apply?

This program welcomes:

- Jewish participants
- Those married to someone Jewish
- Individuals working in Jewish institutions
- Ages 40-70 (age exceptions considered on a case-by-case basis)

**Space is limited to 30 participants**, so we encourage interested community members to apply early.

### A Glimpse at Your Journey

Your 9-day adventure (not including travel days on March 14 and 24) will take you across Israel, combining volunteer work with unforgettable experiences and encounters. Here's a sample of what your days might look like:

**Monday, March 15** – Arrive in Israel and settle in for the journey. Welcome orientation session kicks off your adventure before traveling north to support communities responding to current needs.

**Tuesday** – Begin volunteer work at community projects while learning from Israeli partners. Activities might include work at agricultural initiatives like Savta Yehudit, combined with cultural experiences and enrichment activities.

**Wednesday** – Deepen your understanding through specialized visits and volunteer opportunities, including healthcare initiatives like the Ramle MDA station and blood donation centers, followed by geopolitical education sessions to contextualize what you're experiencing.

**Thursday** – Travel to the Gaza Envelope to meet communities on the frontlines and witness resilience firsthand. Volunteer at sites like the Venataata tree nursery, tour Sderot, and visit the Nova Festival site—connecting you to the real experiences of October 7 and its aftermath. Options include BBQing for the IDF or Shuva Brothers.

**Friday** – Volunteer preparing meals for soldiers at Shishi Shnitzel in Ashdod, then return to Jerusalem to explore Machane Yehuda market and welcome Shabbat together.

**Saturday** – Celebrate Shabbat as a group with communal meals, rest, and spiritual reflection.

**Sunday** – Partner with Leket Israel fighting food insecurity, then travel to Tel Aviv for free time to explore the vibrant coastal city. Optional evening meeting with Unit 669, Israel's elite Search and Rescue unit—recently deployed to countries including Colombia, Nepal, and Venezuela, and first on the scene on October 7.

**Monday** – Spend the night up North – Meet with the Kibbutz Rehabilitation Fund – Rebuild the Northern communities

**Tuesday, March 23** – Late Departure (1 AM on 3/24), carrying memories and relationships that will last a lifetime.

Throughout your journey, you'll experience:

- Daily volunteer work (3-4 hours per session)

- Guided tours of iconic Israeli sites including the Old City, Tel Aviv - additional tours may be offered as an option including Yad Vashem, Masada/Dead Sea (additional tours would require an additional fee)
- A meaningful Shabbat celebration with group dinners
- Mifgash encounters with Israeli peers
- Leadership meetings and geopolitical discussions providing essential context
- Professional tour guide accompaniment throughout

### Pricing Options

We offer two pricing structures. **Based on sign-up interest, we will select ONE price point to host the group.**

#### Basic Option: \$975

- Roundtrip flights on El Al from Newark\* (\*flights to Newark not included)
- 3-star hotel accommodation in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem
- Triple occupancy rooms (double occupancy +\$60/room; single occupancy +\$90/room\*)
- Breakfast included daily
- Professional tour guide

#### Enhanced Option: \$2,500

- Roundtrip flights on El Al from Newark\* (\*flights to Newark not included)
- Roundtrip flights on El Al from Newark\* (\*flights to Newark not included)
- 4-star hotels with double occupancy
- Breakfast, opening dinner, closing dinner, Shabbat dinner with Friday lunch and Saturday meals
- Professional tour guide
- Additional enrichment opportunities including tours, activities

**Important:** Only one price option will be offered based on participant preferences indicated during sign-up.

**Special Note on Flights:** Participants

who arrange their own flights can reduce program costs to \$275 (Basic) or \$1,200 (Enhanced). Those wishing to extend their return flight may do so for an additional fee coordinated with El Al through our travel partner.

\*Final room fees will be confirmed once the hotel is assigned.

### How to Apply

This trip is designed for our New Hampshire Jewish community, and we're committed to making it accessible. Have questions? Want to explore payment plans or other arrangements? **Ask us!** Everything can be customized to support your participation.

To express interest or learn more, contact the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire directly via the form below. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the program reaches 30 participants.

<https://tinyurl.com/Birthright-JFH>



### More Than a Trip—A Community Experience

What makes this journey special is that you won't take it alone. You'll travel with fellow community members, strengthening bonds while creating shared memories that extend far beyond the trip itself. The friendships forged and experiences shared often lead to continued community involvement at home.

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is honored to provide this opportunity for our community to serve, learn, and connect—both to Israel and to one another.

**Join us. Be part of the story. March 2025.**

*For more information about the Taglit Birthright Volontourism program, visit <https://birthrightisraelvolunteer.com/>*

## Letters from Camp

Hi, My name is Sailor! :)

I'm nine years old. This was my first year at camp. My favorite Jewish tradition is prayers before and after we eat. At camp I enjoyed playing at the lakefront and taking care of the goats, bunnies, ducks, and chickens!

Another thing I like about camp is the field trips! On our first field trip we went

to a trampoline park, it was soooooo fun! On our second field trip we went to an amusement arcade place that was soooooo much fun too.

I loved meeting my big sister and getting to know all of my counselors. I had the best time at Camp Pembroke and cannot wait to go again next summer!

From: Sailor



## October 2026 Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

At our September meeting, the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah hosted an educational and interactive discussion on Hadassah and LGBTQ advocacy, covering diverse Jewish religious views, available support, and personal family experiences shared by a community member and those in attendance.

The next chapter meeting will be on Thursday, October 15 at 1:00 PM. Chapter meetings are open to everyone, and all are welcome to attend.

Also in September, the book club met over lunch to discuss the book, *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth. We explored several themes, including Jewish identity vs. assimilation, antisemitism in the 1940s, and complex family relation-

ships. This alternative history novel was very thought-provoking.

Several chapter members are joining The Hadassah Northeast Walk for Women's Health taking place on Sunday, October 18 in Chestnut Hill, MA. It will be an afternoon filled with community, connection and purpose. Bring your family and friends, and leashed dogs, and join in the fun as we work toward our biggest goal yet: raising \$100,000 to help advance Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) groundbreaking medical research, and advances in women's health in the United States and Israel. There will be food vendors, music and lots of family fun. Registration is now open for the 2026 Hadassah Northeast Walk for Women's Health. The registration fee is \$35, children 12 and under are free.

Hadassah changes lives in Israel, across the United States and around the world through lifesaving care and medical breakthroughs at Hadassah hospitals, support for Israel, advocacy, Youth Aliyah, Zionism and the power of our members and supporters. National Hadassah

recently published their 2025 Impact Report. In numbers, National Hadassah has over 300,000 members, 610 chapters and units nationwide. Last year, they sent fifty-six thousand advocacy letters to policymakers making their voices heard.

*Hadassah Report continued on page 23*

## Israel: Did You Know?

By Richard England

Defense of Israeli civilians has always been a top priority of the IDF. During recent years, the Iron Dome air defense system has intercepted thousands of rockets launched from Gaza and Lebanon by Iran's proxy armies, Hamas and Hezbollah. This defense of Israeli cities and towns, although highly effective, has also been very expensive because of the cost of each interception.

Israel is now preparing to deploy a

much less expensive defense against short-range missiles and drones. Borrowing a page from *Star Wars*, RAFAEL Advance Defense Systems is testing a high-energy laser weapon that can destroy an incoming threat that is miles away from its target. Each interception by the Iron Beam system will cost only two dollars and, unlike Iron Dome, the system cannot run out of interceptors during a major attack. Less expensive missile defense will also release funds for the schools, hospitals, and housing that Israelis need.

## Book Review: 'When the Stones Speak' by Doron Spielman

By Richard England

In this 2026 *New York Times* bestseller, Doron Spielman offers a highly readable account of one of the most important archaeological discoveries of all time: the City of David outside the Old City of Jerusalem. Born and educated in Michigan, the author made *aliyah* in 2000 and soon became an officer in the IDF. Following his military service, Spielman served as a business consultant in the high-tech field. In 2002, he met with David Beerli, founder of the City of David National Park, and agreed to help revive archaeological research at a site central to Jewish history. This book is a highly personal account of the financial, technical and political obstacles that Spielman and his colleagues faced and the magnificent discoveries that their efforts yielded.

The City of David site was first discovered by a British archaeologist during the late Victorian period and during Ottoman rule. Baron Rothschild provided funds to buy land from Arab property owners and to finance several excavations. During the 20th century, however, research was interrupted repeatedly, sometimes because of funding issues but more importantly because of political opposition and even violence. During the Jordanian occupation of eastern Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967, its military obliterated the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem and encouraged housing construction on the City of David site to

prevent future excavations.

Why would anyone object to archaeological research? Spielman answers as follows: "In Jerusalem the stones have a story to tell, a story not only about Jerusalem. Rather, it is all the stories of our people, both in the Land of Israel and in exile." (93). The story that these recovered stones tell is that the Jewish people have been present in Jerusalem for 3800 years. The City of David was the capital of the kingdom founded by King David and is older than the nearby Old City of Jerusalem. Some of the artifacts that have been discovered, a document seal and golden bell for example, are specifically mentioned in the Torah. A road that Jewish pilgrims used to approach the Temple for worship and charred beams from the First Temple have also been reclaimed in recent times.

The October 7 attack on southern Israel by Hamas interrupted Spielman's writing of this book. Following that attack, the author served months of reserve duty in the IDF. Reflecting on that experience, Spielman argues that widespread sympathy for Hamas in Europe and America results from years of labeling Israelis as "settlers" or "colonists." The stones of the City of David, he argues, tell a different story: The Land of Israel and Jerusalem have been the homeland of the Jewish people since ancient times. Please plan to attend the JFNH virtual tours of the City of David archaeological site on January 10, 17, and 31, 2027.




### 7 Days in Israel JOIN US IN 2027

Join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and Momentum for an inspiring women's journey to Israel focused on Jewish identity, personal growth, leadership, connection, and building stronger relationships with Israel and with one another.

#### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Be empowered by world-class speakers and Israeli thought-leaders
- Visit the Western Wall and Dead Sea and explore the vibrancy of Tel Aviv
- Volunteer in areas affected by Oct. 7, including the Negev (South)
- Experience a Shabbat in Jerusalem and connect with Israeli families
- Discover a deeper connection to yourself, your family, and your community

#### SPRING 2027

#### APPLY NOW

Scan the QR code to complete our Israel Trip Interest Form. The form will help JFNH identify and pre-screen prospective participants and keep you informed as dates, eligibility, costs, and registration information become available. **Your journey to Israel — and to deeper Jewish connection — starts here.**

\*Momentum Israel Trips are highly subsidized for participants, excluding airfare. Additional costs for participants include \$360 Registration Fee and some meals. Participants pay a \$365 deposit, which is fully refundable upon returning from the trip.

\*\*For Jewish mothers with children under the age of 18





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## JFNH Tributes

### Annual Campaign

Mazel Tov to the amazing Rebecca Sky! ~ Michelle Rosenthal  
 Thank you to JFNH for the outstanding work you do on behalf of our small Jewish population across the state. And Mazel Tov to Milt & Kristina Zweig for their many contributions to Etz Hayim Synagogue ~ Laurie Medrek  
 In honor of Deborah Hirsch Mayer ~ Marjorie Raven  
 In honor of Tamara Nixon ~ Jon Warech  
 Mazel Tov to CAA's Alyse Bettinger on a Shem Tov Award! It is well-deserved. Thanks, Alyse, for all you do for CAA! ~ Daniel Aronson  
 Congratulations! April and Paul Nandico ~ Geoffrey Fages  
 Nancy Fages you are such an eshet hayil! We appreciate you. Much affection ~ Lynn and Jitzchak Alster  
 Congrats Nancy! ~Roz Lowen  
 Congratulations to Nancy Fages and all the hard working Shem Tov award winners. ~Ed Clark  
 Congratulations to the Shem Tov awardees. ~Michele Bank  
 Nancy Fages, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, is our resident Balaboost in chief! We are so much richer, culturally, socially and financially, thanks to her warm, direct, persistent efforts. ~Jackie Katzman  
 Mazal Tov to all the Shem Tov Award Winners! A deep debt of gratitude for all you do to strengthen our Jewish Community across New Hampshire! ~Cantor Harriet Dunkerley  
 Todah Raba for all the good work of the Federation! ~Harry Shepler  
 Thank you to the staff, Board of Directors, and all of the volunteer committee members for your dedication and hard work bringing our statewide Jewish community together! ~Robbie Warach

### 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](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org) or JFNH, 273 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford, NH 03110

### 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](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org) or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford, NH 03110

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

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

**To get involved, contact [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org)**

## JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

### Amount of Contribution:

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

### Designated to the following fund:

- ☐ Annual Campaign
- ☐ Friends of the Reporter
- ☐ NH Jewish Film Festival
- ☐ PJ Library
- ☐ Senior Programs
- ☐ Shlichut (Israeli Emissary) Program
- ☐ Social Services
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When submitting an article, 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 [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org).

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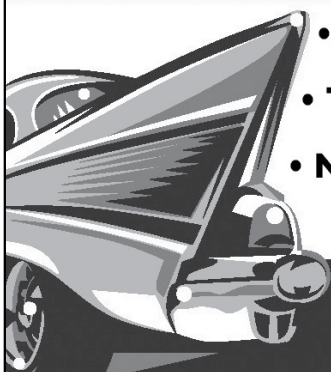
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## Hadassah Report

continued from page 21

Over one million patients were treated at Hadassah hospitals and almost 2,000 active clinical trials were held.

HMO had groundbreaking achievements, including Israel's first total artificial heart transplant, innovative epilepsy surgery and pioneering spinal surgery that helped a previously paralyzed patient to walk again. Hadassah researchers advanced promising work in areas including ALS, cancer, suicide prevention, trauma medicine, diabetes and obesity treatment, with potential impact far beyond Israel. These milestones underscore Hadassah's role as a global medical leader.

The above pioneering medical breakthroughs are only possible with your donations. You can help by registering for the previously mentioned Walk for Wom-

en's Health on October 18. Every registration and dollar donated helps make this lifechanging impact possible, one step at a time.

Please join us on Thursday, October 29, for our chapter's workshop fundraiser, "The Art of Hebrew Letters." Led by Alice Kinsler, Temple Beth Jacob's talented calligrapher, this enjoyable and interactive presentation celebrates the shapes, names, sounds, and personalities of the beautiful letters that make up our written language. The exact location will be provided upon registration. For more information or to register, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com or Alma O'Grady at alygroup@comcast.net.

Hadassah wishes the community a most meaningful holiday season.

For additional information about Hadassah, feel free to reach out to michele.bank@gmail.com.



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