

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE  
*Jewish* **Reporter**

Published by the  
 Jewish Federation of  
 New Hampshire

Volume 44, Number 11

September 2024

Av – Elul 5784



**CELEBRATIONS & SIMCHAS**

**Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Annual Meeting**

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Annual Meeting welcomed over 120 community members from around the state to participate in the meeting's business, honor Shem Tov winners, and to hear our guest speaker Gila Madjar of Momentum speak. After a difficult year it was so wonderful to be together.

*Annual Meeting continued on page 14*




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 Jewish Federation of New Hampshire  
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# CONGREGATIONS

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

## AMHERST

### CONGREGATION BETENU

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

## BETHLEHEM

### BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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

## CONCORD

### TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

## DERRY

### ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

## HANOVER

### THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

### KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

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

## KEENE

### CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

## LACONIA

### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

## MANCHESTER

### CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

### TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

### TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER

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

Shabbat Services: Every month we offer one Friday night Shabbat with a catered community dinner (rsvp required), and two Saturday Shabbat services followed by a light kiddush (no rsvp necessary).  
Every Wednesday, we offer a 7:00 AM in-person morning minyan and a 6:30 PM Torah study via ZOOM. Please check our website [www.templeisraelmht.org](http://www.templeisraelmht.org), call our office at (603) 622.6171 or email [office@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:office@templeisraelmht.org) for information on specific service dates and times.

## NASHUA

### TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

## NEWINGTON

### UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

## NORTH CONWAY

### KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

## PORTSMOUTH

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

# The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

Volume 44, Number 11

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The objectives of The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of New Hampshire by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 10th of the month before publication. There are no January or June issues. All items, including calendar events, for the December-January or May-June newspaper must be submitted by Nov. 10 or April 10, respectively.

Please send all materials to:  
[thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org)

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

Opinions presented in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation. Photos submitted by individuals and organizations are published with their permission.

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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)

September 6 6:53 PM

September 13 6:40 PM

September 20 6:28 PM

September 27 6:15 PM



## Celebrating Together: A Community of Simchas

As we turn the pages of our Jewish calendar, we are reminded that our lives are marked by milestones, celebrations, and moments of joy—our simchas. Whether it's a bar or bat mitzvah, a wedding, a baby naming, or simply gathering with loved ones for a holiday meal, these moments are at the heart of our Jewish experience. They connect us to our traditions, our heritage, and to one another. In this spirit of celebration, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work that the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is doing to support and strengthen our community, ensuring that we can continue to share in these joyous occasions together.

Over the past year, the Federation has played a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and togetherness. From supporting our synagogues with mini

Allyson Guertin

**JFNH  
Director**



grants for festive events to providing Hebrew school allocations that ensure our children can celebrate their Jewish milestones with pride, we are committed to making sure that every simcha is a shared one. Our PJ Library programs, which have brought families together for events like Popsicles on the Playground and Shavua Tov Story Time, are just a few examples of how we are nurturing the next generation and helping them create their own joyful Jewish memories.

In times of celebration, we also find

opportunities to come together in solidarity and support. After the tragic events of October 7th, our community gathered for a solidarity event at the State House, and we have continued to stand together, hosting discussions with state leaders and law enforcement to ensure the safety and security of our community. These moments remind us that our simchas are not just personal milestones but are deeply connected to the strength and resilience of our entire Jewish community.

This year, we also had the privilege of working with the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies on L'Dough V'Dough, an event that honored Holocaust Remembrance Day while also celebrating the continuity of Jewish life. This collaboration was a powerful reminder that even as we remember the

darkest chapters of our history, we also celebrate the vibrancy and endurance of our people.

As we look ahead, I am filled with gratitude for the way our community has come together, not just in times of need, but also in times of joy. Your support of the Federation's work—whether through participating in our programs, attending our events, or contributing to our annual campaign—ensures that we can continue to celebrate our simchas together, now and for generations to come.

May we all continue to share in each other's joy, celebrating the simchas that light up our lives and strengthen our bonds as a community. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

L'chaim to many more celebrations together!

## Shehechyanu and Silly Celebrations

Many of you know me as someone who likes to celebrate. I love to shake up the routine with the fun, the unusual, the non-normal. I make a huge deal out of birthdays. I love Jewish holidays. April Fool's Day is a BIG deal in my house. I turn random acts of kindness and creativity into very serious games of hiding dollar bills among grocery store produce or painting positivity rocks and leaving them around town. I find it cathartic to imbue my life with the weird and fun and unexpected.

Judaism has A LOT of holidays, and while this is helpful to break up the year

Dinah Berch

**JFNH  
Program  
Coordinator**



and keep things interesting, it's often stressful. These holidays are heavy with spiritualism, or with family obligations, or with established traditions to uphold. The more peculiar holidays come without expectation.

This month, I'd like to recognize the



*No beard for World Beard Day? No Problem!*

following funny holidays: World Beard Day (the first Saturday of September); Read a Book Day (September 6); Grandparents' Day (First Sunday after Labor Day); National Women's Friendship Day (Third Sunday in September); and Ask A Stupid Question Day (September 28th). A few other favorites of mine are National Penguin Awareness Day (January 20th), Random Acts of Kindness Day (February 17th), and International Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19th).

For me, this spirit of celebration is about finding or creating what PJ Library calls "Shehechyanu Moments". *Shehechyanu* (pronounced sheh-heh-chee-yah-noo) is the Jewish blessing of gratitude reserved for the first time something happens — whether it is the first occurrence ever, the first in a long while, or the first in a year. A *Shehechyanu* moment can be any time when you find yourself standing still and recognizing a feeling of grateful-

ness for what you have – it doesn't need to be a holiday or something extraordinary.

The book *I Say Shehechyanu* by Joanne Rocklin beautifully captures the importance of taking a moment to recognize all the little firsts. As my baby daughter Rayna starts scooting around the room and putting everything in her mouth; as my eldest daughter heads off to Middle School; as my middle child moves from little boy into a lanky funny heartwarming kid; the reminder to take a second to notice and to breathe it in and to celebrate is very appreciated.

As you read your favorite PJ Library book on Read A Book Day please share photos with us! On Grandparent's Day check out PJ Library's Grandparents program at [pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/grandparents](http://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/grandparents). And on "Ask a Stupid Question" Day find something about Judaism you've always wanted to know and post it to our Facebook page at [@Jewish-FederationofNewHampshire/](https://www.facebook.com/Jewish-FederationofNewHampshire/) - we'll do our best to answer! No question is too stupid (but you might get silly answers!).

Already looking forward to the High Holidays? PJ Library is ready with their High Holiday Hub at [pjlibrary.org/highholidays](http://pjlibrary.org/highholidays) (or see QR code). The PJ Library guide, "A Time To Grow: A PJ Library Family Guide for Starting the Jewish New Year" is available free to download in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian.

Here's to embracing a spirit of celebration. Happy September!




### Shehechyanu

A blessing for reaching a special occasion or experiencing something for the first time

Baruch ata Adonai,	ברוך אתה יי!
Eloheinu melech ha'olam	אלהינו מלך העולם
shehechyanu	שהחיינו
vekiyemanu	וקיימנו
vehigi'anu	והגיענו
lazman hazeh	לזמן הזה

Dear God, Creator of our world, thank You for keeping us alive so we can celebrate this important moment.



# 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.

## Tuesday, September 3

### Temple Beth Jacob New Student Orientation

5:30pm - 7:00pm, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord  
Orientation for students in kindergarten through 7th grade who are new to Temple Beth Jacob's Kadimah Program (religious school) and their families. Any new K-7 student can attend with their families whether they have already registered for the program or not. To let us know you plan to attend or if you have any questions, please contact Principal Stacey Moore at [principal@tbjconcord.org](mailto:principal@tbjconcord.org) or contact Sue in the TBJ office at [office@tbjconcord.org](mailto:office@tbjconcord.org). Come learn about Temple Beth Jacob's Kadimah (religious school) Program. Get a tour of the school, meet the principal and some of the teachers. This is a great opportunity to answer any questions you may have prior to the first day of Kadimah on September 8. Students will have a chance to get familiar with the building and their classroom and meet some of their peers. A light snack will be provided.

## Wednesday, September 4

### Temple Israel's Jewish Book Club on Zoom

4:30pm - 6:30pm, Zoom  
This ZOOM meeting will be facilitated by Beth Fraum. The book is *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. Please contact Ken Cohn at [newbegin04@yahoo.com](mailto:newbegin04@yahoo.com) for the ZOOM link.

## Thursday, September 5

### White Mountain Jewish Film Festival presents The Producers

6:00pm - 9:00pm, Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem  
General Admission: \$10; BHC and JFNH Members: \$9. Tickets are sold at the door or can be purchased online at <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/film-series-2024>.

The 2024 White Mountain Jewish Film Festival, focused this year on Jewish comedy, comes to a close on Thursday, September 5, with *The Producers*, a 1967 American satirical cult classic movie written and directed by Mel Brooks. It tells the story of a theatrical producer and an accountant who concoct a scam to produce a Broadway musical that is guaranteed to fail. They take more money from investors than they need and plan to abscond to Brazil when the play closes after opening night—but the show turns out to be a hit.

Our guest speaker, Rick Winston, was the co-owner of Montpelier's Savoy Theater for 29 years. He has taught film history at Burlington College, Community College of Vermont, Goddard College, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

As always, your ticket includes our festival's famous patio parties beginning at 6PM with complimentary refreshments and an assortment of beverages. At 6:30PM the evening's guest speaker will introduce the film and then stay for a Q&A as the houselights go on at the end of each film.

Movie Time - All Films: Box office opens: 5:30PM/  
Patio opens: 6:00PM/ Guest Speaker: 6:30PM/  
Film: 7:00PM.

### Judaism Is About Love: A Conversation with Rabbi Shai Held

7:00pm - 8:15pm, Zoom  
New Hampshire Rabbis Kaya Stern-Kaufman, Jon Spira-Savett, and Robin Nafshi engage in conversation via Zoom with Rabbi Shai Held about his new book, "Judaism is about Love," and how its themes resonate during the month of Elul. Named by Newsweek as one of the 50 most influential rabbis in America, Rabbi Held is a philosopher, theologian, author, and scholar.

Co-sponsored by Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord, and Temple Israel, Portsmouth.

Register at <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/rabbi-shai-held-talk-via-zoom.html> to receive the Zoom link.

Free and open to all!

## Saturday, September 7

### Temple Beth Abraham's Keter Shem Tov Kiddush Luncheon

12:00pm - 2:00pm, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Temple Beth Abraham is pleased to award this year's Keter Shem Tov to Robin Rubin. For more than 30 years, Robin has been active in the Beth Abraham community, contributing her time and efforts in many ways.

## Thursday, September 12

### Temple Israel presents Practice-Based Elul Book Group

6:45pm - 8:00pm, Zoom  
Temple Israel Portsmouth congregant, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, and Yoga Instructor Allison Miller leads a three-session workshop via Zoom. Meetings will be August 29, September 12, and September 19.

While many observe the High Holy Days annually, there may be a sense that its meaning and direct relevance to our lives is elusive. Rabbi Alan Lew elucidates "the unseen depths" of our High Holiday traditions, bringing forth their "deepest existential wisdom" in his now-classic book, "This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared."

Through Torah texts, Jewish fables, stories from his own life, and Buddhist parables, Rabbi Lew helps us understand the purpose in this annual passage that has the potential to leave us deeply enriched and even transformed.

In preparation for the High Holy Days, please join us in a practice-oriented reading group where we will discuss Rabbi Lew's book and practice short, guided meditations to help us integrate what we are discovering. Prompts for journaling in between sessions will be offered. Together we can deepen our experience of the upcoming holidays so that something new is awakened, bringing us into deeper connection with ourselves and one another.

Free and open to all. Register at <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/elul-book-group-led-by-allison-miller-via-zoom.html> to receive the Zoom link.

## Friday, September 13

### Temple Israel Kabbalat Shabbat & Community Shabbat

6:00pm - 8:00pm, Temple Israel, Manchester  
Join us for a traditional Shabbat service and catered community meal.  
RSVP required: <https://forms.gle/vC4DJsSRsUTvVdNJ7>

## Sunday, September 15

### Shavua Tov Story Time - Rosh Hashanah

8:30am - 8:50am, Zoom  
\$18/family for full year of program  
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month. Each month will have a different theme!

Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to Alane at [alane.sabel@jewishnh.org](mailto:alane.sabel@jewishnh.org).

The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.

Register here <https://forms.gle/2bgjLE56Eax5CP9D6>

### Temple Israel presents Joan Leegant Author Talk & Book Signing

10:30am - 12:00pm, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
Hear the winner of the PEN/New England Book Award, the Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction, and Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award discuss her new story collection, *DISPLACED PERSONS*, that shines a light on Israel and American Jewish life, especially relevant in these highly fraught times. Joan Leegant is a gifted speaker who loves engaging with audiences. Come for an eye-opening conversation.

Co-hosted by Temple Israel Portsmouth's Book Group and Sisterhood. Books will be available for purchase (\$18) and signing at the event or through the temple office. For more about Joan and her work, visit [www.joanleegant.com](http://www.joanleegant.com).

Register to attend here <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/book-talk-with-joan-leegant.html>

### Temple Beth Abraham presents A Walk in the Woods

12:00pm - 4:00pm, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Enjoy a multimedia program on the reasons people have taken walks in the wilderness for more than a millennium. Learn about the connections between the health of your spiritual life and physical body with the natural world.

12:30 - Presentation by Ken Wadness, Hiking Director, followed by a spiritual walk  
To register, go to [tbanashua.org/events/walk-in-woods](http://tbanashua.org/events/walk-in-woods)

### Temple Israel Portsmouth Open House

4:00pm - 6:00pm, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
Jewish residents of the Seacoast region who would like to learn more about Temple Israel of Portsmouth are warmly invited to an open house on Sept. 15. The open house, like Temple Israel itself, welcomes members and families of all types and from all backgrounds.

The open house will include information about the synagogue's new voluntary dues model, under which members are free to pledge any amount that is meaningful to them. Attendees will also hear from Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman; meet current Temple Israel members and others new to the community; enjoy food and wine; tour the historic sanctuary and educational and social spaces; and learn about temple programs, activities, and religious services. To receive an invitation with more information about the open house on September 15, complete a short form at <https://bit.ly/TIP-Interest>

## Monday, September 16

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts 3rd Annual Blood Drive IHO Beth Hudson

12:00pm - 5:00pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
Three years ago, Etz Hayim held its first blood drive to honor one of its members, Beth Hudson, who

suffered a near fatal motorcycle accident in June of 2017. Beth would not have survived without the 64 units of blood that she received over the course of her recovery. She continues to volunteer for the Red Cross and is organizing this blood drive with Etz Hayim's Chavurat Ezra Committee. You can donate every eight weeks, beginning at age 17 (with parental permission), and we love first time donors of any age - it is (almost) painless, and what a MITZVAH! PLEASE MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT AT RED-CROSS.COM OR 1-800 RED CROSS. If you have any questions, contact Beth at [EtzHayimGiveBlood@gmail.com](mailto:EtzHayimGiveBlood@gmail.com).

### Inside Israel with Ra'anan

1:00pm - 2:30pm, JFNH Community Room in Bedford or on Zoom  
Join Former JFNH Shaliach Ra'anan de Haas to discuss news and hot topics in Israel. Ra'anan will cover everything from politics and the war with Hamas to Euro Vision to the Olympics. Occasionally pertinent articles will be shared in advance, and each session will end with time for questions and discussion.

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

Third Monday of each month (September 16, October 21, Nov 18, Dec 16, etc).

Registration is required <https://forms.gle/qBrySjS7SyLsNwix8>

## Wednesday, September 18

### Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood Fall Rummage Sale

9:00am - 3:00pm, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Come shop Temple Beth Abraham's Sisterhood's Fall Rummage Sale!

We will have merchandise from over 100 families, clothes, toys, books, pet supplies, music, kitchen accessories, linens, purses, and more!

### The Cohen Center - Treblinka: History and Evolution of a Killing Center

12:00pm - 12:45pm, Zoom  
Featuring Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach at the Cohen Center  
Treblinka was a site that encompassed a forced-labor camp (Treblinka I) and, later, a killing center (Treblinka II) in German-occupied Poland during the Holocaust. By the time that the Treblinka killing center was dismantled in 1943, an estimated 925,000 Jews--as well as an unknown number of Poles, Roma, Soviet POWs--had been murdered there. This presentation will set the stage for 2024 Holocaust Memorial Lecture on 9/24 by discussing some basics about Treblinka. After a short presentation about the history of the site, how it compared to other camps that were run by the SS, and the uprising that took place there, there will be time for questions from the audience.

The event is free and open to all; however, you must register to join the webinar. Online registration is available here: [https://keene.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gowqaXpyQ5i3jyt\\_yVZASg#registration](https://keene.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gowqaXpyQ5i3jyt_yVZASg#registration)

## Thursday, September 19

### Temple Israel presents Practice-Based Elul Book Group

6:45pm - 8:00pm, Zoom  
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Free and open to all. Register at <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/elul-book-group-led-by-allison-miller-via-zoom.html> to receive the Zoom link.

## Saturday, September 21

### Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Game Night

7:00pm – 9:00pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
The Etz Hayim Synagogue Sisterhood and Men's Group invites you to join us for game night at Etz Hayim! Bring a game and bring a snack to share.

## Sunday, September 22

### Manchester Chabad presents Guest Speaker: Joseph Telushkin 'Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism'

3:00pm – 5:00pm, Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Manchester

Joseph Telushkin, named by Talk Magazine as one of the 50 best speakers in the United States, is the author of Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History. The most widely selling book on Judaism of the past two decades, Jewish Literacy has been hailed by leading figures in all the major movements of Judaism and is also the standard introductory work for non-Jews wishing to learn about Judaism.

In 2014, Telushkin authored Rebbe: The Life and Teachings of Menachem M. Schneerson, the Most Influential Rabbi in Modern History, which, soon after its publication, became a New York Times' bestseller. Hailed by Ruth Messinger as "an astounding personal biography," and by the Wall Street Journal as "mesmerizing," Rabbi Telushkin was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York and pursued graduate studies in history at Columbia University. He resides in New York City with his wife, Dvora Menashe Telushkin, and lectures throughout the United States. For the lecture and light refreshments, please RSVP at [ChabadofNH.com/telushkin](http://ChabadofNH.com/telushkin)

### Heshbon Hanefesh with Rabba Kaya and Reb Beni

5:00pm – 7:00pm, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
In the Temple Israel, Portsmouth Social Hall, Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and rabbinic intern Reb Beni

Summers will lead a practical and contemplative program on heshbon hanefesh: preparing oneself for entering the High Holidays.

## Tuesday, September 24

### Cohen Centers 2024 Holocaust Memorial Lecture

6:00pm – 7:00pm, In person at Keene State College or via Livestream

Join the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College for our annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture. This free event is open to everyone, but registration is required.

"From Treblinka and Trawniki: Forensic Archaeological Investigations at Sites of Nazi Persecution" featuring Dr. Caroline Sturdy Colls

Lecture Description: The crimes perpetrated at Treblinka death camp are well documented by historians. However, despite its notoriety, investigations of the physical evidence connected to the camp and those who encountered it have historically been limited. Similarly, its wider landscape, comprising a labor camp, execution and work sites, has been poorly understood. In this lecture, Professor Caroline Sturdy Colls will demonstrate how forensic archaeological approaches have revealed new information about the mechanisms of mass murder at Treblinka and how new understandings of the fates and experiences of the victims have emerged from the analysis of the material traces that they left behind. Professor Sturdy Colls will also discuss how her work at Treblinka led her to investigate the camp at Trawniki, where the "foot soldiers" who assisted the SS were trained. Speaker Bio: Professor Caroline Sturdy Colls's pioneering research focuses on the application of inter-

disciplinary approaches to the investigation of Holocaust landscapes. She conducted the first forensic archaeological investigations at Treblinka Extermination and Labour Camps, the results of which will be presented in her forthcoming book, Finding Treblinka. She is also the author of several other books including Holocaust Archaeologies: Approaches and Future Directions (2015), the Handbook on Missing Persons (2016) and Adolf Island: The Nazi Occupation of Alderney (2022).

This year's Holocaust Memorial Lecture is part of a 2024-2025 series on "Forensics and Genocide" being offered by the Cohen Center. Doors will open for registered guests beginning at 5:30pm. Please note that photography and videography are prohibited at this event. If you would like to make a gift to support this lecture or other Center offerings, please visit: <https://giving.keene.edu/cchgs/>

Registration for in-person seating will open on 8/14 and will close on 9/16 (or sooner if seats fill up). Alternatively, you may register to join us via livestream. Registration will be available on the Cohen Center's website at: <https://www.keene.edu/academics/cchgs/>

If you have any questions, please contact [cohencenter@keene.edu](mailto:cohencenter@keene.edu). We look forward to seeing you in person or online for this fascinating lecture! Learn more at: <https://www.keene.edu/news/events/detail/18646/>

## Wednesday, September 25

### Etz Hayim Synagogue holds CRASE Training

6:00pm – 7:00pm, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
One of the new realities of our times is that active

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## 2023-24 Campaign Honor Roll

Due to an error found in the 2023/24 Honor Roll that was included in our Annual Report, an updated listing can be found here.

### Thank You, Donors!

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire would like to thank those community members who gave of themselves, whether financially or by volunteering (or both), to continue our community's tradition of tzedakah. We honor our 2023/24 Federation donors and volunteers for caring about their fellow Jews, and for recognizing that they are part of our larger Jewish family.

*\*This list should not be used for the purpose of calculating tax deductions. Please contact the JFNH office for accurate tax information. Gifts Received by June 30, 2024*

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*continued from page 6*

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## How a Sacred Object Became a Window into History: Lessons from Our Memorial Scroll Trust Torah

By Steven Bachner, Thomas Cochran, David Hoffer, and Paul Etkind

Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, in conjunction with Hillel at Dartmouth, is home to a Memorial Scroll Trust (MST) Torah. While we use our Torah in lifecycle events (most often b'nai mitzvah) we use what we have learned about the Torah's history to teach area school students about the Holocaust and the role of religion, religious learning, and religious practice in our collective resilience.

For those unfamiliar with the MST, we must go back to the 1930s and the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. As part of their attempted destruction of the Jewish population, the Nazis collected the Torahs and other items of Judaica from across the country and stored them in a Czech warehouse under unmanaged environmental conditions. The intentions of this pillage are not clear, even though the Nazis were obsessive recordkeepers of their actions and the reasons behind such actions. The scrolls sat in storage until the 1960s, when Czechoslovakia, short of funds, offered the 1,564 Torahs to the highest bidder. A British philanthropist offered a winning bid of \$30,000. He and partners incorporated the non-profit Memorial Scrolls Trust (<https://memorialscrollstrust.org>) in 1964. Its purpose was to house and preserve these scrolls. They brought the scrolls, most of which were in poor condition, to London and placed them into a carefully managed environment for storage. The MST began offering the Torahs for use to any congregation. To date, MST has placed

almost 1300 scrolls in congregations around the world. Our scroll (MST #1397) came to Hanover, NH in 1998.

In 2017, several congregants expressed interest in researching the history of the scroll and restoring it for use. We engaged a sofer to assess what would be needed so the Torah could be used in rituals. We began learning more about the origin and history of the scroll. Using the MST website, we traced Scroll #1397 back to Prague, CZ and then to its apparent origin in Breclav (Moravia) CZ. Details of the scroll indicated that it would not have been written before 1850. The scroll had two silver bands with the names Samuel Kunstler and Moses Bitner and the date 1868. A review of a book by Hugo Gold ("The History of Moravian Jewry") identified Mr. Kunstler and Mr. Bitner as being from the town of Breclav. We assumed they or their families had sponsored the creation of this Torah. The date 1868 is probably when the scroll was gifted to the congregation in Breclav.

The scroll's restoration was completed in 2018. We held a rededication ceremony, which also noted the 20th anniversary of the Roth Center for Jewish Life being opened on the Dartmouth campus and the 150th anniversary of the completion of the scroll. We began using this Torah for ritual purposes, particularly for life cycle events, to underscore "L'dor va dor" (from generation to generation). It also underscores the centrality of the Torah to Jewish communities ["I have given you precise teaching. Forsake not my Torah." (Psalms 132:8-10) and "It is a Tree of Life to those who cling to it" (Proverbs 4:2)].

Schools in the Upper Valley of NH

and VT have frequently asked UVJC if we can provide lessons about the Holocaust and antisemitism. We decided the scroll could be used as a teaching tool for such requests. Members of our Scroll Committee (Thomas Cochran, David Hoffer, Steven Bachner and Rabbi Mark Melamut) take the scroll to those schools. For many of the students, this is their first encounter with a Torah, so there is some explanation of what a Torah is, its significance for ritual and learning, and what it means to the Jewish community. Tables in the classroom are arranged so the Torah can be unrolled so students can see details of the handwritten texts, the parchment panels, and the care with which the Torah is handled.

The speakers then focus on what we can learn about the Holocaust through what we have learned about the history of MST 1397. This scroll is a form of portal through time in which we see the attempt to destroy the Jewish people,

Jewish religion, Jewish culture, and the intellectual riches derived from these. Students get to ask questions specific to the scroll as well as generally to the time of the Third Reich.

Today, with rising levels of antisemitism and increasing Holocaust denial, these are lessons that should not remain confined to Jewish communities. As we rapidly lose our most powerful teaching resources about the Holocaust (the direct survivors), the UVJC has recognized that MST 1397 is also a Holocaust survivor. It has a similar message of attempted destruction of an entire people, our survival, and the power and importance of community resiliency.

This sacred object thus becomes an "object of history." In the process of this transformation, our congregants have also become historians as we continue to study and try to see, listen, learn, and teach to others more about what this Torah continues to teach us.

### Calendar

continued from page 5

shooter drills are now part of school curriculum and an important aspect of houses of worship life. Recent events have necessitated concerns. Captain Vernon Thomas of the Derry Police Department will conduct a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (C.R.A.S.E) Training at Etz Hayim Synagogue in person. The CRASE course is designed and built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend strategy developed by Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT). This training provides strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

This talk is about an hour long, includes time for Questions and Answers, and is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD at [President@Etzhayim.org](mailto:President@Etzhayim.org) or call 603-895-6120.

### Thursday, September 26

#### Manchester Chapter Hadassah

6:30pm – 8:00pm, 1400 Front St - Hospitality Room, Manchester  
Open chapter meeting.  
Join us in hearing Hadassah news, good conversation and a light nosh.

### Sunday, September 29

#### Temple Israel Reverse Tashlich Beach Clean Up

9:30am – 12:00pm, Jenness State Beach, Rye  
Temple Israel Portsmouth's Tikkun Olam Committee offers a "Reverse Tashlich" activity to close our Elul programs. Join the Global Jewish Waterfront Cleanup as we adapt the ancient Jewish tradition of tashlich to tackle the modern global issue of pollution. We will meet at Jenness State Beach in Rye, NH, for coffee and donuts at 9:30 am, followed by beach cleanup from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. All are welcome!

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## Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: Community Havdalah on Lake Winnepesaukee

On Saturday, August 3rd, Temple B'nai Israel (TBI) and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH) joined together for the Jewish community to celebrate the end of Shabbat in true Lakes Region style while cruising on Lake Winnepesaukee. TBI's Rabbi Jan Katz and Cantorial Soloist Melody Funk led the recitation of the Havdalah ceremony with close to 60 people on board the Winnepesaukee Spirit who came to celebrate this sacred Jewish ritual amidst the natural beauty of the big lake.

Mother nature provided a perfect summer evening with a beautiful pink sunset behind scattered clouds. The lake was calm as the Winnepesaukee Spirit cruised from the shore of Weirs Beach around islands, inlets, and coves. The warm breeze wafted the scents of the Havdalah spices, besamim, throughout the air bringing an awareness of the unique and special experience to all.

Rabbi Jan Katz shared her insights into the significance of the ceremony: "Havdalah (literally: distinction or separation) marks the end of Shabbat and the beginning of the next work week. The rituals of sipping wine, smelling sweet

spices, and creating shadows in the light of a multi-wicked candle are all designed to draw our attention to the vast gulf between Shabbat, the sacred day of rest that is a foretaste of the World to Come, and the rest of the week. Havdalah is a way to isolate, observe and appreciate the uniqueness inherent in every creation. The taste of sweet wine, the aroma of the spices, and many lights of the Havdalah candle remind us yet again that we are all equal in our uniqueness."

To accommodate the vessel's safety regulations, the customary three-wick Havdalah candle was creatively replaced with three battery-operated tapers. To experience the fragrant element of Havdalah, Rabbi Katz prepared individual bags with an orange and whole cloves for each attendee. The evening was enhanced by the melodic tunes of the 60s and 70s performed by TBI member John McArthur along with food and beverage to nurture both body and spirit.

Temple B'nai Israel gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the JFNH which made it possible to expand enrollment to the entire New Hampshire Jewish community.



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## “Double the Mitzvah, Double The Fun” Bread and Torah Workshop: Hands-on Experiences of Jewish Traditions

By Lucy Goodhart with Melissa Potter

On July 19, the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation welcomed Rabbi Linda Motzkin—*soferet*, parchment maker, and scribal artist—and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, who led a workshop on how to make Torah scrolls and challah.

Twelve baker/Torah maker students gathered around three large bowls to make different flavors of challah; a plain, a raisin challah and a whole wheat challah (for the latter, some of the dough was dyed with unsweetened chocolate so that the braided challah came out with one darker strand). We had a delicious plain challah with poppy seeds on top for the kiddush afterwards.

The challah making was relaxed and accessible—this was not French nouvelle cuisine!—but we got taught in a practical way how to roll out the challah and how to know when the dough was done. It should not stick to your hand when you pick it up, but it should feel sticky if you push your fingers into it. And, when you roll it out, you should dust a little flour on your fingers, but not directly on the dough. That will give you a moister bread. We also had hands-on training in how to braid a six-braid loaf, using an approach called “move the wing to the middle and then replace the wing.” If we can't remember this, Rabbi Jonathan, who leads the braiding, has videos on challah braiding at the Bread and Torah website: [breadandtorah.org](http://breadandtorah.org).

While our dough rose, we discussed



Rabbi Linda Motzkin's role as a Torah scribe. This was no dry lecture on calligraphy. Rabbi Motzkin explained to us that, in 2006, she was one of the first six women in the world to learn to be a *soferet*—a female Torah scribe. As of today, there are only 13 women in the world who have written all or part of a Torah scroll.

Women have not, until the 21st century, become Torah scribes because the traditional interpretation of our texts does not permit women to write Torah scrolls. For that reason, Rabbi Motzkin could not buy scribal materials from a traditional scribal supply shop.

Rabbi Motzkin explained how she came to be accepted as a student of scribing and brought amazing richness to our consideration of Torah by describing how she obtains her materials. Because she could not obtain parchment through the traditional channels, she decided to create her own. Parchment is the skin of kosher animals, appropriately treated and sanctified. Rabbi Motzkin detailed how she transforms a deer hide into parchment, by repeatedly soaking,



stretching and sanding. Because Rabbi Jonathan and Motzkin live in Saratoga Springs, NY, surrounded by an active hunter community, she was able to obtain turkey feathers (for quills) and deer skins from hunters who would otherwise just throw them away.

Rabbi Motzkin is creating her Torah as a community-centered project. After giving us the background to her Torah and what it means to be a *soferet*, she showed the group two sections of her Torah that had already been written out and proofed three times. To connect them, under her supervision, we used an awl to punch nine

holes in the parchments, stitch them together using a needle and sinew (not thread), then reinforce the seam with tabs.

This exercise was shared by everyone present, and it gave us a new insight into the Torah: a sacred object built from material that is very durable, historic and flexible. It comes to us from a living being, whose hide is then worked on by many, many different people using skills that have come down through generations.

We all signed a book indicating what each of us did to support the creation of this Torah, joining Rabbi Motzkin's record of every person who has been involved. She also took photos of each person doing their part. So far, over 4300 people worldwide have participated in this project.

The Bread and Torah Workshop at BHC was funded in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

## Judaism Is About Love: Four Rabbis in Conversation

Thursday, September 5, 7:00 pm, via Zoom.

Please join us as Rabbi Shai Held, Rabbi Robin Nafshi, Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett, and Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman discuss the themes of Rabbi Held's new book, *Judaism is About Love*, within the context of the month of Elul. Named by *Newsweek* as one of the 50 most influ-





ential rabbis in America, Rabbi Shai Held is a philosopher, theologian, author, and scholar.

Co-sponsored by Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord, and Temple Israel, Portsmouth. This event is free and open to all. Register via the Temple Israel website calendar to receive the Zoom link.



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

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

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

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

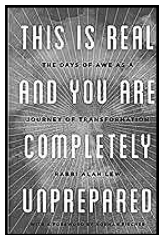



## Practice-Based Elul Book Group at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Temple Israel Portsmouth congregant, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, and Yoga Instructor Allison Miller will lead a three-session workshop via Zoom. Meetings will be August 29, September 12, and September 19, 6:45pm - 8:00 pm. Free and open to all. Register via the Temple Israel website calendar to receive the Zoom link.



While many observe the High Holy Days annually, there may be a sense that its meaning and direct relevance to our lives is elusive. Rabbi Alan Lew elucidates “the unseen depths” of our High Holiday traditions, bringing forth



bringing forth

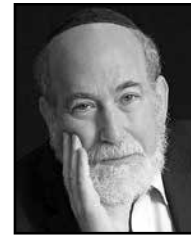
their “deepest existential wisdom” in his now-classic book, *This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared*.

Through Torah texts, Jewish fables, stories from his own life, and Buddhist parables, Rabbi Lew helps us understand the purpose in this annual passage that has the potential to leave us deeply enriched and even transformed.

In preparation for the High Holy Days, please join us in a practice-oriented reading group where we will discuss Rabbi Lew’s book and practice short, guided meditations to help us integrate what we are discovering. Prompts for journaling in between sessions will be offered. Together we can deepen our experience of the upcoming holidays so that something new is awakened, bringing us into deeper connection with ourselves and one another.

## Award-Winning Author Joseph Telushkin to Speak in New Hampshire

Joseph Telushkin, named by *Talk Magazine* as one of the 50 best speakers in the United States, is the author of *Jewish Literacy: The Most Important Things to Know About the Jewish Religion, Its People and Its History*. The most widely selling



book on Judaism of the past two decades, *Jewish Literacy* has been hailed by leading figures in all the major movements of Judaism, and is also a standard introductory work for non-Jews wishing to learn about Judaism. In 2014, Telushkin authored *Rebbe: The Life and Teachings of Menachem M. Schneerson, the Most Influential Rabbi in Modern History*, which, soon after its publication, became a *New York Times*’ bestseller, and

was hailed by Ruth Messinger as “an astounding personal biography,” and by *The Wall Street Journal* as “mesmerizing.”

Rabbi Telushkin was ordained at Yeshiva University in New York, and he pursued graduate studies in history at

Columbia University. He resides in New York City with his wife, Dvora Menashe Telushkin, and lectures throughout the United States.

Telushkin will be a guest speaker on September 22nd at 3pm at the Chabad Center for Jewish Living in Manchester, NH, lecturing on the timely topic of “Why the Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism.” For the lecture and light refreshments, please RSVP at [ChabadofNH.com/telushkin](http://ChabadofNH.com/telushkin)

## Temple Israel Portsmouth Hosts Open House, Launches Voluntary Dues Model

Jewish residents of the Seacoast region who would like to learn more about Temple Israel of Portsmouth are warmly invited to an open house on Sept. 15. The open house, like Temple Israel itself, welcomes members and families of all types and from all backgrounds.

The open house will include information about the synagogue’s new voluntary dues model, under which members are free to pledge any amount that is meaningful to them. Attendees will also hear from Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman; meet current Temple Israel members and others new to the community; enjoy food and wine; tour the historic sanctuary and educational and social spaces; and learn about temple programs, activities, and religious services.

Under the new dues model, members will not receive a bill for dues based on their family size or makeup. Instead, they will be asked to set their own level of support, taking into consideration their level of commitment, their financial means, and the annual cost per person to operate the synagogue. All levels of financial support will be welcomed as expressions of members’ investment in the temple and its many activities supporting Jewish life in the Seacoast. One reason Temple leaders pursued the new dues model is the idea that during this difficult time, many

Jews feel more than ever the need to feel part of a Jewish community where they live. The new dues policy makes it easier for more people to affiliate with a congregation and be together.

Temple Israel, located in downtown Portsmouth, was established as a congregation in 1910 and is the first permanent Jewish house of worship in New Hampshire. Temple Israel is an egalitarian congregation affiliated with United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. Led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman since 2020, Temple Israel offers opportunities for Shabbat prayer, holiday and life-cycle celebrations, social action, and many types of adult and family learning and engagement. The synagogue also offers a thriving religious school for grades K-7 and a Montessori-style preschool.

To receive an invitation with more information about the open house on September 15, sign up to receive weekly emails about Temple Israel’s weekly programs and services, or request information about the preschool, religious school, or temple membership, complete a short form at <https://bit.ly/TIP-Interest>. Information is also available by emailing [membership@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:membership@templeisraelnh.org), calling 603-436-5301, or visiting [www.templeisraelnh.org](http://www.templeisraelnh.org).

## Antisemitism: What is it? What can we do about it?

By Paul Etkind, UVJC

The Israel Affairs Committee of Kol Ha’Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community (UVJC), hosted Professor Susannah Heschel, the Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Jewish Studies Program at Dartmouth College, on June 30 to discuss our understanding of antisemitism. The following is a survey of her major points.

Professor Heschel got our attention from the beginning of her talk when she stated that antisemitism is the greatest success of the Nazis. They developed a plan and mechanism for routinely suppressing and eliminating Jewish life in the world. More than ever before in history, antisemitism has become the most successful ideology in the world. Professor Heschel asked, “How might we be able to understand antisemitism?” It is difficult to develop a coherent explanation because it is composed of many arguments. Antisemitic values and beliefs can stem from many sources, including but not necessarily limited to history, politics, social status, and religion. She described some of the scholarship on antisemitism and argued that major issues have yet to be addressed by historians. Analyses of anti-Black racism, she said, were far more sophisticated than analyses of antisemitism. In particular, she argued that present-day antisemitism has a sadistic nature, and she pointed to some responses to October 7th as an example: Some professors who said they

felt “exhilarated” by the horrific Hamas attacks on Israelis were expressing a “sadistic antisemitism” that requires particular attention because sadism is never satisfied but constantly demands cruelty.

**History:** Although the term “antisemitism” did not exist until the 1870s, it is easy to look through history to identify antisemitic behaviors and campaigns. We can trace threats and violence against our forebears back to the Book of Genesis, with the story of Jacob and Esau’s “reconciliation.” While hugging Jacob during their reunion, Esau, who is understood in Jewish thought as a symbol for Rome and for Christianity, kissed Jacob on the neck. Through the centuries, rabbis have labelled this as “the Kiss of Deception,” not a kiss but a bite. They have viewed it as evidence that Esau – that is, the Gentile world - will forever hate Jacob, the Jewish people, with the inference it is the Jews’ fate to be hated eternally.

Antisemitism more commonly occurs during times of political and social upheaval and displacement. Jews were frequently blamed for social disruptions like plagues, or pogroms were encouraged to divert attention any time a scapegoat was needed. Professor Heschel called attention to the cruelty of pogroms and argued that scholars must consider not only the murder, physical wounding, and destruction of property, but also pay attention to the rape of Jewish women, often by neighbors. She spoke about the impact of a po-

*Antisemitism continued on page 25*

# In the Community

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

By Randi Gelfman

Dear friends,

Some of you may know that I have kidney disease. Over time, my kidney disease has gotten worse, causing my kidneys not to work well enough to keep me alive. My treatment options at this time are limited to dialysis or a kidney transplant. I have been on dialysis for some time now, 3 days a week for 4 hours each day, which is helping my kidneys do their job of removing wastes, toxins, and extra fluids. But the longer you are on dialysis the more your

health deteriorates.

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

Finding a kidney is not easy. People who are on a wait list for a kidney from a deceased donor often have to wait 5-10 years and the kidney only lasts on average

10-20 years. But the average wait list for a living kidney donor is shorter, and the kidney typically lasts 20-30 years. It also has much better function.

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

In order to express your interest in becoming my kidney donor, you can fill out the form at this link: <https://mmc.donorscreen.org/register/nov>. Upon sub-

mission, the Maine Transplant Program will be in touch with you. To learn more about kidney donation, you can go to the National Kidney Foundation's website: [www.kidney.org/livingdonation](http://www.kidney.org/livingdonation).

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. A major way you can help me is to share it with your friends and family. A second option is to share it on social media.

With much appreciation,  
Randi Gelfman  
P.O. Box 178  
Parsonsfield, Maine 04047

## New Hampshire Jewish Festival Unites Community in Celebration of Jewish Life and Culture

The New Hampshire Jewish Festival, held on July 21st at the Jewish Community Center in Newington, was a tremendous success, drawing close to 500 attendees. This year's festival was a vibrant celebration of Jewish life, culture, and community unity, making it a standout event in the region.

The festival began with an opening speech by Rabbi Berel Slavaticki, who set a joyful and unifying tone for the day. "In unity, there is power; in togetherness, there is resilience. No amount of hate or

division can ever break the bond we share," Rabbi Slavaticki remarked, highlighting the festival's mission of bringing the community together.

The event featured a variety of performances that captivated the audience. Billboard-charting artist and rabbi Moshe Reuven, Israeli singer Noam Agami, and the renowned Klezmer Conservatory Band provided lively music that had everyone dancing and singing along. Their performances were a testament to the rich cultural heritage being celebrated.

Food was another highlight, with attendees enjoying delicious offerings from "The Brooklyn Cafe," including traditional Jewish dishes like falafel. The aroma of the food and the festive atmosphere created a sense of warmth and camaraderie among all who attended.

A significant part of the festival was the Unity Art Project, where participants contributed to a large communal canvas by painting hearts, stars, and other symbols. This collective artwork became a powerful visual representa-

tion of the festival's theme: the strength and beauty of the Jewish community when united.

Distinguished guests, including Portsmouth Mayor Deaglan McEachern, UNH President Elizabeth Chilton, and former NH Senate President Chuck Morse, along with many other officials, added to the significance of the event. They shared inspiring words, participated in the Unity Art Project, and expressed their support for the Jewish community in these challenging times.



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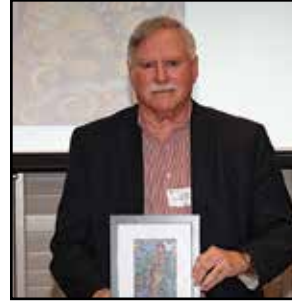
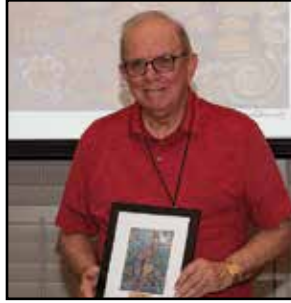
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# Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting  
continued from page 1



## AN EVENING WITH MANDY PATINKIN & KATHRYN GRODY

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# High Holidays

## New Hampshire High Holidays Service Guide 2024

### Service Times by Synagogue

**Note from the Editor:** Due to the timing of the High Holidays this year, we will be printing these times in both the September and October issues. The Reporter had to acquire these times much further in advance than usual, so please check times in the upcoming October issue if you do not see your synagogue listed here.

#### Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Manchester

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 7:00pm  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 10:00am  
**Tashlich:** 10/3 at 5:30pm (State Park, Manchester NH)  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 10:00am  
**Kol Nidre:** 6:00pm  
**Yom Kippur Morning Service:** 10:00am  
**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service:** 4:45pm  
**Ne'ilah:** 5:45pm  
**Yizkor:** 10/12 at 12:30pm  
**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** In-Person only  
**Additional Information:** ChabadofNH.com/services

#### Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 7:00pm  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 9:00am  
**Tashlich:** 10/3 at 4:00pm (Ashuelot Park in Keene)  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 9:00am  
**Kol Nidre:** 6:00pm  
**Yom Kippur Morning Service:** 9:00am  
**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service:** 4:45pm  
**Ne'ilah:** 6:00pm  
**Erev Sukkot:** 7:00pm  
**Family Sukkot Service:** 10/18 at 6:00pm  
**Simchat Torah:** 10/22 at 6:00pm  
**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** Hybrid  
**Additional Services:**

- Selichot: 9/28 at 7:30pm
- Yizkor: 10/12 at 1:00pm
- Guided Meditation: 10/12 at 4:00pm

**Additional Information:** www.keenesynagogue.org

#### Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 7:15pm  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 9:30am  
**Tashlich:** 1pm (Hood Pond Park, 4 Rollins Street, Derry, NH)  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 9:30am  
**Kol Nidre:** 7:15pm  
**Yom Kippur Morning Service:** 9:30am  
**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service:** 4:00pm  
**Ne'ilah:** 4:00pm  
**Additional Services:**

- Selichot/Shabbat: 9/28 at 9:30am
- Rosh Hashanah Family Service: 10/3 at 11:00am
- Yom Kippur Family Service: 10/12 at 11:00am
- Simchat Torah: 10/5 at 7:15pm

**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** Hybrid  
**Additional Information:** Contact the office (603) 432-0004

#### Kol Ha'Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community, Hanover

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 6:30pm (at Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College)  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 9:00am (Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College)  
**Tashlich:** 3:00pm  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 9:00am (Roth Center)

**Kol Nidre:** 6:00pm (Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College)  
**Yom Kippur:** 9:00am (Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College)  
**Sukkot:** 10:00am  
**Shemini Atzeret:** 10/24 at 10:00am  
**Simchat Torah:** 10/25 at 10:00am  
**Musical Shabbat:** 10/25 at 6:00pm  
**Additional Services:**

- Rosh Hashanah Family Service: 10/3 at 10:00am at Hanover's Storrs Pond, Byrne Pavillion
- Tot Service: 10/3 at 10:00am
- Yom Kippur Family Service: 10/12 at 10:00am
- Tot Service: 10/12 at 10:00am

**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** Hybrid  
**Additional Information:** www.uvjc.org

#### Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 8:00pm  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 10:00am  
**Tashlich:** 10/3 at 4:00pm (Dorr's Pond)  
**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 10:00am  
**Kol Nidre:** 8:00pm  
**Yom Kippur Morning Service:** 10:00am  
**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service:** 4:00pm  
**Ne'ilah:** 5:30pm  
**Erev Sukkot:** 7:00pm  
**Family Sukkot Service:** 10/18 at 6:00pm  
**Simchat Torah:** 10/22 at 6:00pm  
**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** Hybrid  
**Additional Services:**

- High Holy Day Warm Up Service: 9/27 at 7:00pm
- Children's Rosh Hashanah Service: 10/3 at 3:00pm
- Children's Yom Kippur Service: 10/12 at 2:00pm
- Yizkor Service: Yom Kippur at 5:00pm

**Additional Information:** office@taynh.org

#### Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua

For most up-to-date schedule, check [tbanashua.org](http://tbanashua.org).

##### Rosh Hashanah Day 1

- Wednesday, 10/2/24, 8:00:9:00 pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah I Service
- Thursday 10/3/24, 9:00 am:1:00 pm: Rosh Hashanah Traditional Service
- Thursday 10/3/24, 9:45 am:11:00 am: Rosh Hashanah Family Service
- Thursday 10/3/24 11:00 am: Shofar blowing for all ages, followed by Rabbi Jon's sermon
- Thursday 10/3/24, 11:30 am:1:00 pm: New Year reflection through song and conversation
- Thursday 10/3/24, 1:30 pm: Community Tashlich at Nashua River

##### Rosh Hashanah Day 2

- Thursday, 10/3/24, 7:30pm:8:00 pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah II Service
- Friday 10/4/24, 9:00 am:1:00 pm: Rosh Hashanah Sanctuary Service
- Friday 10/4/24, 9:45 am:11:00 am: Rosh Hashanah Family Service
- Friday 10/4/24, 11:00 am: Shofar blowing for all ages, followed by Rabbi Jon's sermon
- Friday 10/4/24, 11:30 am: 1:00 pm: New Year reflection through song and conversation
- Friday 10/4/24, 4:00 pm: Family Tashlich at Mine Falls Park

##### Yom Kippur

- Friday 10/11/24, 5:45 pm: 7:30 pm: Kol Nidrei Evening Service
- Saturday 10/12/24,, 9:00 am: 1:45pm: Yom Kippur Sanctuary Service
- Saturday 10/12/24,, 9:45 am: 11:00 am: Yom Kippur Family Service
- Saturday 10/12/24, 11:15 am: Rabbi Jon's sermon
- Saturday 10/12/24, 11:30 am: Yizkor memorial service
- Saturday 10/12/24, 12:00: 1:15 pm: Reflection through song and conversation
- Saturday 10/12/24, 3:30 pm: Jonah program

continued on page 17

# High Holidays

## High Holidays Service Guide

continued from page 16

- Saturday 10/12/24, 4:45 pm: Minchah
- Saturday 10/12/24, 6:00 pm: Neilah
- Saturday 10/12/24, 7:00 pm: Havdalah and Break Fast

### Temple B'Nai Israel, Laconia

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 7:30pm

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 10:00am

**Tashlich:** 1:00pm

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 10:00am

**Kol Nidre:** 7:30pm

**Yom Kippur Morning Service:** 10:00am

**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service:** 4:45pm

**Ne'ilah:** 5:00pm

**Simchat Torah:** 11/1 at 7:30pm

**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** Hybrid

**Additional Information:** Non-members must register to attend HHD services. No charge to attend. [www.tbinh.org](http://www.tbinh.org)

### Temple Israel Portsmouth

**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service:** 7:00pm

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 1st Day:** 9:00am

**Tashlich:** 1:15pm (Prescott Park, Portsmouth; also 3:30 pm, Boat Launch, Exeter and 3:30 pm Henry Law Park, Dover)

**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, 2nd Day:** 9:00am

**Kol Nidre:** 5:30pm

**Yom Kippur Morning Service:** 9:00am

**Yom Kippur Afternoon Service:** 4:30pm

**Ne'ilah:** 5:45pm

**Erev Sukkot:** 6:00pm

**Shemini Atzeret:** 10/24 at 10:00am


**Simchat Torah:** 10/24 at 6:00pm

**Additional Services:**

- Kever Avot, Banfield Road Cemetery, Portsmouth: 9/22 at 10am
- Kever Avot, Pine Hill Cemetery, Dover: 9/22 at 11:30am
- Kever Avot, Forest Glade Cemetery, Somersworth: 9/22 at 1:00pm
- Community Break-Fast, 10/12/2024, 7:00 pm
- Tot Story Time, 10/2/2024, time TBA
- Tot Story Time, 10/12/2024, time TBA
- Youth Service, 10/2/2024, time TBA
- Youth Service, 10/3/2024, time TBA
- Youth Service, 10/12/2024, time TBA
- Teen program, 10/3/2024, time TBA
- Teen program, 10/11/2024, time TBA
- Teen program, 10/12/2024, time TBA
- Potluck Shabbes Tisch at Strawberry Banke Sukkah, register via website calendar: 10/18 at 5:30pm
- Kiddush in the Temple Israel Sukkah after services: 10/19 at 12:00pm

**In-Person, Virtual, or Hybrid:** Hybrid. Sanctuary services available via Zoom; no Zoom component for outdoor services.


**Additional Information:** Registration required for High Holiday services. Babysitting available. All sanctuary services available via Zoom. <https://www.templeisraelnh.org/pray/holidays/high-holidays-2024/>




**We Need You**

## Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

Do you have a favorite PJ Our Way book? Something you just couldn't put down or that you think **EVERYONE** should read? **Tell us all about it!** Send your reviews to [Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org) or email for details & question prompts. **We'll publish your review in upcoming issues of The Reporter and on Facebook!**



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

## Don't know whom to turn to? JFNH can help.

JFNH's consulting social worker can provide support, referral, follow-up services, and resources to you and your family.

- Food and shelter
- Unemployment
- Medical and drug costs
- Spousal, parental, or child abuse
- Drug or alcohol addiction
- Mental health
- Children with learning, physical, and/or emotional disabilities
- Senior care/dementia
- Legal aid, incarceration, police matters



Don't let your problems simmer until they boil over. Call the JFNH social worker at **603-310-9941**.

All calls and assistance are confidential.

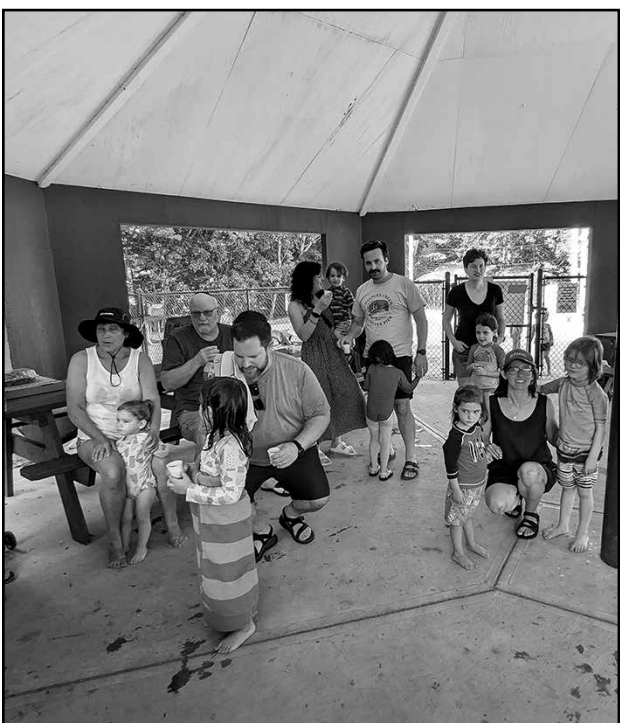
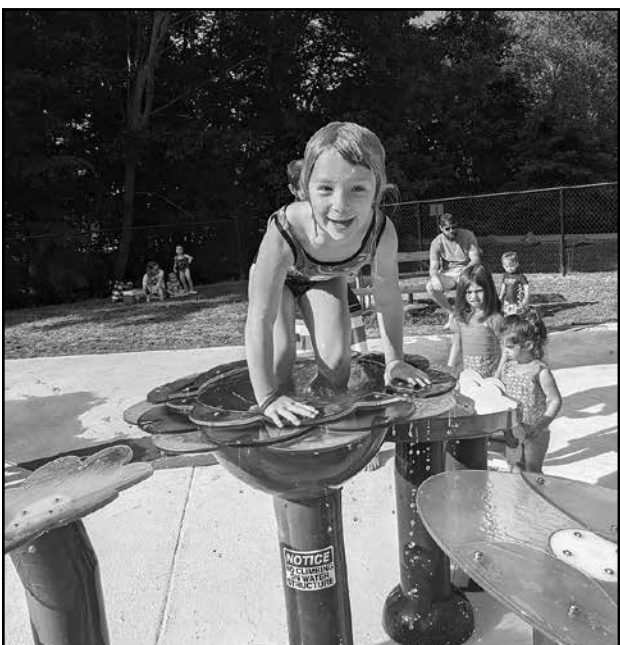
**Jewish Federation**  
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# In the Community

## PJ Library at Newmarket's Aqua Land Splash Pad and Shabbat



Hot summer days are perfect for cooling off. On July 19, PJ Library came to Newmarket's Aqua Land Splash Pad and celebrated Shabbat on the seacoast with cold water and popsicles.



# WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE ISRAEL



## WITH RA'ANAN DE HAAS

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

Monthly on the 3rd Monday  
1pm - 2:30pm  
HYBRID: JFNH office  
273 S River Rd. Bedford  
and via Zoom

Free program.  
Scan QR code to register.  
Email  
[dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:dinah.berch@jewishnh.org)  
with questions.



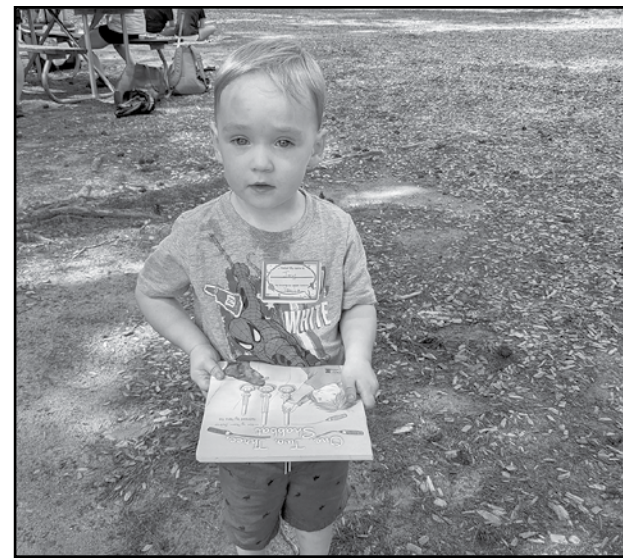
Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

# In the Community

## PJ Library Celebrates Popsicles at the Playground at Wheelock Park in Keene



On July 14, PJ Library teamed with Congregation Ahavas Achim to celebrate Popsicles at the Playground at Wheelock Park in Keene, NH.



Keeping you connected

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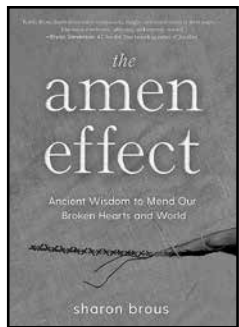
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Books for the High Holiday Season

As we come to the end of another summer that went by a little too quickly, the High Holidays are just around the bend. We look forward to large gatherings of fellow Jewish congregants joining us in synagogue for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The room will be crowded, the seats all filled and the sound of us all joining in prayer together magical. The group amen at the end of the Rabbi and Cantor chanting the prayers is always a wonderful sound to hear.

*The Amen Effect*, a book written by Rabbi Sharon Brous talks about exactly that feeling as the swell of voices fills the sanctuary with song and the final amen. The book talks about the simple idea of showing up. That in the Jewish religion we need to pray with a minyan, ten people, is the idea that you can not live life in isolation. That is how the book starts with the first chapter called, "Show Up." In this chapter the message is to show up for the celebration and show up for the



heartache. Not only do we all look forward to the party, but we also know we need to be there for the shiva. But even if you are not feeling ready for the party, showing up will change your demeanor and you will feel the love around you and your mood will improve.

Using rabbinic teachings, Rabbi Brous shows how each person's life is important. That like Rabbi Shai Held said in his book, *Judaism is About Love*, we are commanded to love the stranger. Brous interprets the story of Adam to teach us that if his life had ended there would have been no descendants. The world would have been lost, thus we learn from the rabbis, "That to destroy one person is as if we have destroyed the world, and to save a single life is as if that person has saved an entire world."

Finally in the chapter titled "Practice," the ways we can step forward and be present in the moment and make a small difference. A final message along with many ways to start the process: "Don't wait for the galvanizing event to take on a spiritual practice." Take action, transform inspiration into action, live in a meaningful and fulfilling way every day.

The author, Rabbi Sharon Brous is the founding and senior rabbi at IKAR,

a trailblazing Jewish community based in Los Angeles, California. A leading voice at the intersection of faith and justice in America, she has been named the # 1 most influential rabbi in the United States.

Meanwhile, let's also take a look at two novels to enjoy for a little relationship advice. First up is *Magical Meet Cute*, the newest literary work from the imagination of Jean Meltzer who is making a name for herself as a great Jewish Romance writer. This time the plot follows Faye, a Jewish pottery shop owner in Woodstock, NY. She is single again and looking for love. One night she creates her ideal clay man, inscribing all the attributes she would love in a man. After burying him in the garden she meets a man and cannot decide if he is the golem that came to life or just the perfect man for her. An entertaining story about finding love and not letting that dream escape.



Then, for someone looking for love

later in life, *The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern*, written by Lynda Cohen Loigman. As a young girl, Augusta falls in love with the delivery boy, Irving Rivkin, in her father's New York pharmacy. She plans to study to become a pharmacist in her own right. But she is also intrigued by the more unconventional remedies practiced by her Great Aunt Esther. Without an explanation, Irving marries another girl and disappears off to Chicago, breaking Augusta's heart. Now, she finds herself face to face with Irving at the retirement village she moves into after finally retiring at the age 80. Is it too late to find true love? Does she want to find out what really happened all those years ago? Can she possibly forgive Irving? This is a fun novel that reminds us that love is possible at any age and second chances are always worth working for.



Lynda Cohen Loigman is the author of *The Matchmaker's Gift*, *The Wartime Sisters*, and *The Two-Family House*.

Jewish author Joan Leegant tours NH synagogues for new book: 'Displaced Persons'

Jewish author Joan Leegant tours NH synagogues for new book: 'Displaced Persons'



**Temple Israel Portsmouth:**  
Sunday, September 15, 10:30 am, Temple Israel Portsmouth Social Hall

Hear the winner of the PEN/New England Book Award, the Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction, and Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award discuss her new story collection, *Displaced Persons*, that shines a light on Israeli and American Jewish life, especially relevant in these highly fraught times. Joan Leegant is a gifted speaker who loves engaging with audiences. Come for an eye-opening conversation.

Co-hosted by Temple Israel Portsmouth's Book Group and Sisterhood. Register via the temple website calendar. Books will be available for purchase

(\$18) and signing at the event or through the temple office. For more about Joan and her work, visit [www.joanleegant.com](http://www.joanleegant.com).

**Temple Beth Abraham:**  
Saturday, October 26 at Temple Beth Abraham

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 26 for a special appearance by Joan Leegant, the award-winning Boston author whose new collection of Jewish short stories, *Displaced Persons*, won the New American Fiction Prize.

Joan will speak after Shabbat services at Temple Beth Abraham (TBA) in Nashua on Israel's uneasy multi-culture: it's not just the Ashkenazim and Sephardim anymore—and never was. Who is Israel today? They're Filipino caretakers, Thai farmworkers, African refugees and asylum seekers, along with Druze,

Bedouins, Russians, Arabs, and Jews from across the Middle East, all of whom have also been affected by the current war. Who are they and how are (or aren't) they part of Israeli life?

*Displaced Persons* won the national New American Fiction Prize, chosen out of 500+ submissions. Also, *Hadasah Magazine* selected *Displaced Persons* for their One Book, One Hadassah program, one of six books each year they highlight for their 250,000 readers and book clubs across the country.

Joan's first book, *An Hour in Paradise*, won the PEN/New England Book Award, the Wallant Award for Jewish Fiction, and was a Finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. Her second,

*Wherever You Go*, was named a "Significant Jewish Book" by the Union for Reform Judaism.

Formerly a lawyer, Joan taught at Harvard for eight years and was the Visiting Writer at Bar-Ilan University outside Tel Aviv for five years where she also lectured at schools across Israel on American literature and culture under the auspices of the U.S. State Department.

This event is open to all. Please see [tbanashua.org](http://tbanashua.org) for more info on all our events. Discounted books will be available in advance for purchase in the TBA gift shop. (The gift shop is closed on Shabbat.) For more about Joan and her work, visit [www.joanleegant.com](http://www.joanleegant.com)

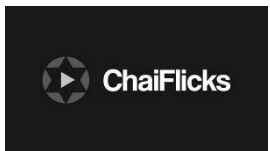
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Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

Movie Review: ‘Mish Mish,’ or ‘Tomorrow When The Apricots Bloom’

One perk of the streaming service Chai Flicks, which I’ve now reviewed numerous times for *The Reporter*, is discovering unique movies that you may otherwise not find elsewhere. In approaching the deadline for this month, I decided one



afternoon to peruse Chai Flicks for the first time in a while. A documentary film struck me immediately so after reading the brief synopsis, I chose to watch it. While the title displayed on the streaming service is simply *Mish Mish*, the opening credits revealed a more anglicized title that translates as *Tomorrow When The Apricots Bloom*. The film was released in 2019 but likely filmed over a period of many years. They discuss in the movie that the Arabic saying, “*Bukra fil Mish-Mish*” roughly translates to apricots blooming or in a satirical sense, pigs flying.

*Mish Mish* is the story of the three Frenkel brothers, Ashkenazi Jews who arrived in Egypt by way of a brief stop in modern Tel Aviv in 1914. The film recounts how they and their family assimilated into Egyptian culture over time alongside numerous other Jews from both Ashkenazic and Sephardic backgrounds. If that history of dispersion seems interesting to you as it did to me, the intrigue gets even better when we learn that the Frenkels pioneered animated films in Egypt in the early 1930s. That’s where the movie’s title comes into play as they created the first Arab cartoon character named Mish Mish Efendi, whose Arabic moniker relates to the aforementioned title.



All of this is detailed for the audience in the film’s first minutes as Shlomo Frenkel’s son Didier unearths old movie reels and diary entries in the basement of his mother’s home in France decades later. Diving into his father and uncles’ past, which he knows little about, Didier makes it a priority to discover the past and the accomplishments of the Frenkels, who were hailed as the Walt Disney of Egyptian animation.

This unique documentary is a love letter to early cinema, discovery of familial heritage and background, and intersection of numerous cultures all in one. The fascinating mix makes for a truly one-of-a-kind story. It does leave you with some questions, many of which are answered throughout the project but others that are not. Since the scope is so broad, it is easy to see why there are parts unanswered. Even still, what you

do learn is quite the history lesson.

As I mentioned already, apparently Egypt had quite the Jewish population in the early 20th century until the State of Israel was founded in 1948, at which time many Jews felt unsafe given the escalating war. What I was wondering, from early on in the movie, was why so many of the ads for *Mish Mish* and diary entries from the early 20th century were in French. In researching that, it appears that Egypt was also quite the French speaking country at that time and young children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds learned French over English in many of the schools at that time. This helps explain why the Frenkel brothers often wrote and spoke in French even before relocating to France in the early 1950s. The blend of cultures includes French, Arab, Jewish, and Egyptian components, a reminder that so many from all walks of life lived in harmony in the early days of the Frenkels arriving in Egypt.

Perhaps the best part of this clever piece is the way it dives into the rediscov-

ered films that the Frenkel brothers clearly adored making. In seeing clips of their work, which does mirror early American characters like Mickey Mouse and Betty Boop, it’s clear that they were pioneers for bringing people together over cartoons. It’s also clear that their descendants now have a treasure trove of memories from their ancestral heritage in Egypt thanks to the work of film preservationists in France and around the world.

I do wish there was a bit more exploration into what propelled them to animate films and how the *Mish Mish* series may be holding up today now that it has been restored. The documentary ends up focusing so heavily on unearthing the past, including their efforts to keep working when they arrived in France, that it does not quite scratch the present and future enough in my opinion. But it is still such a unique and amazing story. Catch it on Chai Flicks to learn more about how this Jewish trio gave birth to the first Arab cartoon character and how he has made his way back into the airwaves nearly a century later.

‘Yaniv’ – A Good Bet

By Jacki Katzman

Opening night of the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival (WMJFF) on Thursday, July 18, at Bethlehem’s Colonial Theater was a perfect night: balmy weather, wine and soft drinks on the house, a “bridge club” patio party menu, and a reunion of the WMJFF regulars and guests. Dave and Dorothy Goldstone welcomed the crowd before introducing the guest speakers, *Yaniv* co-writers and producers Amnon Carmi and Ben Ducoff.

“We wanted this year to be lighter, to focus on humor, but when we started looking for films for the festival, we didn’t find many appropriate for the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival,” said festival director David Goldstone. “Until we found *Yaniv*.”

*Yaniv* is a story of good intentions gone bad, a compassionate look at addiction, true atonement and sincere, heartfelt apologies that lead, ultimately, to repaired relationships and a sold-out high school production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.



Carmi took the microphone to tell the story of how he met Ducoff, who stars in the film, on a summer camp tetherball court when they were nine years old. They instantly bonded over their shared talent

for teasing friends without being mean. Growing up in the early years of digital video photography, they recorded hours, and hours (and hours and hours) of video, most of which they claim they have deleted. That ability to be funny without being mean, cynical, snarky, or ironic suffuses their film with a compassionate voice and sensibility as well as the courage to take on difficult themes such as ad-

‘*Yaniv*’ continued on page 24

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

**Monday, September 16 from 12PM to 5PM**  
– The 3rd annual blood drive will be held in Beth's honor at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-112 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Please register at [REDCROSS.COM](http://REDCROSS.COM) or call 1-800 RED CROSS to make your appointment. Join Beth in the ultimate mitzvah – *pikuach nefesh* – saving a soul (or life).



On June 6 at Etz Hayim, Beth Hudson presented her riveting story about her recovery from a near-fatal motorcycle accident. She detailed the accident, and her journey to find a new purpose in life with humor and positivity. Beth's raw and open discussion brought the audience through a wide range of emotions, with some in tears, or gasping, mouths agape, shaking their heads, experiencing nausea, laughing. Through her eyes, we experienced an exhausting and emotional ride. Beth is a true warrior, with a tenacious and positive spirit.

Beth and Jay were returning from a weekend getaway on their motorcycles, having just celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. Under a mile from home, Beth swerved to avoid something in the road and crossed the yellow line and collided head-on with an SUV. The date was June 29, 2017.

Beth was airlifted to Mass General Hospital. The first responders told Jay to kiss his wife for the last time because she

would probably not make it to Boston alive. Her sacrum was broken, her pulse was weak, she was on the verge of cardiac arrest, and had lost so much blood she was in hemorrhagic shock. The surgeons worked on her abdomen for 8 hours, playing what Beth calls "whack-a-mole," fixing numerous bleeds, shutting down each organ for a short time to try to repair the damage, and shoring up her two broken clavicles, pelvis and sacrum. Upon her arrival at Mass General, she developed Compartment Syndrome in her left leg; her left foot and ankle were paralyzed and she had a traumatic brain injury. Despite the heroic efforts by her medical team, the doctors gave her just a 5-10% chance of surviving. One of the doctors on the scene, Dr. David R. King, recorded, "I was involved in the care of this patient. When I

first evaluated her in the emergency department, it was clear that she was dying, and cardiac arrest appeared imminent." She only recently found out there was a daily debate among the doctors and family of whether or not to pull the plug.

But the fighter in Beth soldiered on. She spent the next two months in ICU, with the first month spent in a semi-coma, trached, while undergoing 33 surgeries and receiving 64 units of blood. Each day, her wound care took three hours, three times a day. Despite the diligence of the medical team, Beth developed a Stage 4 infection in her tailbone which she recounted as being more painful than any of her other injuries.

Her recovery continued at Spaulding Long Term Inpatient Rehab Hospital in Cambridge, which she said provided "amazing care." She recounted her grueling daily care regimen of nine hours a day, between OT, PT and dialysis, and had to relearn to walk, dress and speak. She was discharged after seven months to a nursing home for two and a half months. Soon after her discharge, she fell and spent two more weeks at Mass General. Knowing her leg would never improve, she made the tough decision to have it amputated rather than deal with lifelong pain and care. This decision triggered one of the rare times Beth broke down and cried, overwhelmed with grief at the loss of a limb and the

trauma of the past year.

Beth is now seven years out from her accident. An inherent tenacity and natural athletic ability, she now hikes (at a 20-minute pace!), bikes with an adaptive cycle, swims (a mile!) and sit-skis. After a 32-year teaching career, she has channeled this skill to working with amputees and persons with ostomies. She also blogs and writes articles in the hopes of encouraging her peers who are in similar situations.

So grateful for her opportunity to give back, Beth now hosts an annual blood drive for the American Red Cross as a tribute to those who donated the 64 units of blood she received during her recovery.

"In the Jewish sense it's called doing a mitzvah, which means doing a good deed for no recognition," explains Beth. "In my mind, giving blood is the highest form of mitzvah because you do it out of the goodness of your heart. You do it not knowing to whom that blood is going – or what it's for. You do it because you know it's going to help somebody. It's a very selfless act. And to those 64 people who did it for me, I could not be more grateful."

Join us in performing the mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* by donating a unit or platelets in Beth's honor. You can read more about Beth's medical case in the New England Journal of Medicine: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMcp1909619>

## JBI Expands Accessible High Holy Days Programming for People Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

*To Foster Jewish Learning, Reflection, and Connection, JBI to Offer FREE Rosh Hashanah Events, High Holy Day Book Clubs, and Large-Print, Braille, and Audio Children's and Adult Holiday Books, Machzorim, Prayer Books & Calendars*

NEW YORK (August 8, 2024) – JBI, the nonprofit enabling access to Jewish life for individuals who are blind, have visual impairments, or print disabilities, is expanding its programming this year with a slate of free accessible virtual and in-person programs and holiday books and texts in an effort to ensure that anyone with visual or print impairments can fully participate in and feel connected for High Holy Days.

"Access to texts and religious materials are such an important part of participation in Jewish life, and critical for anyone wishing to celebrate Rosh Hashanah or

Yom Kippur," said JBI Executive Director Livia Thompson. "Whether reading from a Machzor in prayer, enjoying a discussion around a thought-provoking book during the preparatory month of Elul, or joining fellow congregants in song at synagogue, Jews rely on written materials to feel connected to their community."

While the nearly century-old organization has always provided accessible books and liturgical materials at no cost to its patrons through its vast circulating library, liturgical catalog, and custom services, it is excited to invite anyone interested in the High Holy Days to take part in its new accessible programming, including virtual book clubs around High Holy Days-themed reads, and two kick-off



events from its Judaism 101 series: "Intro to Rosh Hashanah" with JBI Chief Operating Officer, Rabbi Andrew Goodman (virtual, September 10, 2024), and "Tastes and Sounds of Rosh Hashanah" with chef Lana Flame (in-person, NYC, September 24, 2024).

"JBI is so much more than a place to find accessible materials. It's a community of people actively engaged in Jewish life and learning. It's a welcoming place where anyone interested in any aspect of what we do can participate," said Rabbi Goodman. "Our new Judaism 101 programming is inspired by this inclusive and, frankly, fun, part of what we do. We also have a poetry series, book clubs, a Jewish Voices on Democracy initiative—we're exploring Jewish ideas, history, culture, and

everyone is invited."

As always, JBI's circulating library, liturgical offerings, events, and programs are completely free of charge for its patrons and JBI encourages anyone who is blind, visually impaired, or has a print disability to reach out to JBI to take advantage of its complimentary offerings, resources, and inclusive and engaged community.

**Full list of High Holy Day programs and offerings:**

### Programs

"Intro to Rosh Hashanah (virtual, September 10, 2024): The first of a special three-part Judaism 101 series led by JBI's Rabbi Andrew Goodman for anyone interested in learning more about Jewish life and practice or sharing it with others. Register at <https://jbiblibrary.org/catalog/judaism-101/>.

"Tastes & Sounds of Rosh Hashanah"

*JBI continued on page 25*

# Jewish Journeys

## Lessons From Israel: Heroes, Helpers, and Hope

By Lydia Sarnevit, M. Ed, EMT, NSPI  
OEC Technician

This past February I was part of a Solidarity Mission to Israel with American Friends of Magen David Adom's (AFMDA) to understand the impact of the terrorist attack on October 7th. We met with and heard the stories of survivors and first responders, listening to understand their experience. What I discovered was that there were many heroes, upstanders, and helpers as well as signs of hope, *tikvah* (תקווה).

At Kibbutz Be'eri, the site of a massacre where 110 people lost their lives, we met Amit Shani, who was just 16 years old when he was taken hostage from his father's home on the eastern border of the Gaza Strip. His return is a sign of hope. In the destroyed infirmary was the photo of Magen David Adom (MDA) paramedic Amit Man, who gave her life trying to save others during the attack on Kibbutz Be'eri. Our group tearfully listened to recordings of dispatch calls from children hiding at the kibbutz and the

bravery of the dispatchers whose efforts saved the lives of those children. Our final evening in Jerusalem, we dined with the parents of Adi Vital-Kaploun z"l who lost their daughter, and their grandchildren were taken hostage and later returned. Her husband bravely saved the lives of others on the kibbutz. The grandmother seated next to me held my hand under the table. We comforted each other with this gesture, and with understanding of October 7th and shared hope.

As an American EMT, I had the opportunity to volunteer on shift with an MDA ambulance in Jerusalem. Our crew consisted of Chaya, an EMT in training who had made aliyah from Tennessee, and two experienced paramedics. We responded to numerous emergency calls immediately working as a cohesive team with the common language of pre-hospital emergency medicine. In Israel, the training is some of the best in the world and it shows in the field. The dedication to volunteerism is unlike any I have seen elsewhere. There are important efforts to train civilians in Stop The Bleed, first aid,

and CPR, and some of the fastest response times to emergencies. These are some of the best practices in the world.

MDA plays a crucial role in the safety of the nation of Israel as the only national Emergency Medical Service and Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross. MDA is also responsible for teaching first aid, dispatch, training, all equipment necessary to respond, and providing humanitarian activities in Israel and around the world. They operate 1,500 emergency vehicles, three helicopters, 600 medi-cycles, with over 30,000 highly trained volunteers plus an additional 10% employees of MDA. Perpetuating the efforts to be helpers, 14,000 volunteers are adolescents from 15 to 18 years old. These volunteers complete over a million hours of volunteer service including Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) and terror attacks. After spending a day with a crew in Jerusalem, this is where I found the most hope. Sometimes you just need to go see for yourself.

If you would like to show your support to help save lives, please consider a dona-

tion to MDA: American Friends of Magen David Adom (<https://afmda.org>)

*Lydia Sarnevit is a public school educator, NREMT certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a National Ski Patrol certified ski patroller, an OEC Instructor, and volunteer member of both NH Medical Reserve Corps and DBART. She served with a local volunteer department as an EMT and firefighter, then assumed the role of EMS Captain, as well as working in a clinical setting as an EMT. She has served as the past Director of Education for the Upper Valley Jewish Community located on the campus of Dartmouth College, and the Strategic Planning Coordinator and then Coordinator for the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. Lydia and her children, Andrew, Jacob, and Ziva, live in New Hampshire with their 3 cats Cali, Apollo, and Athena. They are a reverse generation family of first responders, with her son Andrew, who is a full-time firefighter and EMT, being her inspiration for becoming a first responder herself.*



### 'Yaniv'

continued from page 22

diction, school funding cuts, trust within relationships, and redemption.

The film was made during COVID, Carmi explained, with the help of ten of Ducoff's high school students, who received internships paid by the N.Y. Department of Youth and Community Development. The students took on many of the professional roles including those in the art department, hair and makeup, as well as assisting the camera department, holding the boom mic, and more. The same educational agency is now supporting the development of a film-industry

certification program, run by Carmi and Ducoff, for high school graduates who want to go directly into film.

Carmi expressed gratitude to a generous Detroit film producer, whose studio in a decommissioned car factory was put at the team's disposal. The sets, backup production professionals—there were several times when the original crew was down with COVID—and support brought the film forward. Carmi described the studio space that doubled as the casino and the Yaniv club, both central locations for the film.

*(A side note about the Yaniv club, a male-only Orthodox gambling establishment that Carmi and Ducoff jokingly say "may or*

*may not exist" – it is a loving tribute to the film Cabaret, with an emcee telling awful jokes, a male torch singer "all the way from Cleveland," elegant waiters, steaks on the menu, and gambling at the tables.)*

Having shared a bit about the film's origins and sponsors, it was time to play "Yaniv," an Israeli card game. The spirit of competition was infectious as four-somes learned and began to master the game. The stakes were low and the entertainment high as WMJFF players built winning Yaniv hands. Ducoff and Carmi roamed the floor offering rule clarifications and strategy suggestions.

After a half-hour of intense play, the theater doors opened and all entered to

enjoy the film. The evening closed with a question-and-answer session and an opportunity to get some Yaniv swag, including matchboxes that have a secret Shabbat Shalom message at the bottom.

Melissa Potter and Jacki Katzman hosted the patio party with thanks to Sharon Heyman for setup support and to Barry Zitser, our man on bar. Debbi Simon and Jay Johnson represented BHC at the Colonial's popcorn and concessions operations. Special thanks to Susanna Brent, Director of Programming at the Colonial Theater, who is always there with a smile to ensure our events—and the projection booth—run as smoothly as possible.



## Join Hadassah for the Northeast Annual Walk for Israel & Women's Health

By Michele Bank

Please join Hadassah on Zoom for their Lunch N Learn series, as they explore a variety of topics touching on Hadassah priorities, Judaism, and spirituality. This region-wide program runs until March 11, 2025 and will be held monthly on Mondays at 12:30 pm – 1:30pm. The topic for the next program on September 9 is Hatikvah, A Personal Anthem.

Members of the Manchester Hadassah Book Club are reading *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman. There will be a lunch discussion on Thursday, September 12. For more information, contact Helen Arnold at helenarnold@comcast.net. There is a chapter meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 26 at 6:30pm. The address is 1400 Front Street, Manchester.

Save the date of Sunday, September 22 to join the Manchester chapter members who will be participating in the Hadassah Northeast Annual Walk for Israel and Women's Health at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Boston. They will be joining other chapters in the region, Hadassah

Northern New England, Hadassah Southern New England, and the Boston Chapter. You can sign up to walk with members of the Manchester chapter, create your own team, volunteer, or donate. Hadassah membership is not required.

Your company or business can become a sponsor. Whether you choose to walk or not, your sponsor's gift to the walk—advertised to the more than 22,000 women of Hadassah Northeast—will demonstrate your commitment to Hadassah's goal of supporting Israel and improving women's health worldwide.

The goal is to support Hadassah's work in Israel and the US to improve women's health, through breast cancer research, heart health awareness, gender equity in medical research, and advocacy for reproductive rights. Funds raised will also support the continued construction of the Gandel Rehabilitation Center and trauma-related medicine in Israel. Registration for the walk is \$30 per person, children under 12 are free

As reported by Hadassah Medical Organization: Can you treat a rare bladder con-

dition with an asthma drug? Hadassah has. Can we replace the EpiPen? Hadassah's working on it. The latest Hadassah On Call episode features Dr. Yuval Tal, director of the Allergy and Clinical Immunology Unit at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, sharing the latest advancements and research in clinical immunology.

Advances in MS Stem Cell Trial: The next phase of clinical trials to harness the power of stem cells to stop multiple sclerosis (MS) in its tracks is in the works. According to an article in Rare Disease Advisor, Prof. Dimitrios Karussis, head of the Hadassah Medical Organization's Multiple Sclerosis Center, announced the results of a double-blind phase 2 study of 48 patients with secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS), observing "pronounced beneficial effect" among patients receiving stem cells. The novel concept of injecting the stem cells directly into the spinal fluid is aimed at getting the cells to circulate to the various damaged areas of the central nervous system. Phase 2b, which has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administra-

tion, will now involve a total of 80 patients with SPMS. "If we manage to get similar effects as with the previous trial, it will not only be a gamechanger for MS but will open the window to a new era of regenerative medicine for other diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's," said Prof. Karussis.

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah contribute to the success of the medical care and research at Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). Let us keep Hadassah strong. If you are not a member of Hadassah, please consider joining us. Annual membership to Hadassah is only \$36 and lifetime membership is \$250. Membership entitles you to many benefits, including attendance at the above zoom program, as well as other engaging, and learning opportunities. Members can sign up for all programming at the website, Hadassah.org. Here, you will discover many articles to read, videos to watch and podcasts to listen to. For additional information, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com.

### Antisemitism

continued from page 12

grom on Jewish emotions and on the bodily senses, noting that a pogrom brought horrific sounds, smells, and sights.

**Politics:** Some have posited that Zionism depends on the threats and pressures exerted by antisemitism. Such pressures have prompted many Jews to have closer relationships within the Jewish community. David ben Gurion wrote that the greatest challenge for Zionism is a happy diaspora. Denying Jews' national loyalties (Dreyfus; unfounded threats from "globalists") and charges that Zionism is a vehicle for colonialization are often political "codes" for antisemitic assertions.

**Social Status:** Business, financial, professional and social success of Jews in their adopted countries fuel suspicions and rumors of a displacement of the traditional power structure by a minority population whose interests and loyalties were questionable.

**Religion:** What are the religious roots of antisemitism? Historically, Christianity (and to a lesser extent Islam) wanted Jews to convert. The fact that Jews consistently chose to remain a distinct population caused rage and frustration. It was often a no-win situation for the Jews because, even if they converted, they still were not accepted into their new community. Religious choices are more emotional and complex than different people not accepting the majority's religious beliefs.

Professor Heschel ended the lecture by speculating on what we can do about it. Addressing antisemitism will require scholars studying it to improve our understanding of such behaviors and beliefs. Why is antisemitism so appealing to so many people? Why are its beliefs so tenacious? Why is it so deeply rooted? Are there strategies for preventing or blunting these beliefs and behaviors?

Professor Heschel closed her talk by saying the October 7 attack on Israel has unleashed global waves of demonstrations, safety threats, and violence, against Jews. This has shaken American Jews' sense of American Exceptionalism. In our case, we had believed we were safe from such behaviors in America, because "it can't happen here." What should we do to move forward? We know what is antisemitic when we see or hear it. We know less about its many underpinnings.

The audience was disheartened by the message we need a greater understanding of antisemitism's roots to develop better ideas and strategies to help us respond more effectively and how to be proactive in preventing antisemitism's spread. This was evident in the tone and content of post-lecture questions. But Professor Heschel managed to turn this around with her responses. She left us with a message that it is very important that we continue to respond to and denounce antisemitic speech and actions so those engaged in such realize they cannot hide their hate behind

"code" words and facile rationalizations. Until we know enough to do more than respond, it is essential that we do not lose hope and give in to despair. As Jews, we

### JB

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(in-person, NYC, September 25, 2024): An in-person gathering led by chef Lana Flame celebrating the beginning of the Jewish year with joy and sweetness. Drinks and treats provided! Register at <https://jbilibrary.org/catalog/judaism-101/>.

Book Clubs: Offered in both English and Russian, JBI book groups are open to new members and will be discussing texts related to the High Holy Days this fall. Sign up directly at <https://jbilibrary.org/catalog/book-club/> or email JBI librarians at [library@jbilibrary.org](mailto:library@jbilibrary.org) to sign up.

#### Accessible Materials in Large Print, Braille, and Audio

In addition to these special programs, JBI continues to offer its patrons access to an ever-expanding circulating library, liturgical texts, and customized materials in braille, large-print, and audio formats that are delivered at no-cost. A few examples relevant to the High Holy Days are below and a full list at <https://jbilibrary.org/>.

#### For adults:

"Days of Awe" by S.Y. Agnon (midrash and fiction)

"The Voice of Sarah" by Tamar Frankiel (nonfiction)

are taught that losing hope challenges our ability to recognize the wonders of G-d's creations and marvels. That would be a truly tragic situation.

"Mishkan HaLev: Prayers for S'lichot and the Month of Elul" (braille)

JBI Jewish Reference Calendar (braille and large print)

#### For children:

"Apples Apples All Year Round" by Barbara Bletz and June Sobel

"The Shofar That Lost its Voice" by David Fass

For more information on JBI's inclusive High Holy Days offerings or other work for those who are visually impaired, blind, or print-disabled, please contact [library@jbilibrary.org](mailto:library@jbilibrary.org).

#### About JBI

JBI, established in 1931 as The Jewish Braille Institute, is a nonprofit organization that enables people of all ages and backgrounds who are blind, have low vision, or are print disabled to connect to and participate fully in Jewish cultural, literary, educational, religious, and communal life. JBI creates, publishes, and distributes thousands of Jewish-interest materials in audio, braille, and large print, and sends them free of charge directly to patrons' doorsteps. Through its vast circulating library, liturgical texts, customized materials, and cultural offerings, JBI continues to innovate and empower communities and encourage a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. To learn more, visit: [www.jbilibrary.org](http://www.jbilibrary.org)



## JFNH Tributes

Received by August 10, 2024

### Campaign

With love and congratulations to Rhoda Sakowitz on her Shem Tov award!

In recognition of Carol Pressman's well deserved Shem Tov Award from Temple Israel Manchester, NH. – Jeff Klein and Michelle Rosenthal

In honor of Leslie Aronson – Deborah and Richard Lutsk

In honor of Larry Brenner – Marc Gilman

Mazel Tov to our Martha Tomanelli on her well-deserved Shem Tov Award – Laurie and Ted Medrek

In memory of Phoebe Ann Wofchuck – Julia and Ido Preis

Mazel Tov to all the Shem Tov Awardees. Especially Temple Israel's Carol Pressman – Robert and Carol Sternberg

May the JFNH continue to go from strength to strength. And warmest congratulations to our dear and deserving Rhoda Sakowitz, a pillar of Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation. – Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum

Congratulations to all the Shem Tov winners – Michel Adler

In honor of my husband's Shem Tov Award – Barbara Shepler

In honor of TBJ's honorees, Karen and Seth Aframe – Gary and Carol Sobelson

### Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

In honor of Norm and Andy Kushner for your 50th wedding anniversary and your grandson's Bar Mitzvah – Marc Rubenson

### How to submit an obituary

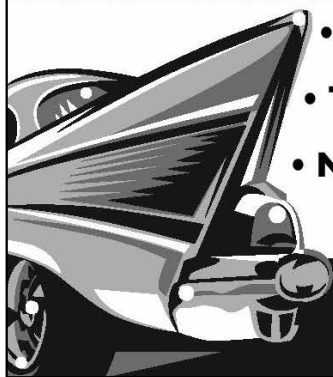
The Reporter publishes obituaries for any member of the community, past or present, for a \$36 fee. Please send obituaries and one photo, if desired, as a separate jpg attachment to thereporter@jewishnh.org or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

### Simchas

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

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

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All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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2023 was a significant year for the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH). Our path changed dramatically after October 7th as we responded, supported and lobbied for our community. It was perhaps the perfect launchpad for our planned Strategic Plan which kicked off in November. Hundreds of community members across our entire state contributed to this process lead by an outside consultant and a dedicated JFNH committee.

Now that our plan is completed, it is much like a sturdy tree, with the Federation serving as the roots, firmly supporting Jewish life in New Hampshire. The key priorities of our plan form the branches, each one representing a vital aspect of our mission to foster a vibrant and resilient Jewish community.

We now ask you to help us in bringing this vision to life. Your support of our annual campaign is crucial as we embark on implementing the results of this significant initiative. Together, we can nurture the growth of our community and ensure a **thriving Jewish future for New Hampshire**.

Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity.

## Strategic Plan Key Themes



### Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Mission Statement

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is a statewide organization that connects and engages the wider Jewish community of New Hampshire through meaningful local, regional, and statewide activities. JFNH advocates for the interests of the Jewish community locally and in Israel, raises and allocates resources to enable a thriving and safe Jewish New Hampshire, and partners with the state's synagogues to enhance and expand Jewish life throughout the state.

#### Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

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#### 2024/25 Campaign Gift

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