THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish Reporter

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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Fall & Giving

The Gifts That Help Us Grow

Erik Martin
JFNH Executive Director



November in New Hampshire invites us to gather a little closer. The leaves have turned, the days are shorter, and conversations turn toward family gatherings and Thanksgiving plans. It is a season that encourages us to take stock of what we have and who makes our lives richer. For me, that reflection always leads back to community: the people who show up, the traditions we share, and the many acts of generosity that make Jewish life in our state possible.

In Jewish tradition, gratitude and giving belong together. Recognizing our blessings calls us to consider how we can help others experience them, too. Through *tzedakah*, we accept a responsibility to care for one another and help build a community where everyone has a place. At JFNH, that responsibility takes many forms, from supporting families and strengthening partnerships with synagogues to helping people find meaningful connections to Jewish life. Each gift is an expression of confidence in what we can accomplish together.

One of the most beautiful examples of that connection begins with something wonderfully simple: a book. Through PJ Library, children receive Jewish books that invite families to explore holidays, traditions, values, and stories together. A book arriving in the mail can become a bedtime ritual, spark a question around the dinner table, or introduce a child to a tradition that will stay with them for years. Those everyday moments give families opportunities to discover what being Jewish means in their own homes and in their own lives.

Some of my happiest memories from when my two daughters were little are of reading their newest PJ Library books together. We eagerly awaited their arrival in our mailbox each month and often read them over and over again at bedtime. I'd like to think that was because they loved the stories—and not *just* because they wanted to stay awake a little longer! I also believe those stories helped nurture their love of being Jewish and contributed to the proud, confident young Jewish women they are today.

Here in New Hampshire, where Jewish families may live far from one another or from a synagogue, those connections carry particular meaning. JFNH's PJ Library program helps bring families together through gatherings, shared experiences, and relationships that can grow over time. For a parent looking for other Jewish families or a child discovering that other children celebrate the same holidays, a welcoming community can make a lasting difference. Under Dinah Berch's thoughtful leadership, this work helps families find both a point of entry and a sense of belonging.

This Giving Tuesday, on **December 1**, I invite you to support JFNH's PJ Library program. Your generosity helps sustain the local work that turns stories into shared experiences and introductions into friendships. Whether your own children once eagerly opened their PJ Library envelopes, your grandchildren enjoy these books today, or you simply believe in investing in the next generation, this is an opportunity to help Jewish life

The Gifts *continued on pages 3*

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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
jewishnh.org

The Real Value of PJ Library

Dinah Berch
JFNH Program Coordinator



Once upon a time I wanted to be an author. I was fascinated by the power and magic of words, by the way letters could evoke feeling and a good sentence could persuade. I wanted to understand that magic, to immerse myself in it. I yearned for the power to make readers feel what I felt.

Turns out the depth of one's soul is hard to put into words and harder still for others to relate to. Hectic mornings where there isn't nearly enough coffee and we're drowning in clean but unfolded laundry? Now *that's* relatable. Struggling to get your kids to eat, arguing over what "synagogue appropriate" shoes are, feeling completely overwhelmed about how to afford summer camp or which one to even choose? Yep, we're all there. So much for our best intentions. Parenting is hard. Also, we've lost the tzedakah box.

My monthly *Reporter* articles have become a combination of stress relief, an attempt to be useful, and a personal account of my life and challenges as a Jewish working parent. Professionally, it's my job to say, "Here are the PJ Library resources," and "Here's what's worked for my family as we try our best to parent Jewishly," and "Here's what I wish I had ten years ago—maybe it'll help someone else."

It's not a difficult job; PJ Library really does have the books, the activities, the podcasts, the music playlists, the videos, the resources—everything I need. But if I did have the full power of words and the magic to make people understand, there's something I really would like to convey.

PJ Library is worth every penny—and here in New Hampshire, the books are only part of the story. Jewish Federation of New Hampshire subsidizes PJ Library subscriptions and supports staff, partnerships, and programming that connect families to Jewish life across our state. If you want to help sustain and strengthen PJ Library in New Hampshire, please support the program through JFNH this #GivingTuesday.

Why? Because you've heard the spiel, seen the flyers, and maybe even tested the

Carry Forward *continued on page 3*

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter
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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION
Rabbi Hazzan Jeremy Lipton - Summer & High Holidays
39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(802) 284-8890
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
Weekly services from July through Simchat Torah with Zoom services and Torah study from November to June. Please check our website for service times and event information.

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB
Rabbi Robin Nafshi
67 Broadway, Concord
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 228-8581
www.tbjconcord.org
office@tbjconcord.org
Services: Friday night - 7:00 PM
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

DERRY

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

HANOVER

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

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM
Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Nondenominational/Unaffiliated
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org
office@keenesynagogue.org
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7:00 PM
Weekly Shabbat Torah study at 9:30 AM.
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM.
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM.
All services are in-person and online.
Check the website for schedule changes and Zoom links.

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL
Rabbi Andy Bachman
210 Court Street, Laconia
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 524-7044
www.tbinh.org
info@tbinh.org
Services: Every other Friday night at 7:30 PM

MANCHESTER

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN
Cantor Harriet Dunkerley
152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 669-5650
www.taynh.org
office@taynh.org
Services: Shabbat services the first Friday of the month at 6:00 PM
All other Friday nights at 7:00 PM with some exceptions.
Torah Study on Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM on Zoom

TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER
Rabbi Rafi Kantor, interim
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative Affiliated USCJ
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org
Shabbat Services: Every month we offer one Friday night Shabbat with a catered community dinner (rsvp required), and two Saturday Shabbat services followed by a light kiddush (no rsvp necessary).
Every Wednesday, we offer a 7:00 AM in-person morning minyan and a 6:30 PM Torah study via Zoom. Please check our website www.templeisraelmht.org, call our office at (603) 622-6171 or email office@templeisraelmht.org for information on specific service dates and times.

NASHUA

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

NEWINGTON

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

NORTH CONWAY

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

PORTSMOUTH

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

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

Volume 47, Number 3

NOVEMBER 2026
Cheshvan - Kislev 5787

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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 July issues. All items, including calendar events, for the December-January or June-July newspaper must be submitted by Nov. 10 or May 10, respectively.

Please send all materials to: thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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

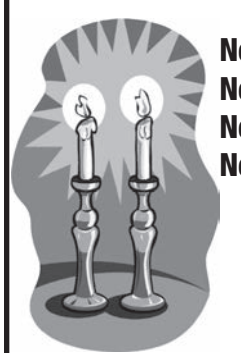
Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut please consult your rabbi.

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

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times:

(Manchester)



November 6	**4:13 PM**
November 13	**4:06 PM**
November 20	**4:00 PM**
November 27	**3:56 PM**

PJ Library

continued from page 1

QR codes. But the real value of Jewish family engagement is what happens when families walk through the door. That's the part of the *tzedakah* story I really want to tell.

Because a family raising their children Jewishly in Pittsburg, NH, without close relatives or a nearby Jewish community, can receive free, age-appropriate books delivered to their door through a PJ Library subscription subsidized by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

Because families in Keene came together to sing, learn about Noah's Ark, and bless their pets when PJ Library partnered with the congregation to help both synagogue-affiliated and unaffiliated families feel welcome.

Because a new grandparent in Hooksett, NH, can receive a free "grandparent bag" filled with resources and stories to read to their grandchild, delivered by a volunteer connector.

Because neighbors who learned about PJ Library Get Together Grants through JFNH can use one to welcome a new family to the area with an invitation to Shabbos dinner or coffee—and the 411 on being Jewish in New Hampshire.

Because grownups with small children can enjoy services at their synagogue while their toddlers explore quiet puzzles and fidgets from the *Busy Corner for Little Jews*—an initiative by PJ Library New Hampshire in partnership with synagogues.

Because young teens read a PJ Our Way book together and learned to make rugelach with support from JFNH staff and area synagogues.

Because friends came together to learn about summer camp, immigration, or *tzedakah* at a program near them. Their synagogue or community partnered with PJ Library to create something special, bringing multiple generations, members and non-members, and Jewish, Jew-ish, and Jewish-plus families together in one space.

And because when the world turns bleak, parents can find resources to help them talk to their children about hard things, like war and antisemitism, knowing that PJ Library and JFNH have their backs.

This is the real value of PJ Library—Jewish family engagement, for all ages. The words, the resources, the books, the magic. All the ways we help one another turn best intentions into meaning, connection, and a place in Jewish life.

Talk about *tzedakah* with your kids, grandkids and friends this month. Then make PJ Library your tzedakah story. Support PJ Library in New Hampshire this #GivingTuesday with a donation to jewishnh.org/give2pjnh.

(Update: toddler has located the tzedakah box in the laundry. Everyone is very excited. We'll be redistributing those funds shortly.)

The Gifts

continued from page 1

flourish across New Hampshire. Every contribution helps us continue creating opportunities for families to learn, celebrate, and connect.

Giving also teaches by example. When children see the adults around them contribute to their community, they begin to understand that they have something to offer, too. A conversation about helping others, an invitation to welcome a new family, or a small gift chosen together can make generosity part of a family's everyday life. The values explored in a favorite story become even more meaningful when children see them practiced by the people they love.

As we gather this fall, I hope we will each consider what we want to pass on: stories, traditions, kindness, and the knowledge that we belong to a community that cares. I am grateful to everyone who gives their time, energy, and resources to JFNH, and to the families who help make PJ Library such a joyful part of our work. Please join me in supporting PJ Library this Giving Tuesday. Together, we can help the next generation grow up with Jewish stories in their hands and a welcoming community around them.

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

An Advisor You Can Trust



Contact us for a complimentary consultation:
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investwithcohen.com

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Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

Sunday, November 1

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

Wednesday, November 4

Addressing Hunger in Israel
7:00 PM, Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center, 2299 Woodbury Avenue, Newington, NH
Join us for a presentation by Gilad Skolnick, American Friends of Leket Israel, followed by Q&A and refreshments. Leket is Israel's national food bank. It rescues food that would otherwise go to waste and distributes that food to those in need via a network of local nonprofits. Contact: rwe@unh.edu

Saturday, November 7

Beyond Broken Glass: A Gendered Perspective on the November Pogrom
5:30 PM, Mabel Brown Room at Keene State College, or via Livestream
Keene State College is honored to host Prof. Marion Kaplan to deliver the keynote lecture for the inaugural New England Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies. In her lecture, entitled "Beyond Broken Glass: A Gendered Perspective on the November Pogrom," Kaplan will offer an overview of Nazi policy toward Jews in the years leading up to the November Pogrom (commonly known as Kristallnacht), approached from a social history perspective that focuses on events at the grassroots level. Her talk also adopts a gendered lens, exploring how men and women experienced the antisemitic onslaught in both similar and different ways. Contact: coheninstitute@keene.edu

Sunday, November 8

Shavua Tov Story Time: Shabbat
8:30 PM, Available via Zoom
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5
Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for $18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to the JFNH office at info@jewishnh.org.
The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.
Please email the JFNH office at info@jewishnh.org with questions.



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

SFY: Fiddler On The Roof at Palace Theatre
1:45 PM, The Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH
Seniors! Join us on Sunday, November 8, 2026, for a performance of "Fiddler On The Roof" at The Palace Theatre in Manchester, followed by an optional dinner.

- Meet at The Palace Theatre at 1:45 pm. Show starts at 2pm and runs till approximately 4:30pm. Following the performance, join us for an optional dinner (cost not included) a short walk from the theatre.
- Tickets: $40/pp. Please register by October 18th to ensure seats are together.

Sponsor: Seniors Forever Young. Contact: Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Sigd is Monday, November 9

Thursday, November 12

Schmooze and Brews with Jews
5:30 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, 84 Hastings Avenue, Keene, NH
Join us for these after-hours to get together at a location in Keene. Casually hang out to Schmooze with Jews over Brews! No registration is required. Just check out our website to see where the current meet up location will be and just show up. Go to www.keenesynagogue.org for more up to date information or contact Daniela Yitzchak at 603-352-6747 or at office@keenesynagogue.org.

Sunday, November 15

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

Campapalooza – Fall 2026
2:00 PM, Location Sent After Registration
Beat the winter doldrums with a taste of Jewish summer camp—indoors! Campapalooza is where families meet the people who make camp magic happen, connect with a vital part of Jewish life in our state, get answers about camp options and affordability, and enjoy a hands-on, high-energy camp experience — come for the info, the fun, or both.
Activities to include:

- Bounce House
- Gaga Ball
- Arts & Crafts
- Camp Games
- Temporary Tattoos
- Friendship Bracelets
- Kosher S'Mores
- And Lots More!

FREE event | Registration Requested Contact Dinah at JFNH - dinah.berch@jewishnh.org - with questions. Sponsor: Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

Saturday, November 21

Pajamas & Passports: A Journey Somewhere Out There
4:00 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH
Grab your pajamas and join us for a special celebration of the 40th anniversary of the 1986 movie "An American Tail"! This family program explores themes of immigration, family, travel, and finding home through an evening of hands-on activities, Havdalah, food, and Fievel's unforgettable journey.
As families arrive, kids will receive their own passport and travel around the room, completing activities and collecting passport stickers along the way. They can dress up for an old-fashioned photo, pack a suitcase with treasures for their journey, visit "Customs" to make a special b'samim spice box, and send a real postcard to someone they love.
As families arrive, kids will receive their own passport and travel around the room, completing activities and collecting passport stickers along the way. They can dress up for an old-fashioned photo, pack a suitcase with treasures for their journey, visit "Customs" to make a special b'samim spice box, and send a real postcard to someone they love.
Optional: Bring a favorite stuffie or cozy blanket for the movie.
Unsure if this movie is right for your child? Read the Parents' Guide on Commonsensemedia.org. It's ok to come for part of the program and see how it goes! Movie is rated 'G' and runs 81mins.
FREE partnership program of PJ Library New Hampshire, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Temple Adath Yeshurun, and the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. Email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.

Sunday, November 22

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

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26

Sunday, November 29

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

Chanukah begins Friday, December 4

Fridge Flyer
2026-2027

Shavua Tov Story Time

A program for families with children ages 2-5

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

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

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

PJ Library®

Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Visit https://bit.ly/shavuatov26 to register
or email PJ Library Program Coordinator Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.

Are You a Jewish Grandparent?

Grandparents can play a very special role in all aspects of their grandchildren's lives by sharing our Jewish stories, heritage, and traditions. We are looking for grandparents who want to connect – to enjoy social time together as well as to share ideas and support each other in our Jewish grandparenting. If you are interested in connecting with us, please reach out to Corri at corriwilson@comcast.net.

We are also excited to announce that Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is a partner organization participating with Jewish Grandparents Network in the 2nd Annual Learning Fest: A Virtual Gathering for Grandparents this January. We hope you will take advantage of our partner discount and join us for this online gathering for grandparents, with practical sessions, small-group meetups, and recordings for every registrant.

Event Details: Learning Fest 2027: A Virtual Gathering for Grandparents

On Wednesday, January 20, 2027, 4:00–6:30 pm ET, join grandparents from around the world online for Learning Fest 2027, presented by the Jewish Grandparents Network. From 3:45-4:00 is a pre-session with music and recognition of partners so join in early if you can.



Hear from a keynote panel **"How Grandparents Can Inspire, Nurture, and Model Jewish Belonging: The Delicate Dance Between the Generations"** with Rabbi Samuel Klein and Dr. Wendy Mogel, moderated by Julie Platt, choose from seven practical sessions, connect with other grandparents in small-group meetups, and receive recordings of all sessions afterward. Explore topics including staying close to teen grandchildren, long-distance grandparenting, Jewish rituals, multifaith and mixed-heritage families, play and at-home activities, and a dedicated session for grandfathers. Register using the link below and enter code **JEWISHNH** to receive 15% off. https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/learningfest-2027/



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Remembering October 7: New Hampshire Communities Gather for *October Shadows*

More than 120 people gathered across Manchester and Portsmouth on October 7 for two community screenings of *October Shadows*, presented by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Marking three years since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks on Israel, the events offered an opportunity to remember, reflect, and come together in community.

The anniversary carried profound significance. October 7 was the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust, leaving families devastated and reshaping life in Israel and Jewish communities around the world. Three years later, the responsibility to remember remains urgent, not only to preserve the history of what happened, but to recognize the people whose lives were lost and those whose lives were forever changed.

Through the personal stories presented in *October Shadows,* attendees were invited to consider the human impact of that day and its aftermath. Film can bring a different dimension to remembrance, moving beyond headlines to create space for sustained attention to individual experiences. On an anniversary marked by grief and difficult questions, the screenings provided a shared starting point for reflection and conversation.

Clergy from the local communities attended, underscoring the importance of communal leadership and solidarity in moments of remembrance. Their presence, alongside community members from across the two locations, reflected the value of gathering together to acknowledge loss and support one another. Holding commemorations in both Manchester and Portsmouth also made it possible for more people to participate close to home.

Each screening was followed by a facilitated discussion. JFNH Executive Director Erik Martin led the conversation in Portsmouth, while JFNH Shaliach Elad Ahrehoni facilitated the Manchester discussion. These conversations extended the evening beyond viewing the film, giving participants an opportunity to reflect on its themes and consider the continuing impact of October 7 on Israeli society and Jewish life.





A WMUR news crew covered the Portsmouth event, bringing local media attention to the commemoration. That coverage offered an opportunity for the wider New Hampshire community to see how its Jewish neighbors were marking the anniversary and why the date continues to carry such deep meaning.

The gatherings reflected a central purpose of JFNH's work: helping people find connection through shared experiences, particularly when the subject is painful or difficult. Remembering October 7 requires both attention to the past and care for those living with its consequences today. Coming together creates room for both.

As photographs from Manchester and Portsmouth capture moments from the evening, they also document a community choosing to be present. Three years after October 7, remembrance remains a shared responsibility. Through these screenings and discussions, participants honored that responsibility together with compassion, reflection, and a commitment to sustaining Jewish community.

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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNED GIVING
Secure the future of our Jewish community

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

ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

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

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

WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

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

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

Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Sign Up Now: Taglit Birthright Voluntourism to Israel with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

Sign-ups are happening now for the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Taglit Birthright Voluntourism trip to Israel, **March 14-24, 2027**. We invite all members of New Hampshire's Jewish communities to join us on this once-in-a-lifetime experience that combines meaningful service, cultural immersion, and personal connection to the Jewish homeland. **Meetings for interested participants will take place in November.**

Sign up now, meet in November. Registration is open today. This November, the Federation will hold meetings where interested community members can learn more about the trip, ask questions, and talk through the itinerary and pricing options. Because we will select a single price option based on sign-up interest, signing up now, ahead of the November meetings, helps shape the trip.

What Is Birthright Voluntourism?

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

This innovative program extends beyond the traditional Birthright experience. Participants don't just visit Israel—they become part of it. Over 10 transformative days, you'll engage in structured volunteer work addressing genuine needs across Israeli society while deepening your understanding of the people, communities, and broader context shaping modern Israel today.

The trip embraces four essential dimensions:

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

Who Should Apply?

This program welcomes:

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

Space is limited to 30 participants, and sign-ups are happening now, so we encourage interested community members to register early, before the November meetings.

A Glimpse at Your Journey

Your 9-day adventure will take you across Israel, combining volunteer work with unforgettable experiences and encounters. **Please note: the schedule below is only a sample.** Volunteer sites and day-by-day plans will vary, and the final itinerary will be confirmed closer to departure. Every itinerary will include time in Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Kotel, as well as visits to sites in Tel Aviv. Here's a sample of what your days might look like:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Throughout your journey, you'll experience:

- Daily volunteer work (3-4 hours per session)
- Guided tours of iconic Israeli sites, including the Old City of Jerusalem and the Kotel, and sites in Tel Aviv - additional tours may be offered as an option including Yad Vashem, Masada/Dead Sea (additional tours would require an additional fee)
- A meaningful Shabbat celebration with group dinners
- Mifgash encounters with Israeli peers
- Leadership meetings and geopolitical discussions providing essential context
- Professional tour guide accompaniment throughout

Pricing Options

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

Basic Option: $975

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

Enhanced Option: $2,500

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

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

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

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

How to Apply

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

To sign up or learn more, contact the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire directly via the form below. Sign-ups are open now and meetings will take place in November. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the program reaches 30 participants.

https://tinyurl.com/Birthright-JFH

More Than a Trip—A Community Experience

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

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

Sign up now. Join us in November. Be part of the story. March 2027.

For more information about the Taglit Birthright Voluntourism program, visit https://birthrightisraelvolunteer.com/

Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TAGLIT
BIRTHRIGHT
ISRAEL

Experience Israel with JFNH & Birthright Israel

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

March 14–23, 2027
Starting at $975
Open to Adults 40-70 years old



Space will be limited.
Start your journey with us.

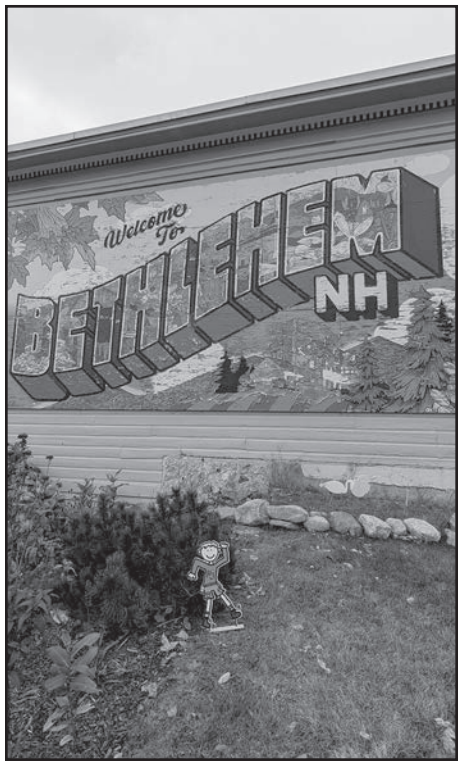
Interested in Joining Us?

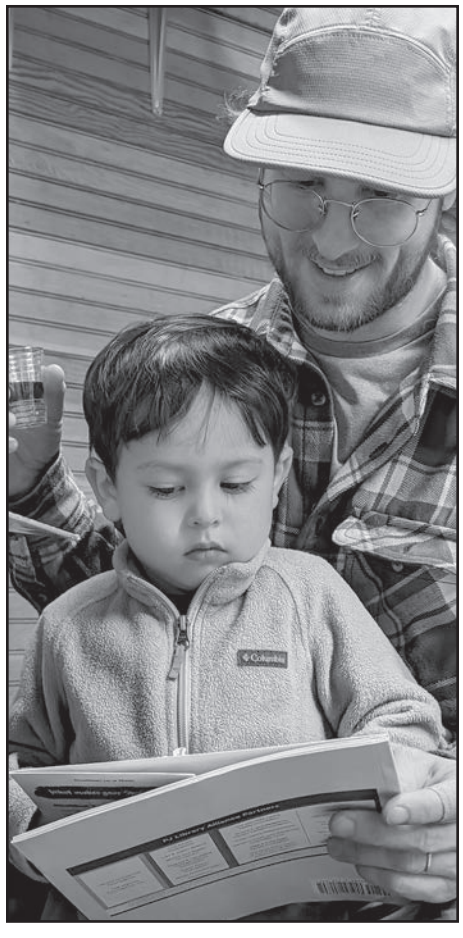
Scan the QR code to complete the Interest Form

Your Federation at Work

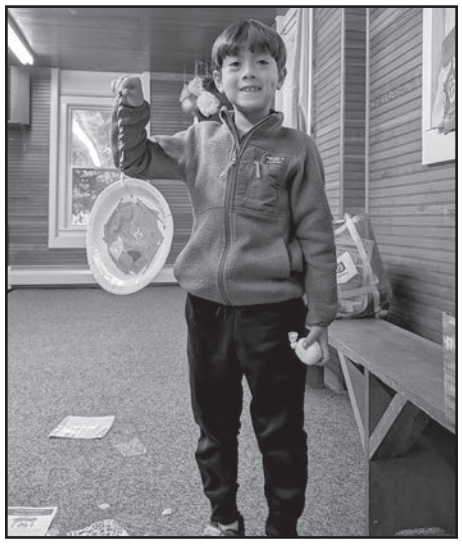
PJ Library Goes to Bethlehem











On September 27, Dinah and Elad joined Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation in Bethlehem, NH, for a lovely Sukkot celebration. Families enjoyed crafts, conversation, and time together—including nature suncatchers and squishy etrog stress balls! Kids also went home with free PJ Library books and beach bags. We're looking forward to returning to the North Country for more PJ Library programs in the future!

from the Bimah

Turning and Re-Turning

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Lisë Stern

Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry

Shalom Jewish New Hampshire! I'm new to the state, and new to being a rabbi; I was ordained at Hebrew College in the Boston area this past May, and started my position as rabbi at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry in July.

The custom of reading a section from the Five Books of Moses out loud every week dates back nearly 2500 years, and it has been my guiding spiritual foundation for most of my life. It is a practice that connects us to Jews around the world, all of us reading from that section, discussing it, turning and returning.

In a book of the Mishnah called Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers), in chapter 5, first century scholar Yochanan Ben Bag Bag said, *"Hafoch bah, v'hafoch bah, d'cholah bah,* Turn [the Torah], and turn it [again], for everything is within her."

For the past three years of rabbinical school, I taught a weekly class on the parshat hashavua. The ongoing excitement for me is that, no matter how many times I read the portion, each year I discover something I never noticed before. The text is all there, unchanged, but every year some new detail catches my attention.

The first parsha of November/late Cheshvan, is from Genesis, Chayei Sarah, the Life of Sarah, which is actually about her death. Sarah is a complex character, defined by her barrenness until that changes and she becomes a mother at the ripe old age of 90, and lives until her son Isaac is 37.

I remember learning, about a decade ago, that Abraham married again after Sarah died, to a woman named Keturah. That was a "Wait, what?" moment for me. And he had six more sons with her. For me, that is part of the fun of Torah study – what will I discover this year?

Keturah feels especially significant because there are so few named women in the Torah, specifically in the Five Books of Moses – 38 versus more than 1500 named men (thanks to genealogical lists). So, each time a woman is named, the rabbis take note and create stories, midrash, filling in the gaps. Who was Keturah? Where did she come from? There is a tendency of the rabbinical writers of midrashic stories, to overlay female characters upon each other. There are those who assert Keturah was not, in fact, a new wife, but another name for Hagar, rematched with Abraham through Isaac. I prefer an expansion of female characters in the Torah, rather than a consolidation, so don't support this midrash, but I do wonder how Abraham met this new wife. How did those six brothers get along?

It is never too early – or too late – to study the weekly parsha, and this can be a great activity for a Shabbat meal. Since the time of my bat mitzvah, when I was 12, my father would lead a Friday night discussion, establishing the scaffolding for what would become a lifelong practice for me. These Torah talks inspired family friends who came to our house for Friday night dinner, two of whom even wrote an instruction manual called *Torah With Love,* on how to implement the practice.

We can take inspiration from the life of Sarah, and of Abraham, who also dies in this parsha, nearly 50 years after Sarah: whatever the age, it is not too late to start something new.

JBI Library Awards $280,000 in Wolfson Scholarships to 28 Jewish Students Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

Record funding supports undergraduate and graduate students honoring academic excellence and engagement with the Jewish community.

JBI Library, the nonprofit that supports connection to Jewish life for anyone who is blind, has low vision, or has a print disability, has announced the award of $280,000 in Nathan L. and Suzanne K. Wolfson Merit Scholarships to 28 Jewish students who are blind or who have low vision. The 2026–27 class is the program's largest to date and includes students studying a broad range of subjects at institutions in the United States and Israel.

This year's cohort of scholars are pursuing degrees and professional credentials in fields including neuroscience, ecology and evolutionary biology, social work, law, computer science, education, psychology, business, music and Jewish studies. They attend institutions across the United States, Israel and the United Kingdom, among them Cornell University, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Georgia, the University of Oregon, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and King's College London.

"This year's scholars are ambitious, deeply engaged in their communities, and determined to use their education in service of others," said JBI Library Executive Director Michelle Shapiro Abraham. "We are especially moved by the many recipients who are drawing on their own experiences with disability to pursue careers in science, education, social work, and other fields where they can create opportunities for those who follow. The significant growth of this program allows us to recognize more of these remarkable students and give them greater freedom to concentrate on the work ahead."

Created in 2018, the Wolfson Merit Scholarship recognizes Jewish undergraduate and graduate students who meet the program's vision requirements, have distinguished themselves academically, and maintain a meaningful connection to Jewish communal life. With this year's awards, the program has now provided $776,288 in educational support.

Scholars Advancing Science, Inclusion and Community Service

Among the 2026 recipients is Hannah DeFelice, a Jewish DeafBlind PhD student in ecology and evolutionary biology at Cornell University, whose research examines climate change and its effects on natural processes.

"This scholarship is both an incredible honor and a meaningful affirmation of my journey as a Jewish DeafBlind student," DeFelice said. "My research is focused on furthering our understanding of climate change and its impacts on natural processes, while demonstrating that disability is not a barrier to excellence in science. It also reminds me that I am part of a community that values learning, perseverance and the unique perspectives that Blind and Low-Vision Jewish students bring to academia and beyond."

In Israel, Carmel Arama, the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, is studying music at the Rimon School of Music. She has long volunteered in schools and municipal programs, using music to help younger generations connect with Jewish history and tradition.

"I have never allowed my blindness to keep me apart from my peers or my community," Arama said. "Instead, I have worked to educate the younger generation about blindness, inclusion and the acceptance of people with special needs. I believe that understanding and empathy create stronger, more compassionate communities."

Fellow Israeli recipient Ziv Cohen, a blind mother of two, is pursuing a master's degree in social work at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev while working to help residents of Sderot recover from the trauma of October 7.

"As a blind woman and a single mother of two children who is self-funding my master's in social work, this award means a lot to me," Cohen said. "It allows me to continue my studies and ultimately keep serving the people of Sderot as they heal from October 7, which has become my life's mission."

Other recipients are preparing to become teachers, mental health professionals, attorneys, researchers, technology specialists, and community leaders. Several are parents or first-generation university students, and many described the scholarship as both practical assistance and an affirmation that their abilities, work, and aspirations are valued.

Each Wolfson Scholarship provides at least $2,500, with award levels determined annually according to available funding and the applicant pool. Past recipients may apply again in subsequent years.

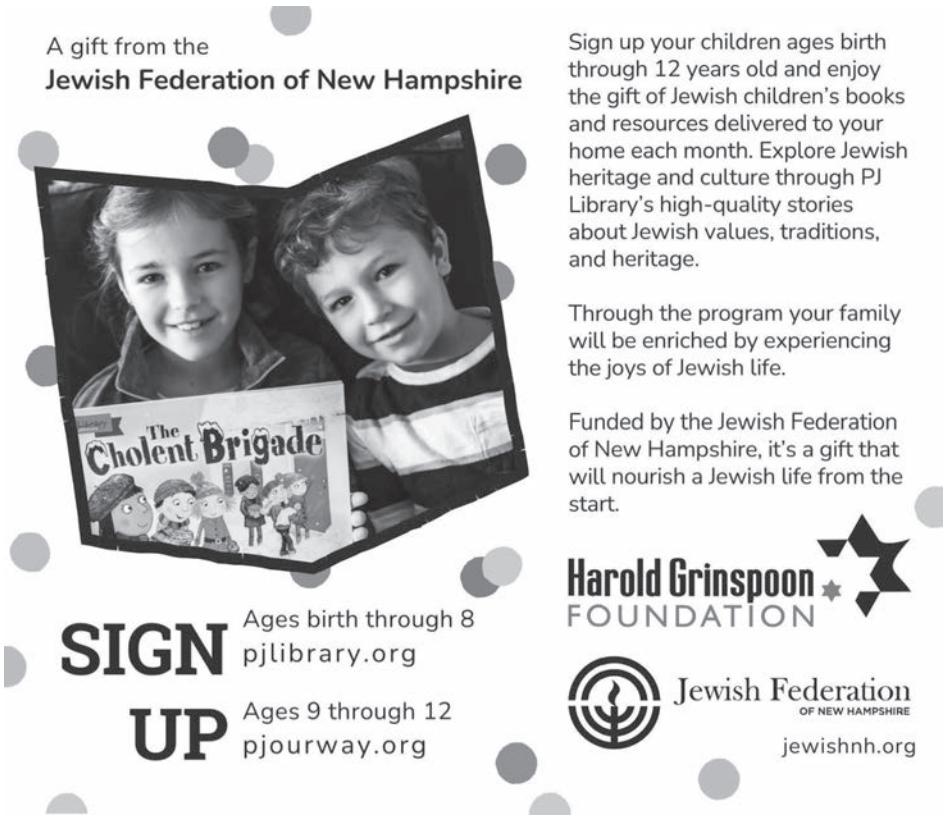
Applications for the next scholarship cycle will open on December 1, 2026. Details, eligibility requirements and profiles of the 2026 recipients are available at jbilibrary.org/wolfson.

About JBI

Founded in 1931, JBI Library is a nonprofit organization that supports anyone who is blind, has low vision, or has a print disability so that they may fully participate in Jewish life—from education and community, to prayer and celebration. More than a source for books and texts—JBI is the heart of a community where patrons can come for resources, cultural programs, learning, and all things that connect people to Jewish faith, culture, and community. JBI strives to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion, so that everyone can read, learn, and engage independently and with dignity. To learn more, visit www.jbilibrary.org.

About the Nathan L. Wolfson Scholarship

The Nathan L. and Suzanne K. Wolfson Merit Award, established in 2018, is an annual scholarship program honoring the legacy of Nathan L. Wolfson and Suzanne K. Wolfson. Awarded by the Wolfson Fund, this scholarship recognizes academically exceptional Jewish students who are legally blind or low vision. The program offers awards ranging from $2,500 to $15,000, supporting high-achieving undergraduate and graduate students around the world.





Jewish Trivia

The world's most ancient surviving Torah scroll, currently found in Italy, is the Bologna Torah Scroll. Science has dated the scroll back to 1250 CE. The scroll underwent a 4-year restoration process in 2016 and then was returned to its home synagogue in Biella.



CAMPAPALOOZA

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- Ask questions
- Compare options
- Learn about camperships and financial assistance

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- Bounce house
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SUNDAY, NOV. 15

2 - 4 PM

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October 7th Commemoration at Temple Israel Portsmouth

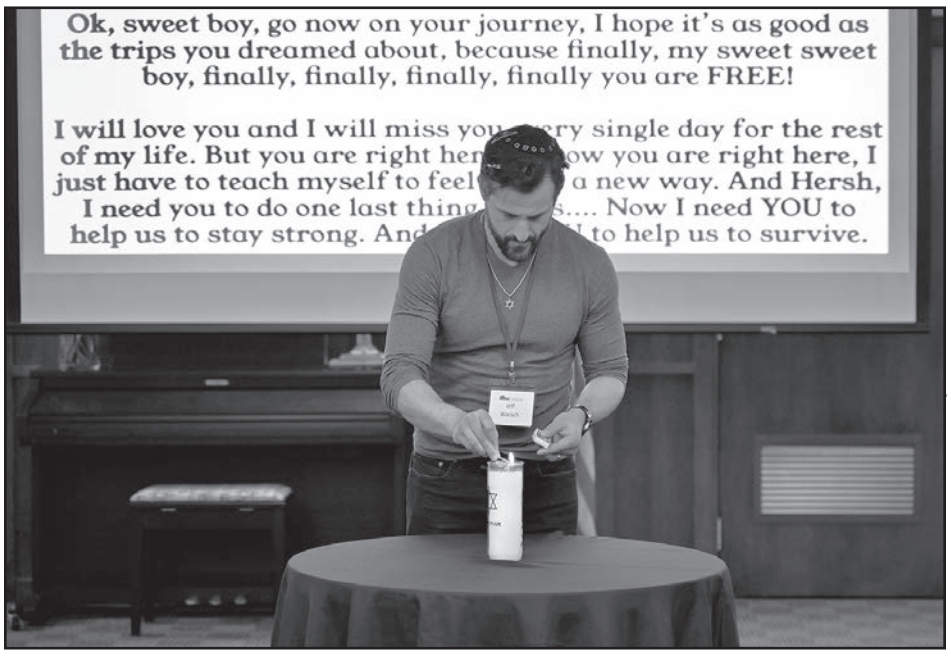
On October 7th, Temple Israel congregants gathered for a service commemorating the victims of the October 7, 2023 tragedy in Israel, followed by a film screening courtesy of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

The commemoration honored the victims and fortified the community's prayers for peace. Temple members contributed by leading prayer and song, displaying artwork in memory of the victims, and offering readings in their memory. The singing of Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem, to close the ceremony, left the community with prayers and hope for peace.

Afterward, the community viewed "October Shadows: An Exploration of Trauma and Healing After October 7," a documentary that examined the journey of Israeli survivors and bereaved families moving from the trauma of the October 7, 2023, attacks toward healing.

Pictured here is a memorial candle lighting to all the victims of October 7 which followed the reading of Rachel Goldberg-Polin's eulogy for her son Hersh, who was murdered in captivity.





Etz Hayim Synagogue Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 7:15 PM

The Derry Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration will host this year's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service at 1 Hood Road, with Rabbi Lisë Stern of Etz Hayim Synagogue offering the sermon. For more than 30 years, the two religious institutions have shared a special interfaith relationship. From welcoming Etz Hayim when it needed a temporary home to creating today's "interfaith campus," our two communities have continued to celebrate holidays, worship, and community events together. Join us as we give thanks and celebrate this enduring partnership. For more information, contact office@etzhayim.org or call 603-432-0004.

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

Etz Hayim Synagogue to Install Rabbi Lisë Stern



Etz Hayim Synagogue will formally install Rabbi Lisë Stern as its new rabbi on Friday, November 6, 2026. The community is invited to a wine and cheese reception at 6:15 p.m., followed by Erev Shabbat services and the installation at 7:15 p.m. at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1½ Hood Road, Derry, NH. Rabbi Stern, who began serving Etz Hayim in July, was ordained by Hebrew College in May 2026. She brings a rich background in Jewish learning, pastoral care, writing and community engagement and is excited to begin this new chapter with the Etz Hayim congregation and the greater community.

To learn more about Rabbi Stern and her background, visit www.etzhayim.org/our-congregation/rabbi.

Questions? Contact us at office@etzhayim.org or 603-432-0004.

All are welcome to join us for this special celebration!

Noah's Ark, furry friends, and lots of fun in Keene!











PJ Library and Congregation Ahavas Achim brought families together on Sunday, October 18, for a joyful celebration of Noah's Ark and Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim *— the Jewish value of caring for animals. Kids got creative making their own arks, enjoyed songs with Noah, and gathered for a special Blessing of the Pets! There were also popsicles, animal crackers, free books, PJ Library bags, and plenty of smiles to go around. Thank you to Congregation Ahavas Achim and all the families who joined us for a wonderful day of stories, crafts, community, and celebrating our furry (and stuffed!) friends.*

Portsmouth Teenager Earns Rising Voices Fellowship from Jewish Women's Archive

The Jewish Women's Archive (JWA) recently announced the 2026-2027 cohort of eighteen Fellows for its Rising Voices Fellowship (RVF), a ten-month leadership development program for young Jewish women and non-binary teens in tenth through twelfth grades who are passionate about feminism, Judaism, and writing as a tool for social justice.

The writing-based program, now in its thirteenth year as a national program, equips Fellows with skills, support, and a public platform to use their voices to make change. Fellows develop as leaders by learning about Jewish women's history in a pluralistic setting, encountering and interacting with a range of opinions and views, and forming and expressing their own responses to historical narratives, current events, and cultural trends. RVF provides teens with a much-needed space for connection, community, and support, and the RVF community consists of an expanding group of emerging feminist leaders who create communal change in their high schools, colleges, and beyond.

Among the 2026-27 Fellows is Johanna Hillman of Portsmouth, a junior at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter. Johanna is a Staff Writer for her school newspaper and co-head of her school's Jewish student group. "I grew up in Exeter, NH, before moving to Portsmouth in 2021," Johanna reflects. "Growing up, I was often the only Jewish student in my class. I sometimes felt like I didn't belong and wished that I was in a community that had more Jews. But this experience has also given me resilience and a strong sense of my identity as a Jew."

RVF Program Manager Maya Garfinkel guides fellows through writing, editing, and publishing opinion pieces. The cohort meets for two immersive in-person retreats and monthly for online webinars to explore Jewish and feminist topics that inform their writing. Guest facilitators from a wide variety of fields and backgrounds offer the fellows contemporary role models and diverse perspectives. The curriculum emphasizes an intersectional approach to Jewish feminism, with attention to the broad diversity of the Jewish people in terms of race, ethnicity, denomination, gender and sexuality, and disability, as well as to the Fellows' own multifaceted identities.

"I couldn't be more excited to continue working with Fellows over the coming year!" reflects Garfinkel. "During times of upheaval, fostering feminist, pluralistic Jewish community with and for the Fellows feels all the more meaningful. Learning and growing together offers a glimpse of what a better world could look like."

Following the opening retreat in August, one Fellow reflected, "Through our many conversations and workshops, I am coming away from the retreat more inspired and excited to write for the fellowship this year."

Fellows' opinion pieces are posted on JWA's online publication, Jewish Women, Amplified. Visit jwa.org/risingvoices to learn more about the program and this year's cohort.



Sukkot at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Temple Israel of Portsmouth embraced the holiday of Sukkot through a vibrant series of community events, highlighted by the construction of two distinct sukkahs. The Temple Brotherhood built the first sukkah on-site at Temple Israel and the second just a short walk away at the Shapiro House, located within the Strawbery Banke Museum.

Strawbery Banke preserves over three centuries of local history through restored buildings, gardens, and historical interpreters. The Shapiro House specifically highlights Ukrainian Jewish immigrant life in Portsmouth circa 1919, honoring a family who were among Temple Israel's earliest congregants. Students from the Temple's Religious School and creative members of the congregation adorned both temporary holiday dwellings with festive decorations. Festivities began on the first night of Sukkot—which coincided with Shabbat—as three dozen congregants gathered in the sukkah beside the Shapiro House for a communal potluck dinner. The evening captured the essence of the holiday, blending shared meals, fellowship, and seasonal joy.

Education played a central role later in the week when Rabbi Marc Hersch instructed Religious School students on Sukkot traditions, centering his lesson on the lulav (palm frond, myrtle, and willow) and the etrog (citron). The students recited traditional blessings and waved the species in six directions—north, south, east, west, upward, and downward—symbolizing the omnipresence of God. Rabbi Hersch connected these physical rituals to expressions of gratitude for the natural world and the autumn harvest.

The celebration concluded with the Temple Brotherhood's signature gathering, featuring a "Steak, Scotch, and Sukkah" dinner at the Shapiro House Sukkah.



Photos by Ron Sher.





















Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia Presents the 2026 Mitzvah Award to Barbara Katz

In Sept. 2026, Barbara Katz was presented the Mitzvah Award for her many years of service to Temple B'nai Israel. She has been one of the most impactful members of the congregation over the last 10 plus years and truly deserved the standing ovation which she received.

When she joined the temple in 2013, Barbara became involved with TBI fundraising with one of the first We Care concerts organized by the temple, in which a local non-profit receives net proceeds from two concerts organized annually, as well as the NH Jewish Food Festival. She joined the team and hit the road running using her natural creative skills to enhance every aspect of that marketing initiative and more. Having no background in marketing, she taught herself everything from how to write and distribute press releases to designing attention getting posters.

In addition, she took over TBI's website by teaching herself web design and management, having no previous work experience in technology. Our current website design and e-commerce engine used for We Care and the Food Festival exist only through her efforts.

She eventually expanded her creative abilities and can-do attitudes to almost every aspect of temple life. Her influences can be seen all over the synagogue including our TBI exterior sign, the lobby reorganization, the bimah (including beautiful lectern covers honoring Melody and Joel Funk), and almost everywhere you look.

In addition to those visual improvements, she was essential in the development of several aspects one cannot see, such as the many systems, processes, and procedures currently in use by temple leadership.

Barbara also served on the Board of Trustees for 4+yrs as Vice President – Marketing/Public Relations and as a member of the Interim Steering Committee.

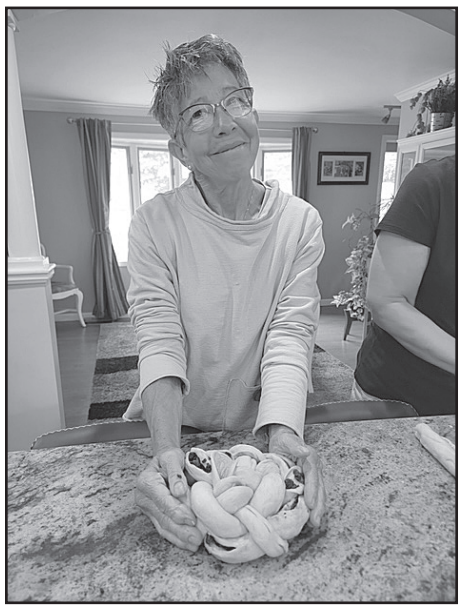
She is a multi-talented force to be reckoned with, is high energy and does whatever needs to be done. She doesn't wait to be asked, but immediately jumps in and takes on tasks. Although spending thousands of hours working on temple projects, she still finds time to devote herself to her other family: her husband David, her partner for 53 years, and her two daughters Jennifer and Susan, and son-in-law, Chip. With all of this, she also still finds time to dedicate herself to Guiding Eyes for the Blind by providing puppy training for dozens of Labrador Retrievers who go on to assist people who are vision impaired.

Yasher Koach and Mazel Tov, Barbara!

Preparing for the Challah-Days



Members of the NH Jewish Women's Group had a fun time preparing round challahs for Rosh Hashanah.







Etz Hayim Chanukah Gift Shop: Open Nov 1 through December 2



In preparation for Chanukah, our gift shop will be open throughout the month of November on Sundays from 10:00 AM to Noon, and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:15 PM, as well as December 1 and 2. (The gift shop will be closed Wed. Nov 25). Items for sale include menorahs, candles, wrapping paper, gift items and other Judaica. You may also view items at www.etzhayim.org/gift-shop for purchase and pickup. We are located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Questions? Contact Helen at office@etzhayim.org.

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

From NY to NH, See 'Nona's Supper Club' Performed in Plymouth!

New York City comes to New Hampshire this November when *Nona's Supper Club*, a hilarious, heartfelt, and highly interactive new musical, makes its New Hampshire debut at the historic Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center in Plymouth.

With only three performances - **Saturday, November 21 at 2 PM and 7 PM, and Sunday, November 22 at 2 PM** audiences are invited to step into the world of the Abalafia family and become part of the action as their story unfolds.

A Family. A Legacy. A Musical. You're Invited.

Nona's Supper Club is a comedic, campy new musical about a New York City family-owned restaurant on the brink of disaster. At the center of the story is Twyla, a determined grandchild who is trying to convince their grandmother, Millie "Nona" Abalafia, to retire and save the family business. But what begins as a seemingly straightforward plan quickly becomes complicated by long-buried secrets, romantic entanglements, family rivalries, and one very questionable chef.

The audience are invited guests at the family's reopening celebration, interacting directly with the characters and becoming part of the evening as the family's carefully constructed plans begin to unravel.

Rather than simply watching from the sidelines, audience members have opportunities to engage with the characters and influence the energy of the evening. The result is a lively, spontaneous theatrical experience where every performance has the potential to be a little different.

Featuring an electrifying original score ranging from infectious pop anthems to show-stopping ballads, *Nona's Supper Club* is a joyous and heartfelt musical about family, identity, love, memory, and how far we'll go to save the people — and the places — we call home.

"Heartfelt, funny, immersive, and delicious—the kind of experience that reminds you why live theatre (and family dinners) matter. We went expecting a fun evening and left feeling like family."— Nicole Steinthal, NS Lifestyles

"A hilarious and poignant multigenerational tale of love, legacy, and letting go." — New York Weekly Times

From New York City to New Hampshire

Written and directed by Amy Poux, *Nona's Supper Club* was inspired by her own Sephardic grandmother, Matilda "Millie" Halfon, and by the complicated relationships, traditions, and stories that shape multigenerational families. After its development and performances Off Broadway and Off Off Broadway in New York City, *Nona's Supper Club* now heads north for a special limited engagement at one of New Hampshire's most beloved historic performance spaces!

A Historic Home for Live Performance

The Flying Monkey is located in the heart of downtown Plymouth in a theater originally opened in the 1920s as the New Plymouth Theater. The venue began as a home for vaudeville and silent films, bringing audiences together through the magic of performance.

After years of closure, the theater was thoughtfully restored by the Common Man family and reopened in 2010 as The Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center.

Today, the venue continues that legacy by presenting Grammy-winning artists, community productions, weekly movies, silent films, and live performances.

"We're thrilled to welcome *Nona's Supper Club* to The Flying Monkey and introduce New Hampshire audiences to such a unique theatrical experience," said Gina, General Manger at The Flying Monkey Theatre. "What makes this production so exciting is that the audience isn't simply watching the story unfold—they're invited into it. It's exactly the kind of fresh, engaging programming we want to bring to our stage: experiences that bring people together, create a sense of connection, and make a night at The Flying Monkey truly memorable."

Nona's Supper Club brings its interactive musical experience to this historic space, inviting Plymouth audiences to leave the traditional theater experience behind and become part of the story.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Limited Engagement — Three Performances Only

Saturday, November 21, 2026 — 2:00 PM
Saturday, November 21, 2026 — 7:00 PM
Sunday, November 22, 2026 — 2:00 PM

The Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center

39 Main Street, Plymouth, NH

CAST

Trudy Poux — Twyla
Emily Nadler — Nona
Danielle Palumbo — Christina/Antonia
Phil Casale — Cesar
Liliana Valencia — Miranda
Ryan Pereira — Steve
Darian Bencosme — Theo
Tucker Poux — Chef Jerome

CREATIVE TEAM

Amy Rosenfeld Poux — Director, Writer, Co-Composer
Trudy Poux — Co-Composer
Jennifer Sabin Poux — Creative Producer
Khadeeja Lindsay — Stage Manager

TICKETS & INFORMATION

Tickets are available through **The Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center** or at therestaurantplay.com/tickets

Learn more about Nona's Supper Club: therestaurantplay.com





Tradition Takes the Stage: A New Hampshire Teen Steps Into 'Fiddler on the Roof'

For New Hampshire native Eli Shpindler, stepping into the role of Mendel, the Rabbi's son — in the Palace Theatre's professional production of *Fiddler on the Roof* — brings together two worlds that have been part of his life since childhood: Jewish community and the stage.



Eli has been performing at the Palace Theatre in Manchester since he was 8 years old and joined Palace Teen Company at 14. Now a sophomore at Gann Academy, a Jewish high school in Waltham, MA, he has also grown up immersed in Jewish education and community. Throughout his childhood, he attended Chabad Hebrew School and Camp Gan Israel, and later spent summers at Camp Yavneh in Northwood, NH.

That background gives *Fiddler on the Roof* a particular resonance.

Set in the fictional shtetl of Anatevka in Imperial Russia, *Fiddler on the Roof* tells the story of Tevye and his family as they struggle to hold onto their traditions while the world around them changes. Beneath its famous songs and humor is a deeply Jewish story about faith, family, belonging, antisemitism, displacement, and the tension between preserving tradition and embracing change. More than a century later, many of those themes feel strikingly familiar to Jewish families today.

"I've grown up doing a lot of shows at the Palace, but this one feels different," Eli said. "There are so many parts of the story and the traditions that I recognize from my own life."

Eli's previous credits include Danny Zuko in *Grease Jr.*, Evan Goldman in *13 Jr.*, and Dewey Finn in *School of Rock*. He continues to train in acting, voice, and dance, with a growing passion for both musical theatre and film. *Fiddler on the Roof* will mark Eli's 50th theatrical production at the Palace, making this already meaningful role an especially fitting milestone.

Fiddler on the Roof runs weekends at the Palace Theatre in Manchester through November 15. Tickets are available at palacetheatre.org.

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

Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE





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or email filmfest@jewishnh.org.

Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Great Jewish Books for Young Readers

Here are some interesting new books coming out for young readers for the winter holiday season. This year I am bringing books that show the importance of sharing, as well as caring about others. All the stories explain the Jewish connection at the end of the book. Some have recipes, some have a dictionary for translating and defining works, and some also tell the significance of the holiday.

Golda and Ezra's Animal Rescue, by William Stieglitz, is one book in the Golda and Ezra series for early readers or to read with a parent. It's about two young Jewish children who have a variety of life experiences and learn through a Jewish lens about charity, taking care of animals and Jewish holidays. In the book about animal rescue, written by Hollie Michaels, the children in the story and readers learn about the lesser known holiday of Rosh Hashanah La'Behemot, the Jewish New Year for animals. Golda and Ezra also visit an animal clinic and meet a veterinarian.

Rachel and Abby is another series of colorful and entertaining books for early readers or to read with an adult. There are interesting lessons in Judaism and traditions in this series. In *Rachel & Abby: New Baby Brother: A Modern Family's Big Change!*, the sisters are with their Grandma waiting for their two Dads to bring home a new baby brother. Sitting and looking at the family picture album, Grandma shows the girls pictures of their relatives and explains that it is Jewish tradition to name their children after family members who are no longer living.

Something Sweet: A Sitting Shiva Story, by Lesléa Newman and Sarita Rich is a delightful book to use when you need to discuss the death of a loved one. In this story Joshua's grandfather has died. The family is sitting shiva. His friend and neighbor brings brownies over and wants to be able to comfort her friend. She learns what shiva is, what happens at the shiva home and how to behave while visiting.

Deli Days, written by Jenna Rothberg brings the reader all the sights and smells of the Jewish deli. They are slowly becoming extinct so this book will continue to carry the memories of those who have eaten in a deli. Our young protagonist learns about the different delicious foods in a deli as he helps his grandfather work the counter and deliver food to the tables.

Mabel's Mitzvah, written by Lisa Cloherty is a story about performing mitzvot using brightly colored drawings to illustrate the story. Mabel and her classmates are assigned the task of finding and doing a mitzvah. Mabel is having trouble deciding what to do when she sees her neighbor alone. She tries to bring her cookies and then flowers with a few mishaps along the way. In the end Mabel learns that doing a mitzvah can bring you a new friend.

Hamantaschen for Hanukkah?!: A Tale of the Wise People of Chelm by Maurice J. Elias is a classic Chelm story. The people of Chelm think themselves the wisest. When a messenger arrives in town before the first night of Hanukkah with a letter from the Chief Rabbi announcing his arrival for Purim, the townspeople all change direction and decide to celebrate Purim. Except for Mushka and Shmendrick, the sister and brother, know it really is still Hanukkah.

Pippa's Hanukkah Hunt, by Vivian Kirkfield and Jill Weber, uses colorful computer generated pictures to show how Pippa is getting ready for Hanukkah. When she is ready to make latkes she finds her potato bin empty. Pippa goes out on a hunt to her friends to get potatoes. What will Pippa use to make latkes if no one has potatoes?

Hanukkah Night at the Construction Site, by Sherri Mandell, is a book that introduces toddlers to the different kinds of trucks. They each have a role to play getting ready for Hanukkah in this rhyming story.

The Garlic Eaters is a smelly story written by Madison Safer. Using this allegory to show the way people decide to dislike someone who is different from themselves, the author introduces the readers to the garlic eaters: They are a tiny family who enjoy eating garlic. All their recipes have quite a lot of garlic in them. Garlic bread, garlic… They smell of garlic and they wear clothes made from garlic skins. When they have to move to a new neighborhood, they face unfriendly neighbors until Baby comes up with a good plan to make friends.

November Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah book club will be reading Woman on Fire by Lisa Barr, a mystery/romance about stolen art from Holocaust victims. The discussion will be in November, check with helenarnold@comcast.net for date and location.

Hadassah National President Carol Ann Schwartz wrote in Hadassah Magazine: *"In 2026 alone HMO has opened two new maternity wards. The reason? Israel is the only country in the Western world experiencing a baby boom, indeed the only one where the birth rate is above replacement level."* According to the Population Reference Bureau, Israel averages 2.7 births per woman, more than 50 percent higher than France and Australia, the nearest comparisons among developed nations.

As Schwartz continued, *"One positive occurrence in a world that seems full of enemies and critics is the emergence of new allies. I am especially gratified by Hadassah's relationship with the American Muslim & Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council, whose leaders I count not only as partners but also as dear friends. In May, AMMWEC members marched with their Jewish and Zionist friends in New York City's Israel Day on Fifth Parade, and in July we co-sponsored the second annual joint conference of the National Coalition Against Antisemitism and Hate in Washington, D.C. As a small people, we recognize that quality beats quantity. This is especially true when it comes to influencers. I am grateful to the Arab and Muslim influencers who defend Israel, often in the face of intense hostility. In July, Nuseir Yassin, the Arab Israeli vlogger, entrepreneur and creator of Nas Daily (with 14 million followers), spent a day at HMO; his video recording of the visit highlighted Hadassah's history, excellence and reputation as a bridge to peace. He also managed to include a scene with his grandmother, who was discharged from our hospital—'in full health, that very day.'"*

Hadassah's B'nai Mitzvah Project, titled the Youth Aliyah Mitzvah Project, is designed to educate and empower young Jewish American students while raising vital funds for Youth Aliyah—a program supporting at-risk youth in Israel. Because your Bar or Bat Mitzvah students are the same age as the youngest children in the Youth Aliyah villages, this program offers a powerful opportunity for teens to empathize with peers who face significant economic and social challenges.

What better way to commemorate this special milestone in your child's life than by helping others in need? Students preparing to become a bat or bar mitzvah can make Youth Aliyah their special mitzvah project. By taking part in this program, your child can help teens who, just like them, have hopes and dreams. However, the teens at Hadassah-spon-

Hadassah Report *continued on page 22*

Israel: Did You Know?

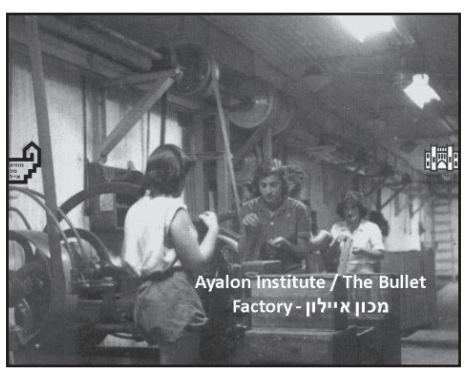
By Richard England

If you missed the October chamber music concert at TAY, did you know that you can view and listen to recorded concerts by Israel Philharmonic Orchestra musicians online? These include symphonic, chamber and vocal performances. Just navigate your computer or smart phone to https://www.ipo.co.il/en/listen-from-home/ and enjoy the talent of outstanding Israeli musicians.

Spotlight on Israel: Israel's Secret Bullet Factory

By Stephen Soreff, MD, A Member of the JFNH Israel Committee

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL
Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE | Israel Engagement and Education Committee



One of the most fascinating chapters in Israel's pre-state history took place right under the eyes of the British military: a secret underground ammunition factory known today as the Ayalon Institute. Established in 1945 on Kibbutz Hill in Rehovot, the facility was built in less than a month, hidden 25 feet (eight meters) beneath a limestone hill. Roughly the size of a tennis court, it was disguised on the surface as an everyday kibbutz running a commercial laundry service—the noise of the washing machines masking the clatter of machinery below. There, 45 young pioneers—members of the "Tzofim A" youth group and others—secretly manufactured more than four million 9mm bullets for the Sten submachine guns used by Palmach fighters. The Palmach was an elite pre-state military strike force that was later folded into the emerging Israel Defense Forces. The factory operated continuously until 1948.

Today, the site is preserved as a museum and national historical landmark. I visited it in 2011 and found it truly amazing; standing in that subterranean room brings the courage and resourcefulness of Israel's founding generation to life.

If you are planning a trip to Israel, it is a remarkable place to see firsthand. You can find visitor details and plan your tour on the Ayalon Institute website. https://shimur.org/sites/ayalon-institute-bullet-factory-rehovot/



JFNH Tributes

Annual Campaign
In honor of Darren M. Garnick ~ Paul and Barbara Garnick

Film Festival Fund
In Honor of Pat Kalik ~ Zachary Camenker

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 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford, NH 03110

How to submit an obituary

The Reporter publishes obituaries for any member of the community, past or present, for a $36 fee. Please send obituaries and one photo, if desired, as a separate jpg attachment to thereporter@jewishnh.org or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford, NH 03110

Hadassah Report

continued from page 21

sored Youth Aliyah villages come from extremely disadvantaged circumstances, including poverty, neglect and abuse.

The Hadassah-sponsored Youth Aliyah villages welcome teens who receive support, education and vocational training to become productive Israeli citizens. You can make life so much better for these students and at the same time honor our Jewish responsibility for Tikkun Olam, helping others to make the world a better place. To make a donation to Youth Aliyah, please contact Arlene. Fishbein@gmail.com or louise.w.allard@gmail.com.

For additional information about Hadassah please contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

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

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

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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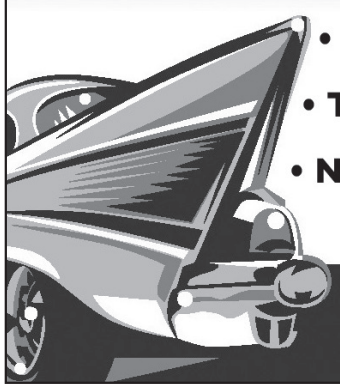
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