



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

2024/5784 ANNUAL REPORT



www.jewishnh.org

Year in Review

Reflecting and Looking Ahead – A Message from the Director & Board Chair

By Allyson Guertin, JFNH Director
and Tracy Richmond, JFNH Board Chair

As we conclude another year at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements and resilience demonstrated by our community. Despite facing numerous challenges, we have come together to support one another and advance our mission.

Responding to the October 7th Attack on Israel

In the wake of the tragic attack on Israel on October 7th, our community united in solidarity. In support with synagogues from around the state, we organized a powerful gathering at the State House where over 200 community members, state representatives and the Israeli Consulate General to New England attended, demonstrating our unwavering support for Israel and our commitment to peace. Within days of the attack, we hosted both New Hampshire senators for in-depth discussions with Jewish leadership, ensuring our voices were heard at the highest levels of government.

Addressing the Rise in Antisemitism

This year, we witnessed a concerning increase in antisemitism. The Federation has been at the forefront of efforts to combat this hatred. We provided testimony at the State House and DC, engaged in numerous radio and news discussions to raise awareness, and hosted security discussions with state and local law enforcement alongside synagogue leadership. These actions underscore our dedication to protecting and advocating for our community.

Strategic Planning and Updated Mission Statement

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Strategic Plan Committee and listening to feedback from community members across the state, we completed a comprehensive strategic plan and updated our mission statement. This plan will guide our efforts in the coming year, ensuring we



Allyson Guertin



Tracy Richmond

address the evolving needs of our community with clarity and purpose.

Key Federation Programs

Our signature programs have continued to flourish, bringing enrichment and joy to our community:

NH Jewish Film Festival: This well-loved program continues to showcase a diverse array of films across multiple locations throughout the state. Audiences had the opportunity to experience a rich tapestry of Jewish culture and storytelling through carefully selected films that spanned genres and themes. In addition to in-person screenings, the festival also embraced digital accessibility by offering virtual options, allowing a broader audience to engage with the films from the comfort of their homes. This hybrid approach not only expanded the festival's reach but also fostered a sense of community and shared cultural appreciation across New Hampshire.

PJ Library: PJ Library in NH continues to grow with over 500 children throughout the state receiving free books each month. With a focus on providing low barrier, family programs around the state this year we were able to offer Popsicles on the Playground both in Concord and Portsmouth, our very successful virtual Shavua Tov Story Time gives families from even the most remote locations in NH an opportunity to receive a monthly Jewish themed craft in the mail and to gather on Zoom for a 20 minute story time each month. In honor of PJ Library's 18th birthday, we hosted a celebration at the McAuliffe-Shepherd Discovery Center where we had the museum all to ourselves. Over 40 families attended this event

that included access to all the exhibits, a special Planetarium show, crafts, and of course cupcakes! And to meet the needs of our NH tweens (ages 9-13) we hosted our Sufganiyot Show-down, a food competition where they needed to use only doughnuts to create objects based on different Hanukkah themes. This amazing event was even highlighted in NH Chronicle!

Holocaust Remembrance: This year, together with the Cohen Center's Holocaust and Genocide Center we hosted L'Dough V'Dough in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. This intergenerational program brought together Holocaust survivors or descendants of and community members to bake challah and share stories of survival, resilience, and hope. The event fostered a deep connection between generations, ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are preserved and remembered. This meaningful collaboration not only honored those who endured unimaginable hardships but also strengthened communal bonds and underscored the importance of education and remembrance in combating hate and intolerance.

Israel Programming: We continue to offer impactful Israel-related programs. We were honored to host Guy Ben David an Israeli Emissary (Shaliach) from the Jewish Agency this year. This program plays a vital role of connecting NH to Israel with a personal connection. Guy did a wonderful job creating meaning, interactive opportunities to learn and connect with Israel. In response to October 7th, two past shlichim joined us on Zoom, they shared their perspectives and insights on the evolving situation in Israel. These discussions provided the community with valuable updates and fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by Israelis during this difficult time.

For the third year we offered Recipe with a Memory in two locations across New Hampshire. This unique initiative in honor of Yom HaZikaron commemorates fallen IDF soldiers by cooking their favorite recipes and telling their life stories. In honor of Yom HaShoah, we collaborated with Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Israel to organize "6 Million Steps." This meaningful event

encouraged participants to collectively walk six million steps, symbolizing the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

For the second year in a row our Community Yom Ha'atzmaut event was a highlight of the year, organized in collaboration with seven New Hampshire synagogues. This celebration of Israel brought together over 150 community members for a day of music, food, and activities.

Engaging with the Community

Understanding the diverse needs of our community is essential. This past year, we have both traveled extensively across the state, attending eight different synagogue events or services. These visits have been invaluable, allowing us to connect directly with community members and gain deeper insights into their unique needs and aspirations. We look forward to continuing these visits in the coming year.

Supporting Synagogue Events and Education

We are proud to have supported various synagogue events through seven mini grants, totaling \$6,000. Additionally, we allocated over \$12,000 to Hebrew schools and assisted seven New Hampshire children in attending Jewish sleepaway camp for the first time, enriching their Jewish experiences and connections.

Gratitude for Community Support

None of our achievements would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. Your contributions to our annual campaign have been instrumental in allowing us to continue our vital work. Together, we have built a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community in New Hampshire.

As we look ahead to the new year, we remain committed to our mission and inspired by the strength and unity of our community. Thank you for standing with us and for your continued support.

With gratitude,
Allyson Guertin Tracy Richmond
Executive Director Board Chair

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.

Approved by JFNH BOD June 2024



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Governance & Leadership

2023-24 Executive Committee & Board of Directors

Tracy Richmond (Bedford), Board Chair
Harry Shepler (Bedford), Treasurer
Jay Madnick (Derry), Secretary
Becky Abrams (Londonderry), Governance Chair
Ken Litvack (Stratham), Immediate Past Chair

Dina Michael Chaitowitz (Windham)
Debbie DePasse (Londonderry)
Jen Foxx (Bedford)
Mara Friedman (Hollis)
Roberta Gordenstein (Rindge)
Judith Jolton (Manchester)
Pat Kalik (Manchester)
Jody Kipnis (Moultonborough)
Amy Lester (Durham)
Evelyn Miller (Goffstown)
Carol Pressman (Manchester)
Steve Soreff (Nottingham)

2024-25 Board Nominees*

1 Year Term

Debbie DePasse (Londonderry)
Jen Foxx (Bedford)

2 Year Term

David Goldstone (Bethlehem)

3 Year Term

Jeremy Berger (Bedford)
Richard LeSavoy (Newmarket)
Amy Lester (Durham)
Carol Pressman (Manchester)
Steve Soreff (Nottingham)
Milt Zweig (Sandown)

**To be voted on at Annual Meeting*

2023-24 Proposed Slate of Officers**

Tracy Richmond (Bedford), Chair
Harry Shepler (Bedford), Treasurer
Jay Madnick (Derry), Secretary
Becky Abrams (Londonderry), Governance Chair

***to be voted on by Board of Directors*

Rabbis of Community Congregations (Ex-Officio Voting Board Members)

Rabbi Dan Aronson, Congregation Ahavas Achim (Keene)
Rabbi Beth Davidson, Temple Adath Yeshurun (Manchester)
Rabbi Moshe Gray, Chabad at Dartmouth (Hanover)
Rabbi Jan Katz, Temple B'nai Israel (Laconia)
Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation (Bethlehem)
Rabbi Levi Krinsky, Chabad of New Hampshire (Manchester)
Rabbi Robert Lefkowitz, Etz Hayim Synagogue (Derry)
Rabbi Seth Linfield, Hillel at Dartmouth (Hanover)
Rabbi Mark Melamut, Kol Ha'emek Upper Valley Jewish Community (Hanover)
Rabbi Robin Nafshi, Temple Beth Jacob (Concord)
Rabbi Marc Philippe, Temple Israel (Manchester)
Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett, Temple Beth Abraham (Nashua)
Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman, Temple Israel (Portsmouth)
Rabbi Berel Slavaticki, Seacoast Chabad (Newington)

2023-24 Foundation Board of Trustees

Julia Preis (Bedford), Chair
Dan Cohen (Bedford)
Jeff Crocker (Peterborough)
Bob Feldmann (Londonderry)
Richard LeSavoy (Newmarket)
Michael Miller (Goffstown)
Rob Wofchuck (Barnstead)
Tracy Richmond (Bedford), ex-officio voting member
Harry Shepler (Bedford), ex-officio non-voting member
Norm Kushner (Manchester), Emeritus
Gary Lindner (Manchester), Emeritus

Professional Team

Allyson Guertin, Executive Director
allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org

Dinah Berch, Program Coordinator
dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Tina Lemay, Finance Manager
tina.lemay@jewishnh.org

Wendy Green, Office Admin.
info@jewishnh.org

Nicholas Conley, Editor, The NH Jewish Reporter
thereporter@jewishnh.org

Mel Spierer, Social Worker
(603) 310-9941

Financial Statements

Operating Income/Expense	UNAUDITED	
	July 2023-June 2024	July 2022-June 2023
INCOME		
Campaign Revenue	322,633.46	324,584.93
Israel Emergency Fund	4,210.94	0.00
Interest Income	2,200.44	265.45
Campaign Endowment Fund	82,868.00	82,890.67
The Reporter Revenues	25,998.25	27,931.39
Community and Social Services	57,379.69	149,226.55
Museum of Jews of NH		
Campership Program Revenue		
Community Cemeteries		
Cultural/Community Revenue		
Social Services for Individuals & Families Revenue		
Senior/Community Revenue		
Jewish Film Festival	51,100.73	47,998.96
Youth Programming	36,006.52	25,323.25
Youth Programming Revenue		
PJ Library Revenue		
Early Education Revenue		
Israel Programs	30,580.09	6,693.26
Israel Engagement		
Israel Experience Revenue		
Shlichut Revenue		
Total Income	612,978.12	704,914.46
EXPENSES		
Federation Office	356,410.07	310,084.91
Campaign Expense	18,110.08	23,812.11
The Reporter Expenses	48,918.07	46,796.25
Community and Social Services	49,362.03	152,833.03
Museum of Jews of NH Expenses		
Campership Program Expenses		
Cultural/Community Expenses		
Community Relations Expenses		
Hebrew School Allocations		
Social Services Expenses for Ind. & Fam		
Senior/Community Outreach Expenses		
Jewish Film Festival	31,392.98	26,052.80
Youth Programming	32,046.33	29,720.27
PJ Library Expenses		
Youth Programming Expenses		
Early Ed Program Expenses		
Israel Programs	75,334.20	95,438.70
Israel Program Expenses		
Shlichut Program Expenses		
Uncategorized Expense		
Restriction Satisfied		
Total Expenses	611,573.76	684,738.07
Net Income	1,404.36	20,176.39

Foundation Funds

Foundation Report

On behalf of the JFNH Foundation Trustees, I would like to submit the following summary of the performance of the Foundation's assets for the fiscal year 2023-24 as the Chair of the Foundation Board.



Julia Kay Preis

The Foundation began the fiscal year on July 1, 2023, with just under \$4.2 million in assets, and concluded the fiscal year on June 30, 2024, with just under \$4.5 million in assets. Over this time, the Foundation distributed just under \$150,000 to JFNH and received several thousand in deposits from the sale of cemetery plots and in gifts from generous donors.

The Foundation's assets are managed by Evanson Asset Management (EAM), an advisor that specializes in index and passive management and had over \$4.8 billion under management as of January 2024. EAM derives its investment strategy from academic research and makes use of passive portfolios from Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA) and Vanguard ETF index funds, among other investments. The Foundation pays \$750 per quarter to EAM for its services. EAM has been fully managing the Foundation's assets since February 2023.

This year, the Trustees also worked diligently to update JFNH's Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act ("UPMIFA") compliance policy. Thank you to Jeff Crocker and Rob Wofchuck for leading this important effort.

For the second fiscal year in a row, JFNH's withdrawals from the Foundation were under budget. Thank you to JFNH Treasurer Harry Shepler and his finance committee, Executive Director Allyson Guertin and Finance Manager Tina LeMay for their continued careful management of JFNH's resources.

Establishment of a fund within the Foundation Trust ensures that your gift will continue to support the NH Jewish Community in perpetuity. If you would like to learn more about opportunities to do so, please contact me or a Trustee colleague: Dan Cohen, Jeff Crocker, Bob Feldmann, Rich LeSavoy, Dr. Michael Miller, Tracy Richmond and Rob Wofchuck; or one of our Trustee emeriti, Norm Kushner and Gary Lindner. It is our privilege to serve the NH Jewish community.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Kay Preis,
Chairperson JFNH Foundation Board of Trustees

	MV Balances 6/30/22	MV Balances 6/30/23	MV Balances 3/31/24
GENERAL TRUST FUNDS			
I.A. Brodie Fund	34,977	37,711	41,775
E.M. Chase Fund	620,701	669,229	741,344
JFNH Board-Restricted Fund	709,236	627,746	595,645
Ethel & Saul Greenspan	185,235	199,717	221,239
M.A. Kaplan Fund	130,144	140,319	155,439
Louis Miller Family Fund	347,045	374,178	414,499
Hyman Reingold Fund	11,229	12,107	13,411
J. Morton & Miriam Rosenblum	30,164	32,522	36,026
Max Rovner Fund	75,929	81,865	90,687
Sidney Samuels Fund	64,859	69,930	77,466
Alex Shapiro Fund	21,995	23,715	26,270
Hab Shapiro Family	20,092	21,663	23,998
Lindner Family Fund	12,091	13,036	15,477
Harvey Winneg Fund	19,923	21,481	23,796
Total	2,283,619	2,325,218	2,477,071
DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Etta Berman Educ Fund	10,949	11,391	12,192
The Muriel & Edward Broad Pre.Schol.	20,588	21,417	22,923
Andrew Cohen Scholar. Fund	5,971	6,438	7,132
Annebelle & Arnold Cohen Fund	28,181	30,384	32,561
Ben & Zelma Dorson Sen. Citizens Fund	37,741	39,261	42,022
Jennie & Mandel Eluto Educ Schol	10,484	10,906	11,673
Maurice Foster Senior Cit Fund	8,241	8,573	9,176
Monroe & Ruth Jaffe Fund	8,707	9,058	10,034
Theodore & Charlotte Krentzel Fund	58,595	63,176	67,702
Saul Sidore Sen Citizens Fund	2,114	2,199	2,354
William R Silverman Fund	10,491	10,914	12,090
Singer Family Trust	20,659	21,491	23,002
Winneg Family Educ Fund	35,935	37,383	40,011
Gary & Irma Wallin Young Lead Fund	42,371	45,684	50,607
Zvi & Debby Cohen Jewish Film Festival Fund	11,412	11,871	12,706
Paul & Fran Gordon Family Fund	10,746	11,179	11,965
Irving & Bernice Singer Fund for Teen Israel Exp	144,583	150,408	166,616
Kushner-Tumen Fund	16,629	17,321	19,492
Children's Enrichment & Educ. Fund	64,595	67,198	71,923
Cohen Tribute Fund	83,989	87,373	93,517
Solomon Family Fund	18,265	19,693	21,566
Stahl Manchester Cemetery Fund	142,201	153,319	164,302
Wofchuck-Gilbert Family Fund	9,799	10,202	11,820
Brindis Charitable Fund	175,411	189,125	204,499
Temple David Meyer Cemetery		109,195	123,013
Total	978,655	1,145,160	1,244,896
PACE TRUST FUNDS			
Joan & William Green Pace Fund	28,574	29,711	31,747
Sidney Samuels Pace Fund	60,499	62,907	67,217
Theodore & Charlotte Krentzel Pace Fund	116,703	121,348	129,662
Max Rovner Pace Fund	34,573	35,949	38,412
Lee & Jeffrey Forgosh Pace Fund	35,963	37,394	39,956
Muriel & Edward Broad Pace Fund	210,788	219,179	234,198
Dorothy Goodstein Pace Fund	18,219	18,944	20,242
Barbara & David Stahl Pace Fund	55,716	57,933	61,903
Goldstein Pace Fund	13,295	13,824	14,771
Saul & Ethel Greenspan Pace Fund	13,294	13,823	14,770
Ovid & Laura Slavin Pace Fund	65,690	68,304	72,985
Morton & Sydell Rosen Pace Fund	41,179	42,818	45,753
Total	694,492	722,134	771,615
TOTAL FOUNDATION FUNDS:	3,956,766	4,192,512	4,493,583

Strategic Plan

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Completes Strategic Plan Process

Over the past seven months, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire has embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process to better serve our community's diverse needs and priorities. This process included extensive community engagement, encompassing surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews with community members from all over New Hampshire. The insights gathered during these interactions have been instrumental in shaping a plan that truly reflects the aspirations and concerns of our community.

The strategic plan, which was approved by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Board of Directors at their June board meeting, outlines our vision for the future. Key highlights of the plan include a strengthened focus on advocacy, particularly in combating antisemitism and supporting Israel. We are also committed to providing services more equitably throughout the state, ensuring that all members of our community have access to the resources and programs they need. Additionally, the plan emphasizes the creation of new opportunities for community programming, fostering greater connection and engagement among New Hampshire's Jewish population.

Currently, the strategic plan is being formatted to be easily shared with our community. We are excited to present the full plan in September and look forward to working together to bring these goals to fruition. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, insights, and support throughout this process. Your input has been invaluable in guiding our future direction.

Thank You

TO OUR STRATEGIC
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Amy Lester, - Committee Chair

Amy Hyett

Sharon Weiss

Zach Camenker

Jeff Crocker

Thank you for your dedicated efforts and invaluable insights in helping to craft the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's new strategic plan. Your commitment and hard work have been instrumental in shaping a vision that will guide us towards a brighter future for our community. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and look forward to implementing the plan with your continued support.

-The JFNH Board of Directors



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2024 Shem Tov Award Recipients

The Shem Tov (good name) awards were created by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire to recognize volunteers from organization across New Hampshire who have provided outstanding service to the Jewish community. The recipients below were nominated by their respective organizations.

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation – Rhoda Rubin Sakowitz

Rhoda Rubin Sakowitz is a talented artist of Judaica. Students around the country become B'nai Mitzvah in the embrace of her hand-painted silk tallit, while couples share their wedding vows beneath her original silk chuppahs.

Rhoda has attended Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation (BHC) for over 80 years and has been an active and engaged volunteer there for the majority of her adult life. She grew up in her family's summer house next door to the synagogue, where her father Barney was the longtime president and her mother Dorothy, the Sisterhood president. During her high school years Rhoda chose Hebrew as her foreign language. She was a thoughtful and respected member of the synagogue Board while BHC navigated the see-saw challenges of an active summer population balanced by a small but mighty year-round membership. She was a mainstay of BHC sisterhood and Synagogue events, from decorating the sanctuary in blooms from her gardens, to organizing one-gala entertainments.

Also active at Temple Beth El of Sudbury, MA and later Temple Sir Tikva of Wayland, MA, Rhoda sang in the choirs, organized chavurah, and had the joy of becoming an adult Bat Mitzvah surrounded by her children and grandchildren. An art teacher and interior decorator, Rhoda has always been able to brighten any room with stunning and friendly smiles. She is the widow of Dr. Stanley Sakowitz, mother to Nicole (Bill) and Craig (Sharon) and grandmother to Zachary, Wyatt, Talia, Elana and Ari.



Rhoda Rubin Sakowitz

Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Manchester – Emil Campeanu

As a member of Chabad's security team, Emil Campeanu embodies community service and dedication through his commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our congregation during services, Hebrew school sessions, and programs. His selflessness and unwavering support have not only safeguarded our community but have also set a remarkable example of volunteerism and devotion.

Emil's role in volunteering for Chabad's security has been indispensable. His vigilance and attention to detail maintain a secure environment where our congregation can gather without fear.

Beyond his duties, Emil fosters a sense of camaraderie among our members with his warm demeanor and willingness to go above and beyond his responsibilities. Whether offering a reassuring smile to visitors or lending a helping hand to those in need, Emil consistently demonstrates a deep-seated commitment to the well-being of others.

His presence during Hebrew school sessions is particularly impactful, creating a secure atmosphere that reassures parents and enhances the educational experience for our children. Emil's selfless commitment embodies the essence of the Shem Tov Award, so we nominate Emil Campeanu in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our community.

Emil Campeanu was born in Romania to Holocaust survivors. In 1973, he and his family made Aliyah to Israel, where he completed his studies, served in the IDF, and married his wife, Sonia. In 2000, Emil and his family relocated to Southern New Hampshire. They have two children, Tivan and Ofir, and two grandchildren.



Emil Campeanu

Congregation Ahavas Achim – Gary Shapiro

Gary was born in Washington, DC and grew up with his parents and three brothers in a small town, Thurmont in Frederick County, MD. They were the only Jewish family in town; attended services, Bar Mitzvah-ed in Frederick. He was an All-County hoopster as a high school senior. Gary graduated from Western Maryland College, now known as McDaniel College, and medical school at University of Maryland. Gary's internship was at Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, NY. He served two years in the National Health Service Corps at a small rural Family Medicine Clinic, which he and colleague Steve Johnson started, in southern West Virginia. Gary moved to Keene in 1976; practiced Family Medicine in Keene, Brattleboro, VT, and Maplewood Nursing Home for 40 years, retiring in 2016.

Gary has been married for 53 years to Jane, a community activist. His nuclear family consists of his sons Peter and Jonathan and Peter's wife Kelly. Gary joined CAA in 1976. He served on the Board of Directors at Congregation Ahavas Achim for two terms. Gary's volunteer roles at CAA include our Kosher-Q and the Latke Blow-out. Community volunteering includes the Community Kitchen, and 100 Nights Shelter, both in Keene.

Heating primarily with wood; Gary cuts, splits, and stacks 4-5 cords of their own hardwood a year. Jane and Gary have summited all 67 4000-footers in New England.



Gary Shapiro

Etz Hayim Synagogue – Martha Tomanelli

Martha Tomanelli joined Etz Hayim Synagogue in 2018 and quickly became part of the fabric of our synagogue family, immersing herself in Etz Hayim life and ensuring our guests are always greeted with great enthusiasm, ensuring other newcomers feel welcome and comfortable.

Martha was a member of the 2019 adult b'nai mitzvah class. She took her studies seriously and helped keep the class exciting and interesting through her humor and banter with our Rabbi.

Martha taught the majority of our Mah Jongg group how to play the game, offering a series of sessions of instructional classes, showing respect and patience with learners of all abilities, while incorporating her "New York" brand of humor. Under her tutelage, 100% of the participants were able to play the game despite its complexities and challenges.

Though Martha does not enjoy cooking, she happily brings a dish to every Shabat oneg, many of which are home cooked, and ensures on item is gluten free. Despite how tired her illness often leaves her, Martha always stays to help clean up.

Martha is also co-chair of the Sisterhood and serves as liaison with Men's Group, researching and suggesting activities that are novel and will maintain membership. A key member of the Membership Committee, Martha ensures new avenues are explored to help attract and retain new members. She also serves on the Chavurat Ezra committee, driving people to doctor's appointments, helping with food shopping and errands, and driving them to shul for Friday night services. Most recently, she has become part of the Rabbi Transition Committee to welcome Rabbi Lefkowitz.

In addition to her many outside interests, Martha has boundless energy for Etz Hayim and enthusiastically volunteers for activities and committees. Her love for Etz Hayim and its members has truly made her one of our most beloved congregants.



Martha Tomanelli

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire – Harry Shepler

Harry Shepler is the founder and managing partner of the Shepler Financial Group, LLC., has been in the financial services industry since 1977, and has owned his own firm since 1988. He is an investment manager for all ages, but most especially those who are within ten years of the anticipated retirement.

Harry is nationally recognized in his field and is a frequent speaker at professional forums. He maintains membership in the American Society of Financial Planning Professionals.

On a personal note, Harry is very involved in AIPAC, and loves Israel. He is involved in many local charities. He is the Past President of the Board of Trustees of the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH, and served on its executive committee. He enjoys his membership at Temple Israel in Manchester, a "regular" at morning minyan and serves on the Trust Committee there. Also, he has served on the Merrimack, NH Community Hospice House Foundation's Investment Board. He is current treasurer of the Jewish Federation of NH.

Harry was born and raised in Ohio. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with graduate work at Boston University. He moved to New Hampshire in 1977 and currently lives and works in Bedford, NH with his wife of 50 years. He has four children, and nine grandchildren.



Harry Shepler

Kol Ha'Emek, The Upper Valley Jewish Community – Paul Etkind

Paul Etkind is a volunteer leader without equals. Not only has he served as the UVJC's treasurer and president, but he initiated a security committee, an Israel affairs committee, a robust monthly educational program, a Holocaust and antisemitism initiative, and more. He is always the first to volunteer to help with services, Board work, and more, from the simplest to the most complex duties.

Paul, a native of New Haven, CT, holds a Doctorate of Public Health from Yale University. Before moving to NH, Paul served two terms as president of his synagogue in Milton, MA. In the Upper Valley, Paul served as treasurer and the president of Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community, for sequential terms. As an active leader and volunteer, he initiated a wide range of social, educational, cultural, and security-related programs. He also serves in a leadership role for his Grantham community, Eastman, and is on the faculty of Osher at Dartmouth. Paul is married to Sue, the father of Molly, and the proud grandfather of Jack.



Paul Etkind

Continued on page A8

Seacoast Jewish Community Center – Stephen and Pamela Giguere

Stephen and Pamela have been pillars of the Seacoast Chabad community, consistently demonstrating their dedication and passion through their volunteer work.

Stephen grew up in Waterville, Maine, and has spent many years serving as the Vice President of a credit union, showcasing his commitment to helping others and his strong leadership skills. Pamela was raised in Boston and later moved to Dover, New Hampshire. She is exceptionally creative and runs her own company “Pam Stuff”, where you can find a variety of unique items.

Together they have two wonderful children: Belle, who earned her degree in music, and Jeremy, who is currently studying at Keene State College. Stephen and Pamela are not only known for their volunteer efforts but also for their love of art, travel, and biking. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and tireless contributions make them the ideal candidates for the Best Volunteers award.

With heartfelt gratitude, we recognize Stephen & Pamela Giguere for their unwavering dedication and selfless contributions to our community. Their tireless efforts and generosity have made a profound impact, enriching the lives of many and embodying the true spirit of community service. Thank you for all that you do!



Stephen and Pamela Giguere

Temple Adath Yeshurun – TAY Brotherhood and TAY Sisterhood

TAY Brotherhood:

For over 50 years, the Brotherhood has been a loyal and steadfast contributor, not only to the welfare of TAY, but to the Jewish community and to the whole regional community as well. The Brotherhood's Chanukah Party and Purim Carnival are both open, not only to members of TAY, but to all Jewish families in local communities. The Candidates Breakfasts have drawn impressive turnouts to hear candidates, or their surrogates, for local, state, and national office. The Mitzvah Program has for years served the community with over 100 volunteers working on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at the New Horizons Soup Kitchen, Delivering Meals on Wheels, covering the information desks at Elliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center, and helping with bingo night at the V.A. Hospital.

TAY Sisterhood:

The Sisterhood of Temple Adath Yeshurun has a long history of working with the Temple as one of its auxiliary organizations in order to strengthen and enhance congregational life. Traditionally the Sisterhood has focused its energy and resources in three areas:

- Providing services to enhance worship such as flowers for the Bima, onegs, holding the Second Seder, babysitting during services and sponsoring a Sisterhood Shabbat.
- Providing financial support to the Temple through a direct contribution to the operating budget plus special projects.
- Providing programming for members in particular and for the congregation in general.

The Sisterhood has been a participant in Women of Faith since its inception. This interfaith group for women provides programs to share religious beliefs, culture and traditions and develop understanding and friendships. The Neighbors Feeding Neighbors Fund delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to New Horizons whenever a donation is made.

The Sisterhood continues to grow and evolve, striving to make Temple Adath Yeshurun a place where congregants come together in friendship to worship and to learn.

Temple Beth Abraham – Robin Rubin

The Temple Beth Abraham Keter Shem Tov Committee is pleased to announce that this year's honoree is Robin Rubin. Robin and her husband, Larry, joined TBA in 1994, and as their son, Michael, was a toddler at that time, Robin was soon recruited to help organize the following year's High Holiday Babysitting. During the 30 years since then, Robin has been active in the TBA community, contributing her time and efforts – in many small ways during those early years and in more significant ways in recent times.

After organizing TBA's High Holiday babysitting for 2-3 years, Robin was the kitchen Paper Goods Coordinator for many years, the Sisterhood Financial Secretary for 2-3 years, the Sisterhood Programming VP two times, and is currently an at-large Sisterhood Board member. During those same years, Robin helped to set up numerous TBA onegs and kiddushes and generally offered her time and energy to synagogue events and projects, as needed.

In recent years, Robin has taken on larger roles. She has been co-chairing Sisterhood's twice a year Rummage Sales, bringing in significant funds for Sisterhood and TBA and contributing to the Greater Nashua community. Robin ran two successful Mah Jongg “tournaments” at TBA, leading, after the pandemic to regular Mah Jongg group at TBA on Sunday mornings. Robin has also stepped up to the task of coordinating the Purim Mishlo'ah Manot, with her husband, Larry, coordinating the home deliveries. Robin and Larry also assemble and deliver welcome baskets to new TBA members.

Robin has been contributing outside TBA also. Pre-pandemic, she regularly helped in the pantry of the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS). Currently, she coordinates weekly delivery of “day-old” baked goods from Shaw's supermarket to Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire, volunteers as a tutor for adult ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students, volunteers as an English tutor to Israeli



Robin Rubin

teens through a program called Israel Connect, and volunteers at American Red Cross blood drives. In May, she went to Israel on a weeklong volunteer/solidarity trip, because she felt that she needed to help there in some small way. Robin says that she finds purpose in helping others and her actions demonstrate this.

Temple Beth Jacob – Karen and Seth Aframe

Seth and Karen Aframe have been Temple Beth Jacob members since 2009. Seth has served on the TBJ board of trustees almost continuously since that time. He served as president from 2016-2018, during which time he ran the sanctuary improvement project which made major space and aesthetic upgrades and kitchen restoration after a Noah-like flood. After his presidential term, he joined the Board to continue in his leadership role. His wife Karen, has also served in various leadership positions, including chair of the youth committee. Karen and Seth worked as volunteer teachers for many years in which, among other lessons, they ran an elaborate “trip to Israel” unit for 5th graders. Seth also taught teens, using his lawyer skills, to present difficult moral questions for discussion. And Karen arranged to make sure that the kids had Works bagels and cream cheese every Sunday as well as managing the gift shop. She also led TBJ Tot Shabbat. Their two sons, Max and Noah, were Bar Mitzvahed at TBJ and worked as madrich in the school throughout high school. Seth and Karen have been involved in many aspects of synagogue life and have been instrumental for the past 15 years making TBJ a vibrant place.



Karen and Seth Aframe

Temple B'nai Israel – Leslie Aronson

Leslie grew up in Plymouth. She met her husband Dr. Mark Aronson in college. She is the mother of 6 kids and 11 grandchildren. She has worked as a teacher's aid with children who have behavioral problems. She is a talented quilter and an amazing cook. She is extremely creative with a great eye for fashion. She picked the colors for the temple social hall and even painted the entire room below the chair rail by herself.

What others have said:

“I recently experienced that caring when we talked about setting up an evening to remember my wife, Barbara. Before the end of the call, Leslie was already thinking through what Barb would have liked. Leslie stepped in and managed the entire evening. I asked her what I could do to help and in her pure “Leslie” style she replied, “I've got this! You just show up.” In this case, she made the nearly impossible nothing short of amazing.”

“She was a ferocious advocate for her son, Jared (he had Duchenne muscular dystrophy) and all of her children. Once when I was out with Jonathan and Avi (Leslie's son), a kid on their soccer team was giving Avi a hard time. Avi said, you better stop, or I'll tell my mother. You don't want me to tell my mother. She's not like a regular mother.”

TBI is proud to nominate Leslie Aronson for the 2024 Shem Tov Award.



Leslie Aronson

Temple Israel Manchester – Carol Pressman

Carol was born in Manchester to Gladys and Daniel Myers, who were founders of Temple Israel. Much like the woman we know and love today, Carol was an inquisitive child who was not afraid to question the way things were. She obtained her master's degree from NH College and then had a career teaching kindergarten in Hooksett. Carol loved the children, and the feeling was certainly mutual.

Carol describes her greatest success in life as raising her son Eric as a single Mom. She now enjoys wonderful grandchildren and feels fortunate to continue to influence the next generation.

Carol sits on the Board of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. She donates her time each year to the Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive. She helps keep the Temple Israel congregants well fed and coming back with her hard work on the TI Kitchen Committee. Carol comes by her volunteerism naturally. Her father was a Temple President, Board Member, and “without ever being asked, did what needed doing at the Temple.” Like her father, Carol consistently helps other people, never waiting to be asked.



Carol Pressman

Temple Israel Portsmouth – Emma and Walter Rous

Emma has led Temple Israel's Israel Affairs Committee for ten years. This successful initiative, launched by Rabbi David Senter z”l, promotes dialogue about Israel and Israeli current events in ways that reflect and respect the diverse perspectives within our congregation while affirming support for the ideals upon which Israel was founded. Under Emma's leadership, the committee has offered quality programs, sponsored Israel-themed events, and provided education that broadens awareness of Israel's complexities. Diplomatic and even-handed, Emma has facilitated an open, healthy, and respectful exchange of ideas, both within the committee's discussions and through the programs sponsored by the committee.

Among Walter's gifts to our community have been photographs taken both at home and abroad, sharing images of joyful events and celebrating the wonders of the natural world. Walter has also been a devoted member of the Yiddish class, to which he contributes his broad knowledge of Jewish culture and Hebrew language. We are grateful for Emma and Walter's open-hearted contributions, which add to the health and vitality of the Temple Israel community.



Emma and Walter Rous

2023 Campaign Honor Roll

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.

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Sunday, August 11th
6pm

In person at the Bedford Event Center and Livestreamed
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*Doors open at 6pm with a Kosher Dessert Reception.
Meeting begins promptly at 7pm*



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