

Berkshire Jewish Summer

2026 Guide to
Culture, Education
and Community

MUSIC & THEATRE



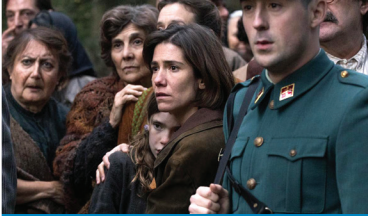
SIX13 Jewish A Capella,
Community Concert

BOOKS & AUTHORS



David Harris, *Antisemitism:
What Everyone Needs
to Know*

ART & FILM



Frontier, Berkshire Jewish
Film Festival

LECTURES & COURSES



Maggie Haberman,
New York Times



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Enriching and celebrating Jewish
life in the Berkshires and beyond

jewishberkshires.org



Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires

Songs Ascending | July 24 – 25, 2026

Join Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires for a song-filled shabbaton with faculty, leadership, and alumni, celebrating the sounds of the Jewish world.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

The Sounds of Jewish Music: Past, Present, Future

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim

Musical Erev Shabbat Services and Oneg

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Trails and Torah

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Pleasant Valley (rain location: Temple Anshe Amunim)

Havdalah

6:00 p.m. (prior to the BSO performance)

at Tanglewood

Programming in collaboration with Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and Temple Anshe Amunim



Join us for one or more of these programs; open to all.

Learn more at huc.edu/berkshires

Questions: Contact events@huc.edu



150

1875–2025

Hebrew Union College is North America's premier institution of Jewish higher education and the center for professional leadership development of Reform Judaism. A multi-campus academic and spiritual learning community in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, Hebrew Union College builds vibrant progressive Judaism in North America, Israel, and around the globe. www.huc.edu



BERKSHIRE JEWISH SUMMER 2026

Welcome & Shalom

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is pleased to present the 2026 Berkshire Jewish Summer. Whether you are a full time resident or just joining our community for the summer, we hope you will take some time to explore our Jewish communities and engage in many of the wonderful Jewish programs and events happening throughout the season.



Programming & Events

The programs in this publication are presented by the **Jewish Federation of the Berkshires** and its affiliates:

Please call ahead to confirm program details. For more events and a full list of partner organizations, visit:

jewishberkshires.org

Jewish Federation Affiliate Partners:

Berkshire Hills Hadassah

Berkshire Minyan

Conservative – berkshireminyan.org

Chabad of the Berkshires

Lubavitch – jewishberkshires.com

Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Reconstructionist – ahavathsholom.com

Congregation Beth Israel

Reform – cbiweb.org

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Reform – hevreh.org

Knesset Israel

Conservative – knessetisrael.org

Temple Anshe Amunim

Reform – ansheamunim.org

Cover photo by Kara Thornton



BUILDING, STRENGTHENING, CARING

Federation is the place where we join hands and hearts to build a stronger Jewish community and a stronger Jewish future – for all.

When you make a gift to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, you rescue those in peril and bring help, hope, and dignity to the elderly, the vulnerable, and the distressed. You educate the next generation and connect them to their Jewish heritage. You train young leaders and build vital community connections.

Please Give Generously!

We are not complete without every member of our Jewish community. That's why every gift, large and small, matters. It says, "I belong – I care."

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Mail to **Jewish Federation of the Berkshires**
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
or donate online at **jewishberkshires.org**

{Ongoing}



Shabbat and Daily Services

Shabbat Services and weekend minyan are available at most Berkshire County Congregations as listed on page 3. Please check with the congregations directly regarding worship times and if you need a midweek minyan.

Fridays, June 12, July 10, Aug 14 – 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church, 251 Main Street,
Great Barrington

Sacred Texts, Shared Questions – An Interfaith Bible Study Series

Join Rabbi Jodie Gordon, other clergy and community members for a three-part interfaith exploration of sacred texts that shape our moral imagination and spiritual lives.

We will study the Book of Jonah, the prophet Isaiah, and other biblical voices, engaging these texts through Jewish, Christian, and interfaith lenses. No prior text study experience is necessary – just curiosity, openness, and a willingness to listen across differences. Each session will include close reading, teaching, and facilitated discussion. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh and the Southern Berkshire Interfaith Clergy Council. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Sundays, June 14, July 12, August 16 – 9 a.m.

Meet at hiking location

Hevreh Hikes

Our hikes are approachable for all levels. Most will be easy, but there will be some hills. Recommended: water, sturdy footwear & bug spray. Registration is required. June 14 – Goodnow Preserve Upper Loop, 442 Mill River Southfield Rd, New Marlborough; July 12 – Basin Pond Trail Loop, Becket Road, Lee; August 16 – Bidwell House Museum Trail, 100 Art School Road, Monterey. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Mondays, June 15 through August 31 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Torah and Tea Luncheon

Chabad of the Berkshires invites women to “Torah & Tea,” a weekly Torah learning luncheon led by Sara Volovik. The gathering includes a delicious lunch in a warm, relaxed setting where women connect and learn together. Each week explores the Torah portion through commentary and kabbalistic teachings, highlighting its relevance to everyday life. The program offers meaningful study, inspiration, and community in an accessible, welcoming atmosphere. Please RSVP. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires and the Yonah Foundation. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Mondays, June 15 through August 31 – 1:30 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Mah Jong Mondays

You are invited to play Mah Jong at Chabad of the Berkshires and enjoy a lively afternoon of strategy, fun, and friendship each Monday at 1:30 p.m. Players of all skill levels are welcome, from beginners eager to learn to seasoned players looking for a friendly game. The weekly gathering offers a warm, relaxed environment to socialize and sharpen your skills. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

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nassausynagogue.org**

Nassau Synagogue & Jewish Community Center
12 Albany Avenue • Nassau, NY 12123

{Ongoing}

Mondays, June 15, 22, 29, July 6 – 6:30 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Craft Night at Temple Anshe Amunim

All are welcome. Either bring your own projects or join in the fun of making Jewish ritual and decorative objects together. Led by lay leaders along with Rabbi Val Lieber. Register in advance for the series or by session. June 15: Hebrew name bead bracelet (\$10). June 22: Seder plate (\$10). June 29: Mezuzah (\$18; more for additional kosher scroll). July 6: Rosh Hashana (or other holiday) table runner (\$25). Register for all at a discounted (\$54). Varies by session. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Wednesdays, June 17, 24, July 1, 8, 22 – 12 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Far From the Tsar – Jewish American Culture, History and Politics 1880-1935

Rabbi Val Lieber leads this lecture and discussion class to consider causes and challenges of mass migration to the U.S. from Eastern Europe. Topics include challenges of assimilation and acculturation; friction between the German and Eastern European Jews; advancement in labor rights led by Jews; major cultural contributions in music, theater, and sports; the rise of the America First movement, and antisemitism in the 1920s and 1930s. Registration is required. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

Thursdays, June 18, July 16, August 20 – 1 p.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Mahjong at Hevreh

We will continue to fill our sanctuary with the sound of tiles as we play Mahjong through the seasons. All are welcome, from beginner through advanced. Registration is appreciated. \$5. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Sundays, June 21, July 19, August 9 – 9 a.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Holy Rollers

Join us for a casual 20-25 mile bike ride through the beautiful Berkshire Hills. Each ride is a chance to meet others from our community, get some exercise, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Meet at Hevreh. Helmets and advance registration required. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Mondays, June 22, 29, July 13, 20 – 6 p.m.

Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Via Zoom

A Powerful New Summer Book Group: *The Last Woman of Warsaw*


We invite you to join us for our summer book group on Zoom, facilitated by Rabbi Jennifer Rudin. We will read and discuss Judy Batalion's *The Last Woman of Warsaw*. This gripping work of historical fiction explores the lives of women navigating danger, resistance, and impossible choices in wartime Warsaw. Advance registration is required: casoffice15@gmail.com. FREE. Sponsored by Congregation Ahavath Sholom. More info at: ahavathsholom.com or (413) 528-4197.


Fridays, June 26, July 10, August 14 – 5:30 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Community Shabbat Dinners with Temple Anshe Amunim

Following regular services, join us in community for a series of special Shabbat dinners, each featuring unique menus. June 26 – Shabbat Cookout; July 10 – Shabbat Gilded Age feast. August 14 – Shabbat Age of Aquarius Dinner. Call for menu details. Registration required. Adults





Anthony Roth Costanzo

ZARNA GARG June 19	BRANFORD MARSALIS July 24
STRAIGHT NO CHASER June 20	HEATHER HEADLEY July 31
BÉLA FLECK'S BEATrio June 27	2026 GALA ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO August 2
TAB BENOIT July 12	BOF'S LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR August 22, 25 & 28
JOHN WAITE July 16	
<i>and so much more!</i>	
14 & 20 Castle St, Great Barrington, MA • mahaiwe.org	

{Ongoing}

\$18, kids free. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

Saturdays, June 27 through August 29 – 9:15 a.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Making Prayer Meaningful

Ever wondered why we repeat the same words in prayer, or what they really mean? This class will explore the deeper layers of tefillah through Chassidic and Kabbalistic teachings, uncovering what's beneath the words and how prayer can become more personal and meaningful. No prior experience necessary, just curiosity and an open mind. Coffee and pastries provided. Led by Hershy Volovik. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Mondays, June 29, July 27 – 10 a.m.

Meet at hiking location

Exploring the Berkshires with Rabbi Levi: A Guided Hike

We'll walk the trails, take in the views, and enjoy good conversation along the way. A nice chance to get outside, slow

down a bit, and spend time with others. June 29 – Olivia's Overlook; July 27 – Kennedy Park. Meet at the location. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturdays, July 4, 18, August 8 – 11:15 a.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Jewish Kids Club

Join us for a lively, hands-on Shabbat program designed just for kids ages 5–12! Each week is packed with fun games, creative activities, and interactive learning that brings Shabbat and Judaism to life in an exciting way. Kids will make friends, explore, play, and enjoy a warm, welcoming environment full of energy and joy. A great way to spend Shabbat morning! FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Mondays, July 6, August 10 – 10 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Shir Chadash: A Jewish Poetry Salon

Calling all Jewish poets and poetry-lovers! Bring a favorite poem by a Jewish poet and/or one of your own. We will share poetry, talk poetry, and write poetry for two sessions this summer. Sessions facilitated by Rabbi and poet Pam Wax. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesdays, July 8, 29 – 3:30 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Families Together: Mitzvah Minis

Families with children 6 years old and younger are invited to come together for an afternoon of fun, friendship and meaningful learning hosted by Jilly Lederman and Elisa Snowise. Activities will include arts and crafts, games inside and outside, challah baking and more all while learning about Jewish values and mitzvot. For more information and to register for this FREE program please visit knessetisrael.org/rsvp. Families Together programs are generously sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Thursdays, July 9, 30, August 6, 20 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Kitchen of Kindness

Wonder what it feels like to be cared for by your community? Join Sara in the KITCHEN of KINDNESS, where volunteers prepare fresh, homemade meals for families or individuals recovering from surgery, welcoming a newborn, facing illness, losing a loved one, or simply needing extra support. Being nominated to receive a meal

William Pitt Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Carrie Lobovits Wright
+1 413 212 1865
cwright@wpsir.com
carriewright.williamspitt.com

Let me be *your guide* to
The Berkshires

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SIX13

A CAPPELLA

SIX13: Jewish A Cappella Concert SUN, AUG 16 | 7:00 PM Lenox Memorial High School

Get ready for an unforgettable night with Six13, where jaw-dropping vocal percussion, intricate arrangements, and unparalleled harmonies transform six voices into a full-band experience.

General Admission: \$25. Kids 13 and under are free.
Purchase tickets: jewishberkshires.org

Proceeds to benefit Federation's initiatives to combat antisemitism
Funded in part by generous underwriters and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation



Jewish Federation[®]
OF THE BERKSHIRES

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THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.



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{Ongoing}

is a heartfelt gesture of care, a reminder that your community is thinking of you. Each meal is prepared with love and delivered with dignity. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturdays, July 11, 18, August 1, 15, 29 –
10:40 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Shabbat Hikes with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim for a Shabbat Hike. We will meet at the Temple at 10:40 a.m. Open to all levels. Pre-registration is required. July 11 – Canoe Meadows; July 18 – Olivia's Overlook; August 29 – Kennedy Park; August 1 – Old Mill Trail; August 15 – Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

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www.jewishberkshires.org
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Knesset Israel Presents



BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Mondays - July 6

through

August 10 - 2026

*Lenox Memorial Middle & High School
197 East Street, Lenox, MA*

Show Times: 3:30pm & 7:30pm

For information visit
www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org

ENSURE A VIBRANT, CARING, & SECURE JEWISH BERKSHIRES JOIN OUR COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TODAY!

Your gift to Jewish Federation supports the most vulnerable, strengthens Jewish identity in our youth, fights antisemitism, and builds joyful Jewish life for people of all ages across the Berkshires and beyond.



JEWISH LIFE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

You help young families embrace Jewish values and traditions while building a supportive community with Jewish peers through family programming, PJ Library, and volunteer opportunities.



RESOURCES TO FIGHT ANTISEMITISM

You help young people stand up against hate through anti-bias education in our public schools. You also combat antisemitism and the BDS movement through community programming, local advocacy, and security resources.

DIGNITY & COMPASSION

You provide older adults and homebound individuals with nutritious meals and programming served up with a side of companionship and compassion through our *Connecting With Community* program and Kosher Meals on Wheels.



JEWISH EDUCATION & VALUES

You nurture a strong Jewish future by providing a high-quality, meaningful, and affordable Jewish education for hundreds of children through critical grants to all of our local Jewish religious schools.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

You strengthen, sustain, and connect our community through hundreds of educational programs, holiday celebrations, and the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, which bring people together and engage them in meaningful Jewish life.



A STRONG JEWISH IDENTITY

You help young people build strong Jewish identities and become future leaders through scholarships for Jewish camp and Israel experiences, as well as leadership development and holiday meals on campus.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

You help individuals facing unexpected challenges and life transitions receive the support and resources they need. You also provide a safety net of emergency assistance in our local community.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

You help provide a proactive voice in our community, schools, government, and media, as well as advocacy to build community relations and respond to antisemitism in our community.



A SECURE JEWISH COMMUNITY

You help keep our community and our institutions safe through ongoing security trainings, building assessments, security grants, a community alert system, and the sharing of best practices to ensure we can freely and securely celebrate Jewish life.



CARE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

When crisis hits in Israel or around the world, you help mobilize local resources to respond with immediate humanitarian relief, advocacy, and recovery. From the Israel Crisis to the war in Ukraine, you help deliver an SOS response.

A CLOSE & CARING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

You help connect the Berkshire Jewish Community with Israel through our Afula-Gilboa partnership. You also provide programs for at-risk students, shelter for abused women, and support services for disabled youth in Israel.



FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHCARE, & WINTER RELIEF

The war in Ukraine and safe resettlement of Jews fleeing the region has been difficult, but you help provide shelter, transportation, blankets, and heaters. You also bring food, home health aides, and medicine to those who need it most.



DONATE ONLINE AT JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG. THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

{Ongoing}

Tuesdays, July 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18 – 10:30 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Aggadah: Stories for Their Time and Ours

Aggadah – the non-legal, narrative, and homiletic portions of the Talmud – is filled with a diverse array of stories. During each session, we will look at a few stories (in translation, with

Hebrew handy for those with Hebrew skills) and unpack what they might have to teach us today. Come to one or all. Taught by Rabbi Pam Wax. \$10 per session, or \$50 for the series. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesdays, July 15, 29, August 12, 26 – 9 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Ramblin with the Rav

Leashed dogs are welcome. Register in advance for the meeting place (carpool or trailhead) and time. Call for rain dates. July 15 – Hopkins Memorial Forest is a relatively smooth trail; July 29 – Flag Rock in Housatonic is a slow climbing trail with a hiking pace of 1.75-2 mph; August 12 – Old Mill Trail in Hinsdale is a short, flat, easy hike for all ages; August 26 – Keystone Arch Bridges in Cheshire is an easy hike for sure-footed individuals and kids. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesdays, July 29, August 5 – 12 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

The Synoptic Gospels Through the Eyes of a Jew

Two thousand years ago, we faced tumultuous times. A new paradigm of Judaism, along with Christianity, was a response to that chaos. Different people told different versions of similar stories to find the courage and strength to navigate those difficult days. Rabbi Peter Levy will lead us on a journey through the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, where we will discover relevant and common paths through our own challenging times as we seek oneness with God. Registration is required. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.


Wednesdays, August 12, 19 – 12 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Revising Our Prayers – Revising Our Selves

Sometimes in prayer, the words of the prayer book fail to touch us or address our real-life concerns. In advance of the High Holy Days, Rabbi Val Lieber will guide the group as we consider a few of the major prayers from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to find how we can connect to their themes. We will share ideas and attempt some prayer revisions to reflect our spiritual yearnings. Feel free to bring lunch. Please register in advance. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

86th ANNUAL MEETING



Celebrating our Work Together


Monday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Shakespeare & Company
Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre
70 Kemble Street, Lenox

All are welcome to join our annual celebration and meeting to learn more about Federation's impact in the Berkshire Jewish community and beyond. Enjoy schmoozing, refreshments, board election, and guest speakers.

Community Partnerships:

Combating Bias and Promoting Tolerance
Join us for an inspiring conversation to learn how Federation builds relationships and funds programs to combat bias and promote tolerance in our community. Conversation partners include Bill Ballen (Berk12 and Berkshires Standing Together Alliance), Phil Fogelman (Changemakers for Good), and Lindsey Berkowitz Brown (Teacher, Mount Everett Regional School)



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

{June 2026}

Wednesdays, August 19, 26 – 12 p.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Lunch n’ Learn – Elul with the Clergy

As we make our way through Elul, we’re invited to slow down, notice what’s stirring beneath the surface, and turn inward with intention. This is a season of cheshbon ha’nefesh – a quiet, honest reckoning – as we prepare to cross the threshold into a new year with greater awareness and care. This year, we’ll be learning with voices from within our Hevreh community to help us enter 5787 grounded, open, and ready. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

{JUNE}

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – 7 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

738 Days in Hell – Bar Kupershtein’s Story of Survival

Bar Kupershtein shares a gripping story of resilience, faith, and survival after being kidnapped during the October 7 attacks and held hostage in Gaza for 738 days. While serving as head of security at the Nova festival, he was abducted and thrust into unimaginable suffering. Bar endured extreme conditions in captivity. Sustained by unwavering faith, he now inspires messages of strength, unity, hope, and perseverance. \$45 per person. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Thursday, June 18, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Halleluyah – The Music and Poetry of Leonard Cohen

Join Laura Wetzler, singer, songwriter, guitarist, recording artist and lecturer in a multimedia presentation that explores how Leonard Cohen’s work is fed by his Jewish roots and Buddhist branches. Laura has devoted years of study and performance to diverse, multicultural World music, as well as to the history of American popular entertainment and European Art Music. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, June 20, 2026 – 2:30 p.m.

Barrington Stage Company, St Germain Stage, 36 Linden Street, Pittsfield

TAA Goes to Driving Miss Daisy and Talkback

Temple Anshe Amunim attends a matinee performance of *Driving Miss Daisy* at Barrington Stage followed by a talkback featuring star Debra Jo Rupp & Director Julianne Boyd. Daisy is a Reform Jewish widow in civil rights era Atlanta. She becomes close to her Black driver over many years. During that time her Temple is bombed due to the rabbi’s pro civil rights stance (true story). \$65. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

Monday, June 22, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

Shakespeare & Company Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ 86th Annual Meeting

Celebrate a Year of Impact! All are welcome to join our annual celebration and meeting to learn more about Federation’s work in the Berkshire Jewish community and beyond. Enjoy schmoozing, refreshments, board



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election and guest speakers. Community Partnerships: Combating Bias and Promoting Tolerance a conversation with Bill Ballen (Berk12 and Berkshires Standing Together Alliance), Phil Fogelman (Changemakers for Good), and Lindsey Berkowitz Brown (Teacher, Mount Everett Regional School). FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

The Red Hotel: Tribute to a Lost World

Join Lita Moses and her son, historian Daniel Moses, for a fascinating discussion of Lita's life growing up at the Arrowhead Lodge in the Catskills. A fascinating and unusual memoir, it is a glimpse into life at The Arrowhead Lodge, a left-wing "Borsht Belt" hotel, in the 1940's and 50's, through the eyes of the daughter of the hotel proprietor. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for kosher lunch. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 2 p.m.

Barrington Stage Company, Boyd-Quinson Stage, 30 Union Street, Pittsfield

The Zionists: A Family Storm Theater Outing with Knesset Israel

Join Knesset Israel for an outing at the Boyd-Quinson Theatre to see the Barrington Stage production of this new play about a Jewish family fractured by the aftermath of October 7. A talk-back will follow the performance. (Reserve early; tickets could sell out.) \$56.25. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 4 p.m.

Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Via Zoom

A Taste of Community: Cooking Up Connection with a Salatim Class

Rabbi Jennifer Rudin will host a Zoom gathering that blends food, culture, and community. This cooking class invites participants into the culinary world of salatim—colorful and flavorful small dishes that have become staples of Israeli and Middle Eastern cuisine. Rabbi Rudin will guide participants in preparing four salatim inspired by chef Michael Solomon's acclaimed cookbook, *Zahav*. To RSVP or ask questions, email RabbiRudinAhavathSholom@gmail.com.

A Zoom link and ingredient/supply list will be provided upon receipt of your response. FREE. Sponsored by Congregation Ahavath Sholom. More info at: ahavathsholom.com or (413) 528-4197.

Friday, June 26, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Carole King: She Made the Earth Move

Join journalist and author Jane Eisner for a discussion tracing the professional accomplishments and personal challenges of pop icon Carole King and exploring her unique contribution to American music revealing details of her humble beginnings in Jewish Brooklyn, the roots of her musical genius, her four marriages, and her anguish about public life. This program is part of Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with the Jewish Book Council. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and The Jewish Book Council. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, June 27, 2026 – 10:40 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Shabbat Excursion to The Mount

Rabbi Val Lieber will lead an excursion at The Mount to enjoy the great outdoors and lunch together. We will meet at Temple Anshe Amunim at 10:40 a.m. and carpool to The Mount, where we will tour the grounds and gardens and gather at the cafe for lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Sunday, June 28, 2026 – 5 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

A Kosher Night of Dining and Connection

A memorable kosher night out featuring an elevated dining experience for the community. Enjoy a full menu of beautifully prepared kosher dishes, including premium meats, flavorful entrées, fresh sides, and delectable desserts. The evening will also include a selection of kosher wines to complement the meal. Come relax, connect, and enjoy great food in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Open to everyone, bring friends and family for a memorable night out. RSVP required. \$90 per person. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 – 11 a.m.

Barrington Stage Company, Boyd-Quinson Theater, 30 Union Street, Pittsfield

The Zionists: A Family Storm; A Deeper Look on Relationships, Identity and Jewish Stories

{July 2026}

Join Federation and Barrington Stage Company for a panel discussion centered on Barrington Stage's production of the world premiere play *The Zionists: A Family Storm*. Together, we will explore the complexity of Jewish identity, family dynamics, and the challenges and opportunities of portraying Jewish themes authentically on stage. This event is presented by BSC in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Registration required. \$5. Sponsored by Barrington Stage Company and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

{JULY}

Thursday, July 2, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

The 'Jewish' Musicals: Jewish Life on Broadway

Join Laura Wetzler, singer, songwriter, guitarist, recording artist, and lecturer in a multimedia presentation that explores the appearance of Jewish stories, characters, and themes in the Broadway musical and what representation means for the Jewish community in American society. Laura has devoted years of study and performance to multicultural World music and the history of American popular entertainment. Enjoy your favorites, including *Milk*

and *Honey, Parade, Harmony, and The Producers*. Following the program, we will continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for kosher lunch. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Sunday, July 5, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Grand Mikvah Opening

Chabad of the Berkshires is proud to announce the grand opening of its brand new Mikvah, the first Mikvah in Lenox in our 250 year history. This milestone marks an important step in the growth of Jewish life in the Berkshires. The community will gather to celebrate this meaningful occasion, followed by a festive outdoor grilled dinner. All are warmly invited to join, regardless of background or affiliation, as we celebrate this special and historic moment together.

THERE'S MORE!

View more Jewish community events and happenings at

JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG

Music
at Hevreh
presents

“A Classical Conversation”

Join us for the live premiere of new Jewish music featuring members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, followed by a discussion with composer Jakov Jakoulov.

July 7, 2026 at 7 pm

Member tickets: \$60
Non-member tickets: \$75

Scan for tickets and sponsorship info

Hevreh
Jewish Life - Learning - Community
Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Great Barrington, MA hevreh.org

{July 2026}

FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Monday, July 6, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Our Neighbour's Ass and Rosenthal the Great Showman*

Two films. *Our Neighbour's Ass* (short) – A widow inherits her husband's unruly donkey, whose antics disrupt the neighborhood, as she navigates grief, loneliness, and unexpected humor, discovering that healing and connection can arrive in the most chaotic and unlikely ways.

Rosenthal the Great Showman – In postwar Germany, beloved TV host Hans Rosenthal confronts his hidden Holocaust past when a major celebration conflicts with Kristallnacht remembrance, forcing him to reconcile fame, identity, and memory in a powerful story of truth, survival, and courage. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 6, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*



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Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *The Stage is Ours and Tovah*

Two films. *The Stage Is Ours* (short) – Jewish Broadway artists gather to reflect on storytelling, identity, and legacy, celebrating the humor, resilience, and cultural impact of Jewish voices that have helped shape American theater for generations through powerful, personal, and collective experiences.

Tovah – This dynamic biography explores the life and career of Tovah Feldshuh, highlighting her remarkable range, enduring influence, and dedication to her craft through interviews, archival footage, and tributes celebrating a powerhouse performer's lasting impact on stage and screen. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 – 7 p.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington*

Music at Hevreh Presents – A Classical Conversation

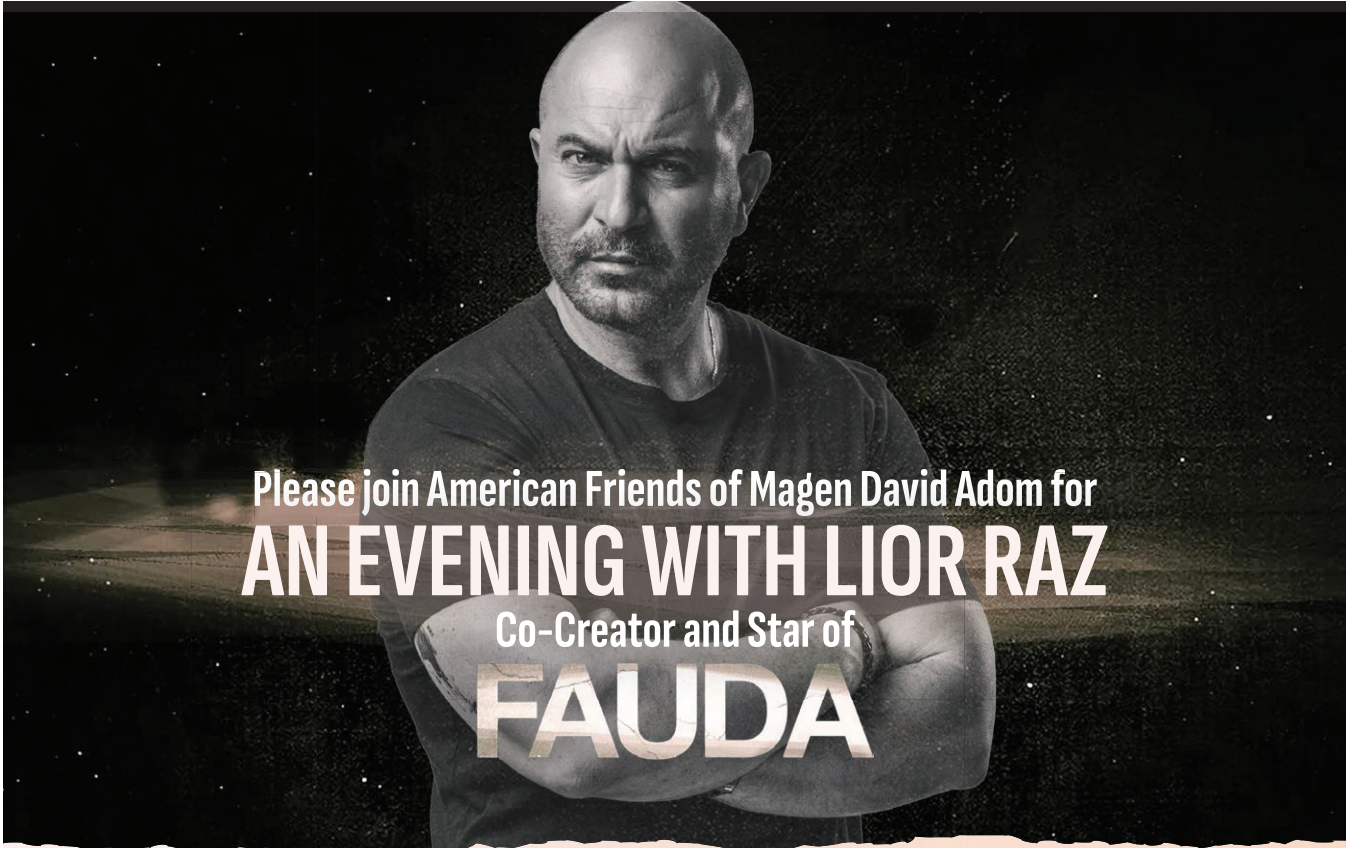
Join us for an intimate evening of Jewish music and discussion featuring Boston Symphony Orchestra violist Michael Zaretsky and clarinetist Tom Martin accompanied by pianist Xak Bjerken, and led by composer/pianist Jakov Jakoulov. The performance will feature the world premieres of three arrangements written by Jakoulov specifically for the trio of clarinet, viola, and piano. After the performance, Jakoulov will lead an informal discussion with the audience and performers, opening the floor to reactions, questions, and reflections. \$75. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Thursday, July 9, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

*This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel,
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield*

The Origin of New York Jews: Sampson Simson's 1800 Columbia College Commencement Speech

Join Fitchburg State Professor Michael Hoberman to learn about Samson Simon who delivered a commencement speech at Columbia College (he was its first Jewish graduate, and would go on to found Mt. Sinai Hospital) in Hebrew. His talk was short, but its implications were wide-ranging. It was America's first public expression of Jewish identity, and it also declared the existence of a quintessential national character type: the New York Jew. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for kosher lunch. Sponsored by Jewish



Please join American Friends of Magen David Adom for
AN EVENING WITH LIOR RAZ
Co-Creator and Star of
FAUDA

Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires

17 West Street, Lenox, Massachusetts

Lior Raz demonstrates a profound understanding of the complexities on the ground in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As co-creator and star of the award-winning Netflix series *Fauda*, Arabic for “chaos,” he portrays characters on both sides of the dispute with empathy and depth.

Raz experienced the conflict firsthand as a member of the Israeli Defense Forces. There, he became fluent in Arabic and gained unique insight into the realities of daily life for people living amid the conflict.



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or visit
jewishberkshires.com

{July 2026}

Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, July 10, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

Shakespeare and Company, Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox

JTS in the Berkshires: Cultivating Resilience and Joy in Difficult Times

Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, Pearl Resnick Dean of the Rabbinical School and Dean of the Division of Religious Leadership at JTS will present the first of two JTS in the Berkshires programs this summer, sharing classical Jewish texts that can help us navigate the turbulence of our reality, reawaken joy, and help us build practices to strengthen us and our communities. \$25. Sponsored by JTS, Knesset Israel, and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jtsa.edu/berkshires-2026 or (212) 678-8996.

Friday, July 10, 2026 – 5:45 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Shirei Shabbat and Community Dinner

Join friends at Knesset Israel for an energizing, musical Friday evening service, then stay for a delicious kosher Shabbat dinner. Registration necessary for dinner.

Sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Knesset Israel. Adults \$25, kids under 18 free. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, July 11, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Jews in the News: How the Press Covers Israel and the Jewish community

Former *New York Times* religion writer and editor Ari L. Goldman, Professor Emeritus at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and author of the bestselling memoir *The Search for God at Harvard*, will speak as part of the Shabbat Lecture Series. His talk, "Jews in the News: How the Press Covers Israel and the Jewish Community," explores media coverage of Israel and Jews. Guests are warmly invited to a kiddush following the lecture. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 11, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

What in Heaven is the Olam ha-Ba? Ideas about the Afterlife and End of History

Do Jews believe in an afterlife? If human history has a



beginning, does it have an end? While we live in this world, the Sages imagined that neither death nor the future was a barrier to resolving personal or historical matters. These and a plethora of other peculiar questions will be part of our journey through the concept of the World-to-Come. This Acharei Kiddush program will be presented by Rabbi Serge Lippe, spiritual leader of the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, July 11, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

Tanglewood, 297 West Street, Lenox

Picnic and Havdalah at Tanglewood

Each attendee will buy their own ticket to the performance featuring Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* and Mozart's *Concerto No 25* with Emanuel Ax. (Ax is a Jewish son of holocaust survivors, and Mahler was Jewish, too!) Find us gathered around the pool noodles. Bring picnic food to share. Let us know you are coming by registering so we expect you. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

Sunday, July 12, 2026 – 1:45 p.m.

Tanglewood, 297 West Street, Lenox

Sunday Afternoon at Tanglewood with Berkshire Jewish Collective

Join the Berkshire Jewish Collective 20s, 30s, 40s group for a festive and fun Sunday afternoon picnic on the lawn at Tanglewood. Couples, singles, and families are all welcome—come relax, connect, and enjoy a beautiful summer day together. Please RSVP to jbc@jewishberkshires.org so we can plan accordingly as we will be providing yummy snacks and drinks! Feel free to bring your own additional picnic pleasures. Purchase your own Tanglewood ticket. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Monday, July 13, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *The Road Between Us*

When Hamas terrorists storm his son's kibbutz on October 7, 2023, retired Israeli general Noam Tibon receives a desperate WhatsApp message: his son's family is trapped in a panic room, with gunfire closing in. Noam and his wife Gali arm themselves and drive ten harrowing hours across a country under siege, fighting through ambushes and



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{July 2026}

chaos to reach their family. Told through raw footage and firsthand testimony, this is a pulse-pounding testament to the ferocity of a parent's love. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshire-jewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 13, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Tatami*

When Iranian judo athlete Leila arrives at the World Championships with a chance to win her country's first gold medal, her government orders her to withdraw or be branded a traitor. *Tatami* is a tense thriller following Leila and her coach as they face escalating threats, where each victory on the mat brings greater danger off it. Inspired by true events, the film feels especially timely and marks the first collaboration between an Israeli and Iranian filmmaker. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox



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Wednesday, July 15, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

Visiting Scholar: Richard Kreitner

Kreitner, journalist and historian, wrote *Fear No Pharaoh* – finalist for the 75th National Jewish Book Award. Kreitner's presentations set this question at the heart of the Civil War era: since ancient times, Jews have recalled the Exodus and reflected on having been slaves. Did tradition teach that Jews should speak out against slavery everywhere, or act to protect themselves in a hostile world? He addresses shifting dynamics of Jewish life in America then and now. Registration is required. TAA and KI Members: Either morning program (10:30 am) or afternoon program (12:45 pm) and lunch (noon): \$20; both programs and lunch \$25. Non-members: Either morning program (10:30 am) or afternoon program (12:45 pm) and lunch (noon): \$30. Both programs. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org/calendar or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, July 16, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

*This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel,
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield*

Current Events Seminar with Dr. Steven Rubin

The Current Events Seminar will focus on the latest world happenings. Participants will have an opportunity to examine and discuss topical and newsworthy national and international issues and problems, as well as possible solutions. For each session, the moderator will suggest readings, introduce relevant topics, and offer discussion questions. The seminar will be conducted throughout in a collaborative and collegial manner, with all participants encouraged to voice their opinions. Following the program, we will continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewish-berkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, July 17, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Artisan Challah and Babka Bake

You are invited to a hands-on experience where participants will mix, knead, braid, and bake fresh challah and babka to take home for Shabbat. The program will be led by Sara Volovik, whose exquisite food and challah baking are enjoyed by many. The event offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere where tradition, creativity, and community come together in preparation for Shabbat. All are warmly invited, regardless of background or affiliation. \$36. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Friday, July 17, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Antisemitism: What Everyone Needs to Know

Join David Harris, former Chief Executive Office of the American Jewish Committee (1990-2022), in conversation with Jeff Robbins, for a timely, incisive and impactful discussion of antisemitism and the issues currently confronting the Jewish people locally and around the globe. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, July 18, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Zoe Buckman: Art, October 7th, and Jewish Identity Today

Zoe Buckman, a world-class artist and public figure, will speak about how the art world responded in the aftermath of October 7th and what she experienced within creative and cultural spaces. She will reflect on the challenges and conversations that emerged, and why she believes it is more important than ever to stand confidently and proudly in Jewish identity. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 18, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Aging Well: Crafting Your Future

What does “aging well” look like and how does one plan for it? A panel of KI congregants will share their stories and decisions about crafting their futures, whether that has meant moving to a retirement community, moving closer to family, or aging in place. This Acharai Kiddush program will follow Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, July 19, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Tanglewood, 297 West Street, Lenox

PJ Library Goes to Tanglewood

Families, pack a blanket, grab the kids, and join us for a magical morning of music and fun at Tanglewood! We'll gather under the big tree at the back of the Great Lawn for musical crafts, tasty snacks, and playful fun – all before the BSO family concert begins. **Look for the PJ Library sign and blankets! Purchase concert tickets directly at bso.org. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshire's PJ Library program. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.**

Monday, July 20, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – Double Happiness and Labors of Love: Henrietta Szold

Two Films. *Double Happiness* (short) – After losing her husband, a Jewish widow forms an unexpected romance with a Chinese restaurateur who has long served her family, discovering companionship, cultural connection, and the courage to embrace love again later in life.

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{July 2026}

Labors of Love: Henrietta Szold - This inspiring biography chronicles the life of Henrietta Szold, a pioneering Zionist and founder of Hadassah, highlighting her humanitarian legacy, leadership in rescuing Jewish children, and enduring impact on healthcare, education, and social justice. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 20, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

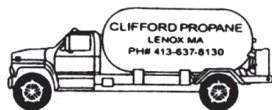
Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Beshert* and *My Underground Mother*

Two Films. *Beshert* (short) – A grumpy care home resident and a reluctant bar mitzvah boy form an unlikely bond, discovering friendship, purpose, and connection across generations, revealing that some relationships are destined and can transform even the most guarded hearts.

My Underground Mother – A journalist uncovers her late mother's hidden identity as a Holocaust survivor and resistance fighter, revealing buried secrets, a secret journal, and the enduring strength of women who survived forced labor camps and decades of silence. \$15 per film.

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\$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Thursday, July 23, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

An Evening with Sora Vigorito, Youngest known survivor of Mengele's experimental twins

On Tisha B'Av, the most solemn day on the Jewish calendar, Chabad of the Berkshires will host a special evening of reflection and remembrance featuring Holocaust survivor Sora Vigorito, one of the youngest known survivors of Josef Mengele's twin experiments at Auschwitz. This historic opportunity offers a rare chance to hear a surviving voice connected to Auschwitz's infamous "Angel of Death," sharing firsthand testimony of survival, resilience, and enduring faith. Delicious break fast to follow. \$25. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Friday, July 24, 2026 – 11 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

The Sounds of Jewish Music: Past, Present, Future

As part of this year's Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires, explore exciting new developments and trends in contemporary Jewish music scholarship. Join a dynamic conversation with Hebrew Union College's Dr. Judah Cohen (Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Provost) and Dr. Gordon Dale (Dr. Jack Gottlieb Scholar in Jewish Music Studies and Associate Professor of Jewish Musicology). FREE. Sponsored by Hebrew Union College, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: huc.edu/berkshires-2026 or (413) 442-5910.

Friday, July 24, 2026 – 11 a.m.

*First Congregational Church, 4 Main Street,
Stockbridge*

Linda Greenhouse Reviews the 25'/26' Supreme Court Term

This presentation features award-winning journalist, Linda Greenhouse, Senior Research Scholar in Law at Yale Law School, *New York Times* columnist, and an expert on the workings of and politics surrounding the Supreme Court. Ms. Greenhouse will share her broad and nuanced perspective on the 2025/26 Supreme Court term and consider the implications of key decisions for the future. This event is part of "A Taste of JWF" which opens select JWF programs to the broader Jewish community. \$36. Sponsored by Jewish Womens Foundation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org/jewish-womens-foundation or (617) 304-4313.

Friday, July 24, 2026 – 6 p.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington*

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat and Oneg

As part of this year's Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires, welcome in Shabbat at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire with an uplifting and musical Friday night service led by Rabbi Jodie Gordon '14, featuring guests from Hebrew Union College. FREE. Sponsored by Hebrew Union College, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, and Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: huc.edu/berkshires-2026 or (413) 528-6378.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, 472 West Mountain Road, Lenox

Trails and Torah

As part of this year's Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires, enjoy a restorative and thought-provoking Shabbat morning experience, choosing between two options in the Berkshires' Pleasant Valley: a Torah study and gentle hike or a meditative exploration of nature and Jewish thought. All are welcome, comfortable shoes encouraged. Rain location: Temple Anshe Amunim FREE. Sponsored by Hebrew Union College, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: huc.edu/berkshires-2026 or (413) 442-5910.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Confronting Reality on Capitol Hill: Pro-Israel Advocacy in a Post October 7 World

Hear a clear-eyed, behind-the-scenes perspective on the rapidly shifting landscape in Washington, the challenges facing pro-Israel advocacy today, and what it means for the future of U.S.-Israel relations with AIPAC president, Dr. Bernard Kaminitzky. All are welcome to attend this engaging and thought-provoking event. Kiddush luncheon to follow. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Mission-Driven Theatre: BSC Artistic Director Alan Paul in Conversation with Rabbi Pam Wax

Alan Paul, Artistic Director of Barrington Stage Company, will be in conversation with Rabbi Pamela Wax, Director of Adult Education and Programming at Knesset Israel, about his life, his life in theatre, and the Barrington Stage Company. This Acharai Kiddush program will follow morning services

and kiddush lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 – 6 p.m.

Tanglewood, 297 West Street, Lenox

Havdalah at Tanglewood

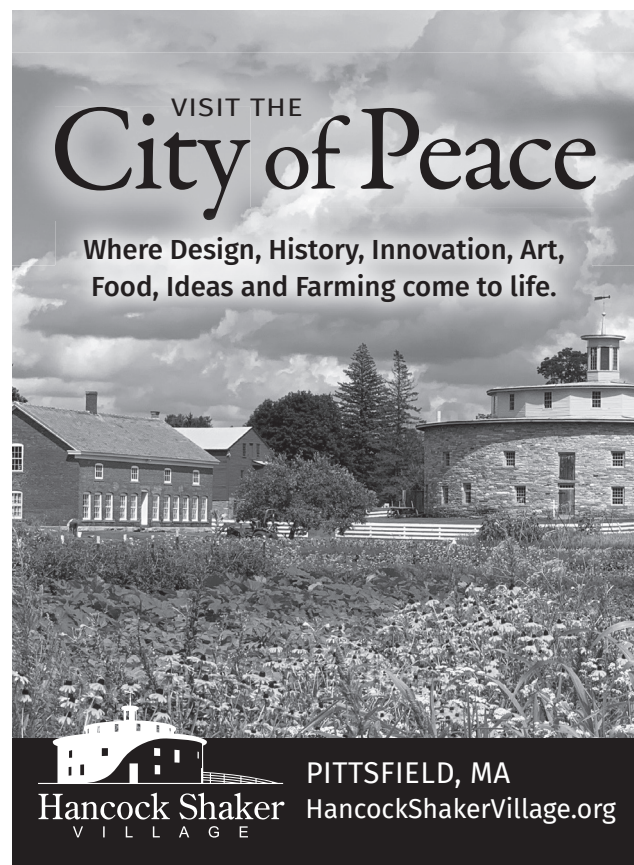
As part of this year's Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires, bring a picnic and the whole family to Tanglewood for an evening of beautiful music, beginning with Havdalah. During the Prelude, find the Hebrew Union College area for a Havdalah service before the concert. Note: Guests will need to purchase their own entrance tickets to Tanglewood to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra's performance. Sponsored by Hebrew Union College, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: huc.edu/berkshires-2026 or (413) 442-5910.

Sunday, July 26, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.

Berkshire Hills Country Club, 500 Benedict Road, Pittsfield

Federation's Major Donors Celebration

Celebrating the leadership of major donors in bringing comfort, care, and connection to Jewish community across the Berkshires, in Israel, and around the world. Chairs: Mimi



{July 2026}

and Ken Heyman. Program to include a behind-the-scenes sneak peek and live performance from Rutka, a bold new musical making its way to Broadway. This event is open to leadership donors who make a minimum household contribution of \$1,000 to Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' 2026 Annual Campaign. Registration required by July 17. \$45 covert. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Monday, July 27, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Among Neighbors*

Among Neighbors tells the haunting story of a Polish town where centuries of Jewish-Catholic coexistence collapsed during World War II, culminating in a shocking massacre carried out after Germany's defeat. This gripping documentary unfolds like a real-life mystery, uncovering buried truths of violence, complicity, and silence. It follows survivor Yaacov Goldstein and witness Pelagia Radecka, who risks imprisonment by speaking out. As historical revisionism grows, the film demands an unflinching confrontation with the past. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 27, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie*

Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls uncovers the surprising bond between the legendary folk singer, Woody Guthrie, and his mother-in-law, renowned Yiddish poet Aliza Greenblatt. This movie reveals how Jewish history and culture quietly wove itself into the Guthrie songbook. Come for the engaging stories and stay for the unique opportunity to hear Arlo Guthrie call his grandmother "Bubbe." Don't miss this intimate and eye-opening tale of two disparate worlds finding common ground in the arts. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 – 2 p.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington*

Life in WWII Los Alamos and Its Impact on Nuclear Policy Today

What was it like to live in WWII Los Alamos, New Mexico, where the world's first atomic bomb was built? What were the considerations that went into using the bomb

on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945? How did that influence nuclear policy after the war and today? Inspired by the research for her historical novel, *Hill of Secrets*, set in WW2 Los Alamos, author Galina Vromen will bring alive that momentous period and discuss its impact. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Thursday, July 30, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

*This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel,
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield*

Judaism and Tai Chi: Finding Balance in an Unbalanced World

Dr. Joel Friedman will explore how Judaism and Tai Chi can help us pursue a balanced life by responding in an effective manner to the endless stream of verbal, physical and hypothetical stresses that confront us on a daily basis. The workshop includes learning a simple movement that, through a progression of modifications, will both illustrate the key concepts and provide a meditative/exercise that promotes health in a holistic manner. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, July 31, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

*This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of
Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington*

Antisemitism and Democracy

Since October 7th, the surge in antisemitism has raised important questions about how to effectively protect Jewish safety in a way that resonates with non-Jewish communities and strengthens democracy. Join Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, and a special conversation partner for an insightful conversation about what strategies are working – and which ones aren't – in the fight against antisemitism. Registration is required. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, July 31, 2026 – 6:45 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Shabbat Dinner with Bestselling Author Rabbi David Eliezrie

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:45 p.m. with spirited Carlebach-style melodies. 7:15 p.m., an uplifting Shabbat dinner featuring bestselling author David Eliezrie, who will discuss the Lubavitcher Rebbe's relationships with Israeli

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59TH ANNUAL HILDA VALLIN FEIGENBAUM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION LECTURE

Sunday, August 23

7:30 PM

THE CURRENT POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

With Guest Speaker

MAGGIE HABERMAN

White House Correspondent, *The New York Times*



Maggie Haberman

Funded by The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment

The lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information, visit ansheamunim.org.

There will be a reception immediately following the lecture.

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{August 2026}

Prime Ministers Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Rabin, and Benjamin Netanyahu, and the meaningful lessons their experiences offer for our own lives. Suggested donation \$50 per person. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

{AUGUST}

Saturday, August 1, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

The Secret of Chabad – Behind the World’s Most Successful Jewish Movement with Bestselling Author Rabbi David Eliezrie

Ever wondered how Chabad became the most dynamic and far-reaching Jewish movement in the world? Join bestselling author of *The Secret of Chabad*, David Eliezrie, as he reveals the story behind its extraordinary success. He will explore how the Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson transformed modern Jewish life and built Chabad into a worldwide force and how its vision can inspire and transform your own life. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 1, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Local Journalism in 2026 and Beyond

What are the challenges that face the newspaper industry, and what is the future landscape for local journalism? Fred Rutberg, President of New England Newspapers, Inc. and former publisher of *The Berkshire Eagle*, will share his wisdom about the world of journalism and publishing today. This Acharai Kiddush program will follow Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, August 2, 2026 – 5 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Israeli Chamber Project

The Israeli Chamber Project, an internationally acclaimed ensemble of leading soloists based in Israel and New York, will present an evening of exceptional chamber music in the Berkshires. The group has performed at major venues including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Wigmore Hall, and is recognized for its artistry, precision, and collaborative spirit. The evening will begin with a dinner gathering, followed by a concert featuring a beautifully curated program of classical chamber works performed at the highest level. \$60 includes concert and dinner. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Monday, August 3, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – The Stamp Thief

When a former Seinfeld writer uncovers a decades-old secret, that a rogue Nazi officer stole priceless stamp collections from Holocaust victims and buried them in a Polish basement, he launches a daring mission to recover them. Armed with nothing but a fake movie shoot as cover, Gary Gilbert seeks to uncover the truth and return the stamps to their rightful heirs. This movie is part detective thriller, part heist film, and entirely true. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, August 3, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – Frontier

Frontier is a gripping WWII drama that follows Manel Grau, a principled Spanish customs officer who faces a life-altering choice when Franco’s regime seals the border

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COMMUNITY DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 23

FIREFLIES

by Matthew Barber

JUNE 19–JULY 19

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare

JULY 4–26

Outdoors at the Arthur S. Waldstein Amphitheatre

CIRCUS & THE BARD: THE NEXT CHAPTER

Co-created by Allyn Burrows, Robin Eldridge & Pedro Reis

JULY 16–26

Tina Packer Playhouse

PLAYS IN PROCESS

AN INTRODUCTION TO NEW WORKS

JULY 28–30

Outdoors at the Rose Footprint Theatre

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE

by Terrence McNally

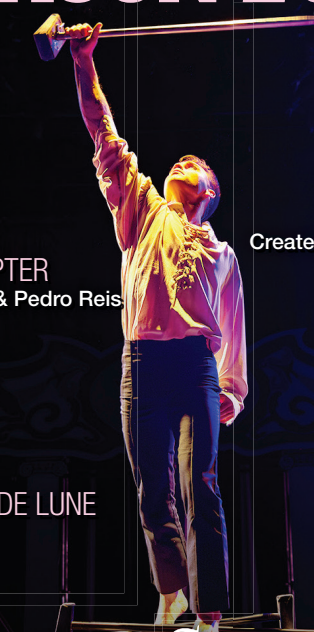
JULY 30–AUGUST 23

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

Justin Durham, *Circus & The Bard*, 2025.
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SEASON 2026



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JULY 31–AUGUST 3

Tina Packer Playhouse

HAMLET

by William Shakespeare

AUGUST 13–30

Tina Packer Playhouse

MIDSUMMER DREAMERS

Created & Performed by Nick Nudler & Kirsten Peacock

SEPTEMBER 1–3

Tina Packer Playhouse

THE NORWEGIANS

by C. Denby Swanson

SEPTEMBER 4–OCTOBER 4

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

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DECEMBER 18–20

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY

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{August 2026}

to Jews fleeing Nazi-occupied France. Defying orders and risking everything, Grau embarks on a perilous mission that threatens not only his own life but also the safety of his family and their community. This film reminds us that, in history's darkest moments, it is often ordinary people who choose courage over silence. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshire-jewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 4 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Resin and Rose

An afternoon for women to gather in creativity and connection.. Craft your own stunning resin Mezuzah case and explore the spiritual significance of a Mezuzah – how it transforms the home into a space of protection, mindfulness, and spiritual connection. Wine and delicious delicacies will be served. \$36. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Thursday, August 6, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

WANDERING JEWS
 WONDERING JEWS
 MIXED MARRIAGE JEWS
 MIXED-UP JEWS
 CULTURAL JEWS
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Truth to Power: Songpoets & Comedians for Social Change

Join Laura Wetzler, singer, guitarist, recording artist and lecturer in a multimedia presentation and see how art can be a force for resistance and hope in hard times. Celebrate great songs and comedy that bravely confront the powers that be. Sing along with Dylan, Ochs, Simon, Baez, Odetta, Belafonte, Seeger, and learn Jewish songs of protest in Yiddish and Ladino. Unearth the forgotten roots of Yiddish satire. Enjoy the brilliance of comics. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, August 7, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.

Shakespeare and Company, Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox

JTS in the Berkshires: A Jewish Ethics of Creativity for a Technological Age

This is the second of two JTS in the Berkshires programs. Dr. Shira Billet, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics at JTS will explore the timely wisdom for our technological age that is found in classical Jewish philosophical reflection on the cosmos and the place of the human being in the divinely created world order. What is the starting point for a Jewish ethics of creativity in the age of AI? \$25 for one session or \$40 for both. Sponsored by JTS, Knesset Israel, and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jtsa.edu/berkshires-2026 or (212) 678-8996.

Friday, August 7, 2026 – 5:45 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Shirei Shabbat and Community Dinner

Join friends at Knesset Israel for an energizing, musical Friday evening service, then stay for a delicious kosher shabbat dinner. Registration necessary for dinner. Adults \$25, kids under 18 free. Sponsored by Knesset Israel and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. More info at: kneset-israel.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, August 8, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

How Israel Lost the Media War Since October 8, 2023 with Veteran Journalist Gary Rosenblatt

Since October 8, 2023, a toxic combination of mainstream media bias and Israel's struggle to effectively communicate its message has shaped global perception with profound consequences. Veteran journalist Gary Rosenblatt,

former editor and publisher of *The Jewish Week of New York* and Pulitzer Prize finalist, will address the urgent question of how Israel lost the media war so badly. A buffet lunch kiddush will follow this important and timely discussion. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 8, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Unpacking Second Isaiah

Isaiah chapters 40-56, the source for most of the haftarat we read at this season, is an exceptionally rich part of the Tanakh. Together with Rabbi David Weiner, spiritual leader of Knesset Israel, we will explore some of the prophet's core arguments and themes, which continue to shape Judaism to this day. This Acharei Kiddush program will follow Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, August 10, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – Sapiro v. Ford: The Jew Who Sued Henry Ford

In 1927, Aaron Sapiro, a Jewish orphan turned prominent lawyer, sued Henry Ford for libel in a landmark case often seen as America's first modern hate speech trial. The courtroom battle, filled with intrigue and national attention, pitted one man against a powerful industrialist. Sapiro v. Ford revisits this overlooked history, offering a timely reminder that confronting bigotry can shape the course of justice and public accountability. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, August 10, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

*Lenox Memorial Middle and High School,
197 East Street, Lenox*

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *The Ring*

Arnon Noble shares a close bond with his mother, a Holocaust survivor who credits a gold ring with saving their lives. As his mother's health deteriorates, Arnon travels to Budapest to find the ring, inviting his estranged daughter along. *The Ring* is a heart-warming depiction of the complicated relationship among three generations of a family and the past that reconnects them. The star of *The Ring*, Adir Miller, wrote the movie based on his own family history. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 – 4 p.m.

Triplex Theater, 70 Railroad Street, Great Barrington

Screening of *The Green Book* and Talk Back

Join the JWF for a screening of the 2018 Academy award winning film, *The Green Book*, praised by critics as the "perfect balance of lighthearted humor and powerful human connection." Starring Vigo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali the film explores themes of compassion, friendship, and overcoming prejudice." Diane Pearlman Executive Director of the Berkshires Film and Media Collaborative will lead a talkback. This event is part of "A Taste of JWF" which opens select JWF programs to the broader Jewish community. \$36. Sponsored by Jewish Womens Foundation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org/jewish-womens-foundation or (917) 715-1609.

Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

From Auschwitz to Activism: Creating Champions of Care

Barbara Greenspan Shaiman walked through the gates of Auschwitz with her daughter and grandchildren for the second time in November 2025. She had made that difficult

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journey once before with her mother, who survived the infamous death camp, and her father, who had worked for Oskar Schindler. Join Barbara to hear how her family's story inspired her to create Champions of Caring, an organization that promotes social justice among young adults. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 7 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

An evening with Lior Raz, star and creator of *Fauda*

Join us for an evening benefiting Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical service. Light refreshments, followed by a compelling conversation with Lior Raz about the making of *Fauda*, real-life experiences, and behind-the-scenes stories. RSVP required. Limited VIP tickets include an exclusive meet-and-greet with Lior Raz. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 15, 2026 – 9 a.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Tot Shabbat Sh'Bubbles

Join Cantor Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel as she sings and tells stories to celebrate Shabbat with children 0-5 years old and their families. We'll provide the bubbles! FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Saturday, August 15, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

From Mini Skirt to Hijab: Jacqueline Saper on Life During Iran's Islamic Revolution

Chabad of the Berkshires will host Jacqueline Saper, author of *From Mini Skirt to Hijab*, sharing her firsthand account of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Amid renewed global focus on Iran, Saper offers a deeply personal look at a society transformed overnight. She recounts her experience as a young Jewish woman navigating fear, upheaval, and rapid change, reflecting on identity, resilience, and what it means to rebuild life after everything familiar disappears. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 15, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Einstein's God

We will examine letters, articles, and interviews featuring Albert Einstein's opinions about the universe, Judaism, and a Creator. We'll also explore several passages from the Zohar and other Jewish mystical sources and discover how they dovetail with the modern physics of Einstein and later quantum physicists. No background in physics or Jewish mysticism required to enjoy this session. Taught by Rabbi Val Lieber, spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Amunim. This Acharei Kiddush program follows Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, August 16, 2026 – 7 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox

Six13: Jewish A Capella Live in Concert!

An unforgettable evening with the award-winning, internationally acclaimed Jewish a cappella sensation brings their high-energy harmonies, infectious rhythms, and signature creativity to our community. With nothing but their voices, they deliver intricate arrangements, uplifting beats, and soulful harmonies, crafting an unprecedented Jewish musical experience that is as inspiring as it is entertaining. Concert proceeds to benefit Federation's efforts to confront antisemitism and secure our community. General Admission \$25; Young Adults under 30: \$20; Kids 13 and under: FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Current Events Seminar with Dr. Steven Rubin

The Current Events Seminar will focus on the latest world happenings. Participants will have an opportunity to examine and discuss topical and newsworthy national and international issues and problems, as well as possible solutions. For each session, the moderator will suggest readings, introduce relevant topics, and offer discussion questions. The seminar will be conducted throughout in a collaborative and collegial manner, with all participants encouraged to voice their opinions. Following the program, we will continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, August 22, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

The Iran Escalation: What Were the Key Players Expecting? A conversation with Dr. Efraim Chalamish

Dr. Efraim Chalamish is an international economic law expert, NYU professor, and advisor specializing in global finance, national security, and cross-border policy. He has advised the Israeli government on economic and strategic policy matters. He will offer an inside look at how governments were preparing for escalation in the region and what kinds of responses were expected, what scenarios were being modeled behind closed doors, and where reality has diverged from those expectations. Kiddush luncheon to follow. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 22, 2026 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

What's Next for America's Jews

We'll look at recent developments in US Jewish history, coupled with the latest sociological, demographic, and attitudinal data findings that are likely to have an impact

on American Jewish life in the years ahead. Dr. Hal Lewis served as the President and CEO of Spertus Institute in Chicago, where he continues as Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies. He is the Principal Consultant at Leadership for Impact LLC. This Acharei Kiddush program will follow Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knesetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, August 23, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield

59th Annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture

Maggie Haberman, White House Correspondent for the *New York Times*, will speak on "The Current Political Landscape." A reception will follow the lecture in the Social Hall. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required on ansheamunim.org. Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building. FREE. Sponsored by The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

For more program listings visit
www.jewishberkshires.org

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{August 2026}

Thursday, August 27, 2026 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Rosh HaShanah: Apples, Milk, and Honey, the Blessing and the Curse

Why are apples significant in Jewish tradition? This presentation by TorahFlora botanist, author, and teacher Jon Greenberg, PhD will explore the custom of apples and honey on Rosh HaShanah, but also other meanings of apples (in Shir HaShirim and Midrashim of the Exodus), honey (used in mummification), and milk. Following the program, we will continue the conversation. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day before the program (Wednesday). FREE Program. \$3 suggested donation for Kosher Lunch following the program. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, August 28, 2026 – 7:15 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

The Woke Left & the Woke Right: Where They Differ and Where They Converge

Join us for a warm and uplifting Friday night dinner with Shabbos Kestenbaum, lead plaintiff in a landmark case addressing antisemitism at Harvard University. A regular

contributor on national media, he has testified before the U.S. Congress and the Israeli Knesset and lectures internationally on Jewish communal issues. In an era of growing ideological extremes across the spectrum, Kestenbaum will explore how both sides compare, where they overlap, where they differ, and what it all means for Jewish life today. Suggested donation \$50 per person. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 29, 2026 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox

Why I sued Harvard: Confronting Antisemitism on American Campuses

Join Shabbos Kestenbaum for a compelling and timely conversation on the rise of antisemitism on American college campuses. Kestenbaum, the lead plaintiff in a landmark lawsuit against Harvard University and a nationally recognized voice on this issue, will share his personal story alongside powerful insights drawn from his advocacy and public work. He will also speak about how Jewish communities can respond with strength, clarity, and unity in an increasingly complex campus environment. A Kiddush lunch will follow FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

New to the Berkshires? Let's Connect! Shalom and Welcome!

Whether you are joining us full time, on weekends, or seasonally, we are pleased that you have found a place in our Jewish Berkshires. As the central connecting point, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is your resource for Jewish life in the region. However you choose to “do” or “be” Jewish is welcomed and celebrated!

Visit us online to request a welcome packet, sign up for a free subscription to the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, and register for weekly e-blasts which includes numerous opportunities to learn, volunteer, and engage.

Visit us at jewishberkshires.org/welcome





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FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

Cultivating Resilience and Joy in Difficult Times

Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, Pearl Resnick Dean of The Rabbinical School
and Dean of the Division of Religious Leadership, JTS



FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

A Jewish Ethics of Creativity for a Technological Age

Dr. Shira Billet, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and
Ethics, JTS



10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

TICKETS: \$25/one session or \$40/both sessions

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Elayne P. Bernstein Theater
70 Kemble Street, Lenox, Massachusetts

Learn more and register at
jtsa.edu/berkshires-2026



Please contact
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(212) 678-8996 or
tanischwartz@jtsa.edu with
questions about this program.



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