

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

Published by the
Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 38, Number 4

December 2017 - January 2018

Kislev-Shevat 5778



CHANUKAH SPECIAL EDITION

**Why Give Now? Launching a Campaign
for a Proud & Vibrant Jewish New Hampshire**

By *Melanie Zalman McDonald*,
JFNH Executive Director

I know many families who are afraid to light their menorahs in the window -- more so this Chanukah. I know many families for whom this will not be a "cheerful" season. It is for these reasons and more that we must shine a brighter light to celebrate, protect, and share proudly what it means to be Jewish here in our beautiful state of New Hampshire. This is the time of year many of us make our tax-deductible gifts to the causes that move and inspire us. As Jews, we have been raised cultivating values (*min-hagim v'halachot*, or "Judaism as a way of life"). We then aim to instill them in our children and grandchildren, passing them down *dor l'dor* (from generation to generation). At Federation, we believe deeply in the transformative nature of these values



JFNH shlichah Noam Wolf connecting with attendees at Temple B'nei Israel's We Care Concert.

for ourselves, our Jewish community, and beyond. This year, we've been working harder than ever to imbed those values into our programming in new and exciting ways

that enable us to continue this special way of life, despite what some express as "rural isolation" here in the Granite state.

Federation is a convener and unifier of

the Jewish people (*K'lal Yisrael*). We work to bring Jews together literally and virtually, creating safe forums for discussion, opportunities to learn and to build consensus, in good times and in the face of hatred. We keep Jews across the state informed with *The Jewish Reporter* each month, free of charge to over 3,500 households.

This year, Federation has invested in and prioritized the return of our Shlichah program. The benefits of having a young, passionate, knowledgeable Israeli Emissary devoted to Jews across the state continues to be tremendous. Together with Noam Wolf, we are working to forge stronger and more meaningful connections to *Eretz Yisrael*. For many of New Hampshire's children, Noam's visits and educational programs are their first genuine connection to Israel, its people, and its culture.

Campaign continued on page 8

What's Inside

Federation Voices	3
Calendar	4
Campaign Dollars at Work	6
Your Federation at Work	8
From the Bimah	10
Arts & Entertainment	12
In The Community	14
Mitzvahs	18
Book Review	19
Letters to the Editor	19
Recent Events	20
Tributes	21
Business & Professional Services	22

jewishnh.org

A New Chanukah Tradition! Federation, PJ, & Chabad Partner to Host Menorah Lighting at NH State House Dec. 12

Concord — Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, PJ Library, and Chabad Center for Jewish Living invite Jews from across the state to begin a new tradition for the first night of Chanukah! This year we are teaming up to expand the reach of the giant menorah lighting at the New Hampshire State House. For the first time, the lighting and festivities will take place in the early evening, at 5:30 PM, so that children and families from near and far can attend.

Imagine a menorah so big (over 10 feet tall!) that you need a cherry picker just to light it. Imagine being surrounded by the warmth of community from all across the state, gathering to celebrate the miracle of Chanukah -- singing the blessing in unison at our state's capital by the glow of this gigantic menorah!

In addition to the lighting, there will be singing of traditional Chanukah songs, free crafts for children, a PJ Library Chanukah book giveaway, a dreidel and chocolate gelt drop, as well as LED light-up dreidel necklaces and more. We will give away kosher sufganiyot, hot cocoa to keep everyone warm, and a big dose of Chanukah cheer. The entire event is free and will begin a new Chanukah tradition

At a time when some of us feel hesitant to even light our menorahs in the window, let us band together to celebrate this Chanukah together proudly, for all to see. For more information or to invite your friends and neighbors, please visit our Facebook event page, or call us at 627-7679. (See our event ad on page 11.)



How to Submit Items

Interested in submitting an article or photo to the Reporter? Just email your Word document or high-resolution jpg photo (with caption) to thereporter@jewishnh.org. The publication deadlines are the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's issue. To add your event to the JFNH Calendar, send the date, time, location, and description to events@jewishnh.org. Please note that this is a double issue; the next issue is February 2018.

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Jewish **Reporter**

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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

Sam Blumberg (Rabbinic Intern)
5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 886-1633
www.betenu.org
Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM
Saturday morning twice a month, 9:30 AM

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

Rabbi David Edleson
39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(603) 869-5465
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
davegoldstone1@gmail.com
Services: Contact for Date/Time Info
President Dave Goldstone -
(516) 592-1462
or Eileen Regen - (603) 823-7711
Weekly Services: July through Simchat Torah
Friday: 6:30 PM; Saturday: 10 AM

CLAREMONT

TEMPLE MEYER DAVID

25 Putnam Street, Claremont
Conservative
(603) 542-6773
Services: Generally the second Friday of the month, 6:15 PM, April to November.

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Peter Levy
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM
Please check the website for the Shabbat Morning schedule

DOVER

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Samuel R. Seicol
36 Olive Meadow Lane, Dover
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 742-3976
www.dovertemple.org
templeoffice@dovertemple.org
Services: Friday night services at 7 PM
For monthly Saturday services and holiday worship, please check the website.

HANOVER

CHABAD AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Rabbi Moshe Gray
22a School Street, Hanover
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 643-9821
www.dartmouthchabad.com
chabad@dartmouth.edu
Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services and Dinner
Shabbat morning services
Call for times

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Edward S. Boraz
Roth Center for Jewish Life
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover
Nondenominational, Unaffiliated
(603) 646-0460
www.uvjc.org
uvjc@valley.net
Services: Friday night Shabbat services at 6 PM, led by Dartmouth Hillel
Saturday morning Shabbat services at 10 AM, led by Rabbi Boraz

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Amy Loewenthal
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF
(603) 352-6747
www.keene-synagogue.org
rabbi.ahavas.achim@gmail.com
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM
Monthly Shabbat morning services at 9:30 AM
Check the website for time variations

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

MANCHESTER

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

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

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Gary Atkins (Interim)
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
Services: Friday night 6 PM
Saturday 9:30 AM
Tues., Fri. 7 AM minyan
Call Stephen Singer, 669-4100 for more info.

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
4 Raymond Street, Nashua
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbi@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services: Friday night services 8 PM
1st Friday family service 7 PM
Saturday morning 9:30 AM
Mon. - Thur. minyan 7:30 PM

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi David Ross Senter
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:15 PM
Saturday, 9:30 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-W-F preschool.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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Kislev-Shevat 5778

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

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

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

Send items for the print and online
JFNH Calendar and E-News to
events@jewishnh.org

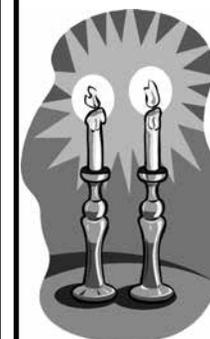
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



December 1	3:54 PM
December 8	3:53 PM
December 15	3:54 PM
December 22	3:57 PM
December 29	4:01 PM
January 5	4:08 PM
January 12	4:15 PM
January 19	4:24 PM
January 26	4:33 PM

It's Time to Support the 2017-18 Charitable Giving Campaign!

Shalom,

I'm Paul Bieber, a new member of the JFNH Board and now co-treasurer of JFNH along with Michael Rosenblum. I'm writing to share my passion for our Federation and my concern over our diminished annual campaign. 2016-2017 saw our lowest contributions to date — only \$142,097 (a decrease of 33% from the previous fiscal year). Now if we were a local organization, serving a small community of say 100 or 200 Jewish families, that might be enough. However, we are a statewide entity serving over 10,000 Jews from Bethlehem to Keene, from Concord to the Seacoast! We need your help..... If you have been giving, please increase your gift. If your support has lapsed in recent years, please renew it.

Our current presidential administration has floated the idea of eliminating the tax deduction for donations. So, give now

Paul Bieber

**JFNH
co-treasurer**



while the tax deduction is still in effect.

Every year, we have a team of volunteers who call our membership during December. They are led by our campaign chairs, Julia Preis and Sarit Itenberg. They are great people, but let's put them out of a job. Don't wait for a phone call from us. Call the office, 627-7679, or call me, Paul Bieber, at 242-3521. Tell us your contribution for this year. Take the tax advantage in 2017, which potentially can save you the most money.

JFNH is growing this year. We have six

new Board members with lots of new ideas. Our shlichah, Noam Wolf, is bringing a new vitality to the region, and our new director, Melanie Zalman McDonald, is doing many projects to help Federation and YOU.

Okay, enough of the hard sell. From Israel Experience grants to camperships, connecting youngsters in our state to Jewish values and Jewish experiences, to our statewide Jewish social services program. For a small organization, we have some big responsibilities.

A little bit about me and my role at JFNH. I am retired from business in New York and live with my wife, Elaine, in Fitzwilliam, where we've been for 11 years. We joined Congregation Ahavas Achim in Keene, where I became the president for five years and am currently the financial secretary. Elaine and I have two married

children and the most beautiful and loving grandson that has ever been born.

I am learning the treasurer's role from Mike Rosenblum and the small (but mighty) staff of JFNH. The treasurer's role is managing our part-time bookkeeper, making sure our funds are spent wisely and correctly, and assisting in any aspect of the Federation relating to our finances. We will be working on our financial computer programming and improving communications to our various departments on their usage of Federation monies.

Since you are reading this in the Federation Reporter, you know some of what we do and more importantly, what we hope to do. Thank you for being a supporter of JFNH. Thank you for caring enough to support our goals and mission.

Elaine and I wish you a happy and healthy Chanukah and a great 2018.

My Evolving Jewish Identity: Exploring Pluralism in New Hampshire

It's been almost three months since I became a resident of New Hampshire and a member of its Jewish community. I can't say that I was ever a part of a "Jewish community" in this way before. In Israel it's not a big thing, and I guess it's because of the survival mode we have grown to live in (every man for himself) -- but we just don't really pay attention to being a part of a bigger group beyond our family.

Shortly after my arrival in Manchester, I began spending every weekend in a synagogue. As a result, I've had the pleasure of getting to know many of our communities, their facilities, and each shul's "flavor" of Judaism. In these three short months, I have prayed, read Torah, been to religious school, and engaged in holiday traditions far more than I had in my entire prior 27 years. Being around all those kippot and Torah scrolls has gotten me thinking.

If you had asked me a year ago how I would feel about going to dinner with my ultra-religious uncle, I would have told you it was "a drag." It always means there is a long wait before the eating starts, singing all these songs that I don't know the lyrics for (one of the most horrible things for a singer to experience), blessing every little thing, etc. If I can be honest, in Israel I never had the time for that. I had no patience for ritual, for ceremonial stuff, for "religious practice." My interest was low -- maybe I just didn't really want to understand all those religious "things." I admit that it might

Noam Wolf

JFNH Shlichah



sound childish, but I felt a lot of anger toward the religion. And I'll explain why.

I grew up immersed in a very secular culture in Israel (I talked about the Israeli version of secular in the last column-- if you don't know, please go back and read it), which was super sensitive about religious coercion. There was always a very high awareness about actions and decisions taken by the Israeli government and by the Orthodox stream in Israel. I was reminded of this each time I heard stories about a man who spat on a nine-year-old girl because she was wearing shorts; every time I got off a bus in Jerusalem and a woman would cover me with her scarf, telling me "you shouldn't show your elbows that way, as it distracts the men around you"; each time I heard about attempts to stop public transportation in Tel Aviv from working on Shabbat; each story I heard about getting married and getting divorced at the Rabbinat, about walking into the mikvah. Each of these stories created a discomfort that boiled inside of me the more I lived in Israel.

Experiencing Jewish life and culture in the United States is very different, and shortly after my arrival, I came to under-

stand that I was making a generalization when I looked at the Orthodox Hassidic Judaism as THE Judaism. Only when I arrived in the United States did I understand how wrong my perspective was.

For the first time in my life, I am taking part in regular Shabbat services and a kiddush, and (guess what?) I am not against it. I am in the synagogue, and I am not being forced to sit in the women's section. I am singing (!) in a synagogue and on Shabbat, with a guitar (!!!). In an army and governmental events in Israel, a woman would not be singing alone. I am making a decision to be a part of Judaism here in my new home in New Hampshire, and I am really proud and loving it.

I have fallen back in love with many aspects of being Jewish that felt distant for me in Israel. There is a freedom, a flexibility, an openness to participate and express your faith in many ways. These ways have won my heart, and I'm finding myself drawn to each new experience (a

"pull" rather than a "push"). It's like I know all the songs now, the familiar rhythm of the service, and I am even (gasp!) hugging many of the rabbis (unheard of in Israel!).

This has made me so happy, but it has also raised a number of questions as I reflect on Jewish life in Israel. How is it possible that in the land of the Jewish people, Judaism is not for all the people? So many Israelis consider themselves secular because of the narrow-minded and limited religious options, and that's just not fair. There's a reason why all of my friends fly to Cyprus or Greece to get married in a civil wedding ceremony.

I hope that one day, Judaism in Israel will offer the same number of choices and "flavors" that I'm experiencing here in New Hampshire -- more options, open minded, accepting, and inviting. In the meantime, I feel blessed and appreciative to explore my relationship with Judaism as it evolves and flourishes here in New Hampshire!

Help Wanted!

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

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

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

Statewide Calendar of Events

Friday, December 1

Speaker Eric Geisser of AIPAC

7:15 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
No reservations needed. More information: 622-6171.

Julie Silver, Singer/Songwriter, in Concert

7 PM, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord
Join us for a special Shabbat Evening Service and concert led by renowned singer and songwriter Julie Silver, beloved performer in the world of contemporary Jewish music. Free and open to all. More information: 228-8581 or office@tbjconcord.org.

Kabbalat Shabbat with NH Shlichah Noam Wolf

Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene
Noam Wolf, the new shlichah (emissary) from Israel to the Jewish communities of New Hampshire, will be in Keene December 1-3, and much learning and fun is planned! Our Friday night service on will be a special one in which our younger Religious School students will participate, leading some of the prayers. Noam will participate musically as well, and we'll get to enjoy her delightful singing. More information: 352-6747.

Saturday, December 2

Outdoor Shabbat and Havdalah with NH Shlichah Noam Wolf

Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene
Saturday morning there will be an Outdoor Shabbat with Noam, in a spot to be determined. Come join us as we show her some of the beauty of the Monadnock Region. Then, in the evening, there will be a Havdalah program. Beginning at 7 PM, we will say goodbye to Shabbat with light and song, followed by a concert featuring Noam and jazz saxophonist Avi Rafealov. It will be an evening of music and merriment. All are welcome. More information: 352-6747.

Parents Night Out and Pajama & Popcorn Movie Night for the Kids!

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
More information: Norri at norri333@aol.com.

Chocolate and Coffee: What Could Be Better?

7 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
Chocolate Cafe for delicious chocolate desserts (dairy) along with coffee and teas all made from fair trade products. Enjoy an evening listening to our local talent perform. Program will begin with havdalah and a brief presentation on fair trade. \$12 per person (proceeds will benefit the Chesed fund that provides meals for member families at difficult times). All are welcome to attend, but the talent show is limited to teenagers and adults. Please email marshafeder@gmail.com to volunteer your talent for the show. Presented by TBA Sisterhood.

Sunday, December 3

Latke Making Fundraiser with Etz Hayim Synagogue

12 PM, The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Derry

Volunteers are needed for prepping, frying and assembling. It is a fun bonding experience. Sons and daughters are welcome (must be ages 14 to work in the kitchen in a limited capacity). We would love to pass on this wonderful tradition to the little ones. More information: Laurie Medrek at medrek9352@aol.com.

Special Movie Event

2 PM, Red River Cinema
Disturbing the Peace, an award-winning

documentary film about the Israeli-Palestinian peace organization Combatants for Peace, features people born into conflict, sworn to be enemies, who challenge their fate. The film follows everyday people who are taking extraordinary actions by standing for what they believe in. A Q /A session will follow the film via Skype with Chen Alon and Sulaiman Khatib, cofounders of Combatants for Peace and co-nominees for the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. Ticket price: \$10. For more information, contact Nancy Jo Chabot: nchabot@tds.net.

Ten Tips for Navigating the December Holidays

Temple B'nai Israel, Laconia
This special event features Jewish educator Esther Kosofsky. The discussion will begin with our Religious School students as their last unit of the day, then we will break for pot luck dairy lunch at approximately 12:30, and then continue the conversation with the temple community. Ms. Kosofsky describes herself as "deeply committed to welcoming and engaging individuals and Interfaith families on their Jewish journeys."

Monday, December 4

Welcoming Winter with Joy

6:15 PM check in, 6:45 PM Program begins, Temple Israel, Manchester
Interfaith Women NH invites all women to come celebrate the richness of our many faith communities. Watch and listen to our various presenters, including music from our very own shlichah from Israel, Noam Wolf. Reception to follow. Please register in advance via email interfaithwomennh@gmail.com or by calling 315-9386.

Women of the Wall: A Conversation with Leslie Sachs, Executive Director of Women of the Wall

7 PM, Congregation Shalom, 87 Richardson Rd, N. Chelmsford, MA

Since 1988, Women of the Wall has fought for women's right to pray collectively and aloud with Torah Scrolls, Tallitot, and Tefillin at the Western Wall, Judaism's most holy site. Through education, social advocacy, and empowerment, Women of the Wall strives to change the status quo and works to expand civil rights, human rights, and religious freedom in Israel. This event is sponsored jointly by Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood, Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley, Northern New England Hadassah, Jewish Federation of the Merrimack Valley, Temple Shalom, and Congregation Shalom. More information: office@congregationshalom.org or (978) 251-8091.

Wednesday, December 6

Book Club Meeting

8 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
More information: 883-8184.

Sunday, December 10

SNHJMC Breakfast

9:30 AM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
More information: www.snhjmc.org.

Book Talk: *Among the Reeds* by Tammy Bottner

9:30-11 AM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Tammy Bottner is a Newburyport author and physician who will read from and discuss her new book, *Among the Reeds*, which details the amazing story of how her family survived the Holocaust and

the lasting effect the experience has had on them. Books will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be served. More information: 436-5301.

Family Latke Making Celebration

11 AM, Temple Israel, Dover
Join us for a morning of latke making and sufganiyot eating! Just bring yourself. All welcome at no charge. RSVP's welcome to templeoffice@dovertemple.com or 742-3976.

Braverman Chanukah Party & Gift Shop Sale

12 Noon, Temple Israel, Manchester
Reservations required by noon Dec.1 Call Christine at 622-6171 for info. Temple members, no charge; nonmembers, \$15/person.

The Act and Art of Prayer: An Evening with Alden Solovy

7-9 PM, Congregation Shalom, 87 Richardson Rd, N. Chelmsford, MA
Alden Solovy spreads joy and excitement for prayer. A liturgist and poet, he has written more than 650 pieces of new liturgy, often challenging the boundaries between poetry, meditation, personal growth, and prayer. During this evening of teaching, which will utilize Alden's "Conceptual Map of Prayer," participants will consider the purpose and power of prayer. This special session will enliven understanding of both the art and the act of prayer, while simultaneously working to inspire both the heart and the mind. This event is free; copies of Mr. Solovy's third book, *This Grateful Heart*, will be available for purchase. Please RSVP to office@congregationshalom.org. More information: Congregation Shalom at (978) 251-8091.

2017 Author Series

Temple Emanu-El, 514 Main St., Haverhill, MA
Rabbi Arthur Green, one of the preeminent scholars of kabbalah and Jewish mysticism, will speak about Jewish spirituality in the modern era. More information: Nancy@TempleEmanu-El.org or 978-373-3861.

Tuesday, December 12

Mahjong Mavens

12 Noon, Temple Israel, Manchester
No reservations needed. More information: Benay Birch at 218-3365.

Giant Menorah Lighting at the New Hampshire State House

5:30 PM, State House Plaza, 107 N. Main St., Concord

Free event, all are welcome! There will be a craft for the kids! Hot chocolate and sufganiyot. In conjunction with Chabad Lubavitch of New Hampshire, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the PJ Library.

1st Night of Chanukah Large Menorah Candle Lighting

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
No reservations needed. More information: 622-6171.

JFNH Presents: HeBrew Happy Hour in Concord!

6:30-11:30 PM, Tandy's Pub, 1 Eagle Sq., Concord
Join us for the 5:30 PM Menorah Lighting at the New Hampshire State House, and then enjoy Hebrew Happy Hour. Looking forward to time with old friends and new, in downtown Concord. Ages 21 plus are welcome. FYI Happy Hour all night long all drinks are half the price! To reserve a seat at our table, please RSVP to Shlichah@jewishnh.org.

Events For Our Youth

Saturday, December 2

Parents Night Out and Pajama & Popcorn Movie Night for the Kids!

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
More information: Norri at norri333@aol.com.

Sunday, December 3

Sunday Morning with NH Shlichah Noam Wolf

Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene
Noam will be a guest teacher in the Religious School on Sunday morning. Noam will also be a guest in our Jewish Heroes class, where we will be studying Rav Kook. During Kehillah Time, our all-school assembly, Noam will teach Israeli dancing to both students and teachers. Parents and other CAA adults are encouraged to come participate. More information: 352-6747.

Sunday, December 3

Jr. Congregation with Catered Kiddush

9:30 AM, Temple Israel, Manchester
No reservations needed. More information: 622-6171.

Sunday, December 10

Chanukah Family Sing Along with Shlichah Noam Wolf

3-5 PM, Hosted at the home of a PJ Library Family in Bedford
Israeli Chanukah songs and dancing as well as familiar American songs, PJ Library story, dreidel spinning, and sufganiyot snack. Address will be given once families RSVP. More information and to RSVP: contact Allyson at pijlibrary@jewishnh.org.

Saturday, January 13

Jr. Congregation with Catered Kiddush

9:30 AM, Temple Israel, Manchester
No reservations needed. More information: 622-6171.

Thursday, December 14

Etz Hayim Synagogue's Continuing Education Program: The Church-State Challenge

7 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
The speaker will be Robert J. Lynn, Associate Justice, New Hampshire Supreme Court. The relationship between the government and religion/religious institutions in the United States is governed in large measure by the two religion clauses of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution: the so-called "Establishment Clause" and the "Free Exercise Clause." Justice Lynn will discuss the pertinent legal landscape, including the law as enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States, state law, and the state constitution. More information: 432-0004.

Friday, December 15

Latke Blowout

5 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene
Every year on Shabbat Chanukah, we gather for a light-filled, delicious, and musical evening. Bring a

Statewide Calendar of Events

menorah and a dairy or pareve potluck contribution. Latkes and beverages will be provided by the shul. More information: 352-6747.

Chanukah/Shabbat Dinner and Songs

6:30 PM, Temple Israel, Dover
Join us for an evening of Chanukah songs and potluck dinner (dairy/vegetarian). Bring your menorah! All welcome at no charge. More information: rabbisam@dovertemple.org or 742-3976.

Saturday, December 16

Chanukah Morning Torah Service with NH Shlichah Noam Wolf

10:30 AM, Temple Israel, Dover
Join us for our morning Torah Service with special guest NH Shlichah Noam Wolf. More information: 742-3976.

First Annual Latke Vodka Party with Special Guest Noam Wolf

7 PM, Temple Israel, Dover
Please join us for our first annual Latke Vodka Party! Party will feature cocktails and a latke competition — bring your latkes already made and enter to win! Prizes in categories including "Tradition," "Not Your Bubby's Latke," and "Best Personality." NH Shlichah Noam Wolf will sing and share stories about Israel. Each ticket gets two drink tickets. Cost: \$15/person, \$25/couple; alcoholic drinks not available for purchase. To reserve your tickets and register for latke competition, call 6742-3976 or email templeoffice@dovertemple.org. (Tickets also available at the door.) More information: www.dovertemple.com.

Sunday, December 17

Sisterhood Chanukah Fair

10 AM–1 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Find beautiful, unique gifts in our shop. Come early for the best selection. Checks to "TAY Sisterhood" and cash accepted. More information: 669-5650.

TAY Brotherhood Chanukah Party

11 AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Reservations required. RSVP to 669-5650 or templeadathy@comcast.net.

Gourmet Latkes & Lager: A JFNH Young Mensches Event

5:30–8:30 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Calling all mensches ages 21–35 across New Hampshire! Celebrate Chanukah with Noam Wolf, NH Shlichah, as you sample gourmet, locally-made latkes and New England-brewed beers. Get to know other young Jews, and enjoy a traditional Chanukah meal. Together, we will light the menorah, enjoy a sampling of gourmet latkes, and play some Jewish trivia and other games. The player with the most chocolate gelt at the end of the night wins a fabulous prize from Israel. This event is free, but space is limited. Donations welcome. To preregister, call JFNH at 627-7679 or email info@jewishnh.org.

Tuesday, December 19

Blood Drive

9 AM–2 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
More information: 436-5301.

Community Candle Lighting and Prayer for Peace

6 PM, Temple Israel Portsmouth Courtyard
In addition to the traditional Chanukah blessings and celebration of religious freedom, there will be a non-denominational prayer for peace.

Representatives and members of the Portsmouth Ministerium have been invited to attend, along with the community at large. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Temple Israel: templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org or 436-5301 x10.

Chanukah at the Palace

6:30 PM, Palace Theatre, Manchester
Featuring "8th Day on the Eighth Night" and magician Anthony Salazar. Tickets: Adults \$14, Children \$8, Children under 3 are free. Ticket Information 668-5588.

Sunday, December 24

Brotherhood Mitzvah Program

Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
More information: rockenmacher@comcast.net.

Monday, December 25

Chinese Food and a Movie

5 PM, Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene
We meet at shul and eat takeout vegetarian Chinese food and watch a light-hearted film together. This year the movie will be the 2014 critically acclaimed documentary *Deli Man*. We'll collect money for the Chinese food. No charge for popcorn and the movie. More information: 352-6747.

Brotherhood Mitzvah Program

Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
More information: rockenmacher@comcast.net.

Sunday, December 31

First Night® Portsmouth at Temple Israel, Portsmouth

Temple Israel, Portsmouth
8:15–9:00 PM, Randy Armstrong and Genevieve Aichele present "World Tales: Stories and Music from Around the World." 9:30–10:15 PM and 10:45–11:30 PM, Randy Armstrong presents World Fusion Music on 25 instruments from around the globe. Temple Israel is a venue for Portsmouth's First Night, the alcohol-free, family-friendly community celebration on December 31, which includes music, dance, fireworks, and ice sculpture. More information: www.proportsmouth.org.

Tuesday, January 9

Mahjong Mavens

12 Noon, Temple Israel, Manchester
No reservations needed. More information call Benay Birch: 218-3365.

Friday, January 12

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:15 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Share a Musical Kabbalat Shabbat service with special guest musicians Fran Berman and Jim Prendergast. Close your eyes and listen or sing along -- either way, the music will enhance the service and bring us closer to the peace and joy of Shabbat. All are welcome. More information: 436-5301.

Sunday, January 14

SNHJMC Breakfast

9:30 AM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
More information: www.snhjmc.org.

Thursday January 18

HeBrew Happy Hour with Temple Israel, Manchester

5:30 PM, Location to be determined
More information call Norri: 582-3838.

Friday, January 26

Tu b'Shevat and Family Shabbat & Dinner

6 PM, Temple Israel, Manchester,
Reservations close at noon on Jan. 19. Call Christine at 622-6171 (leave message).
Temple members, no charge/Nonmembers \$15/person.

Friday, January 26

UNH Dinner and Kabbalat Shabbat with Hillel

6:30 PM, Durham Community Church, Fellowship Hall
Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Shabbat Potluck Dinner (no dairy): eat delicious food, enjoy great company, and learn Shabbat dinner blessings. All welcome at no charge. More information: rabbisam@dovertemple.org or 742-3976.

Saturday, January 27

Annual Brotherhood Deli Night

6 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Deli night is always a sold-out event! Tickets must be purchased well in advance. More information: 669-5650 or templeadathy@comcast.net.

Tu B'Shevat at TBI

Temple B'nai Israel, Laconia
Join us to celebrate Tu B'Shevat on January 27 with a paint night led by Diana Spaulding ("Doodlin' Di" to her students and clients). Watch our website for details www.tbinh.org. Rabbi Heilman will discuss the holiday and ecology as it relates to Judaism.

www.jewishnh.org

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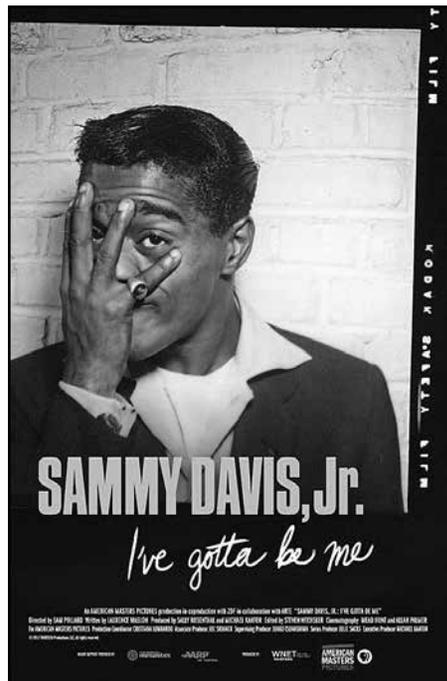
Join Us as a Patron of the 2018 NH Jewish Film Festival

JFNH Signature Program

The Jewish Film Festival is proud to present our 10th anniversary season from Thursday, March 15, to Sunday, March 25, 2018. Please note the dates on your calendar so you won't miss another outstanding film festival season! Our 10th Anniversary Gala event will be held at the Currier Museum on March 17, and we are planning to show the film *Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me*.

The Festival's mission is to enhance Jewish-themed films, and we have a wonderful, exciting line-up planned, from fascinating documentaries and mysteries to serious drama. The movies are cultural, educational, funny, thought-provoking, and inspirational.

The festival will be showing on screens in six cities with compelling films for 11 days. Please join as a friend or sponsor of the NH Jewish Film Festival -- made possible through the generosity and patronage of the Friends of the Festival, individual and corporate Sponsors, and



our statewide audience's attendance. The Festival is open to the general public.

As a Friend or Sponsor, your valued support directly impacts our ability to



present the Festival, and to provide cutting-edge Jewish-themed films, along with noteworthy guest speakers and engaging, film-enhancing programs.

Thank you for supporting JFNH's largest cultural event of the year. The Festival is an annual tradition for our community, enriching Jewish cultural life across the state.

Please join us today with your contribution to the NH Jewish Film Festival as a Friend or Sponsor. See our advertisements on page 10 of the Jewish Reporter for sponsorship details.

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PJ Library

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If you have children 8 and under, sign up for PJ Library and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and music delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and Jewish identity as a family through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions and holidays.

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

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



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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

JFNH Offers Grants for Jewish Summer Camp 2018!

JFNH Signature Program

The Jewish Federation of NH believes that every child should experience the magic of Jewish summer camp. Camp is where kids discover who they really are, make lasting friendships, and gain skills they can use for their entire lives. Jewish camp isn't just filled with Jewish campers. It is mission driven, weaving together Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of camp, helping campers connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. It also happens to be a whole lot of fun.

JFNH is proud to offer financial assistance for a Jewish overnight summer camp experience in the form of incentive

grants of up to \$1,000 for children attending nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time. The application process is done through the Foundation for Jewish Camp. These grants are not needs based. A limited number of grants will be funded and will be offered on a rolling basis as long as money is available. Explore Jewish not-for-profit summer camps and apply early at www.onehappycamper.org.

JFNH has funded 126 camp grants since the program started in 2008. Grants are funded almost exclusively through the JFNH Annual Campaign. In 2017, 18 children received grants to nine different camps. Your contribution to the JFNH Annual Campaign makes possible

this opportunity for a life-changing experience for our NH children.

Annabelle and Arnold Cohen Camp Grants

To honor the lifetime contribution of Annabelle and Arnold Cohen to JFNH, the Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps offer special grants to income-eligible New Hampshire families at all three of their camps: Tevya, Tel Noar, and Pembroke. Check them out at www.cohencamps.org. For more information and to apply for a grant, contact Nancy Frankel at corkyatcf@aol.com.

2018 Peer Trips to Israel

Thinking of a Teen Peer Group Trip to Israel? Now is the time to apply for an Israel Experience grant from the Jewish

Federation of NH. Choose the program that matches your interests and JFNH will contribute up to \$1,800. JFNH believes that continuing Jewish education linked with a peer trip to Israel will forge a strong Jewish identity in the hearts and minds of our youth. Grants are not needs based and are made possible through an endowment of the Irving and Bernice Singer Program and the JFNH Annual Campaign. Check out the JFNH website, www.JewishNH.org, for more information and an application form. Grants are given on a rolling basis as long as funds are available. If you have questions, contact Nancy Frankel, JFNH Camp/Israel Experience Grant chair, at corkyatcf@aol.com.

Camp Stories

JFNH Signature Program

All of the children whose photos and stories appear on this page received a JFNH Campership Grant for those attending Jewish summer camp for the first time. These grants would not be possible without the support of JFNH's generous donors.

Camp Pembroke Was Amazing

By Anna Lieberman

This year, I went to Camp Pembroke. It is a Jewish, all girls camp in Pembroke, MA. I couldn't have asked for a more memorable summer. One of my favorite things was Shabbat services on Fridays. We all dress in blue and white. Services are a lot of fun, and there is singing and dancing. This year, I went to second session, which included the "color war." It's basically a gigantic "war" between colors (blue and gold). I was on the blue team.

There are lots of fun activities at camp, including swimming, stand-up paddle boarding, and watersports. There is also art, crafts, drama, and culture.

This year I was in Lower Camp. My electives were jewelry making, fun in the kitchen, and paddle-boarding. Camp Pembroke is amazing, and I would definitely recommend it.

Anna Lieberman, age 11, is the daughter of Jay and Izzi Lieberman of Portsmouth. They are members of Temple Israel Portsmouth.

28 Reasons I Loved Camp Tevya

By Sam Corey

Here is a list of Sam's favorite things from his time at Camp Tevya:

- Counselors
- Football
- Drama
- Athletics
- Food
- Coffee cake
- Stories with counselors at night
- Talking wrestling with Daniel
- Always moving
- Trip nights
- Swim
- Tennis
- Tarbut (culture)
- Discovery Israel
- Ropes
- Boating and canoe
- Shira
- Performing arts
- Arts and crafts
- Tables in dining hall
- Songs on Shabbat
- Dancing
- Evening activities
- Ellen
- Ben
- Omelet day
- Friends
- CAMP TEVYA!!!

Sam Corey, age 12, lives in Windham with his parents, Stacey and William Corey. They are members of Etz Hayim Synagogue.

Thank You, JFNH!

By Talya Rezaoui

This summer I spent two weeks at Camp Young Judea at the same time as my brother Zachariah. While it was my mother who insisted I try a Jewish camp, it ended up being a nice experience. I enjoyed water skiing for the first time and I got to spend a lot of time with my local friend Ana, who I didn't even realize was also going until I was packing up. I was so thankful to be in brand new bunks with clean showers. One of my favorite parts was going to Mel's here in Litchfield for bunk night out. It was a fun going out of camp with my bunkmates. I'm looking forward to seeing some of the new friends I made at the CYJ reunion in November. Thank you to the Jewish Federation for helping to support this experience.

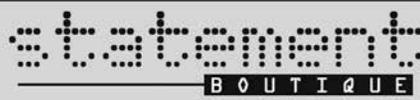
Talya, age 12, lives with her parents, Amanda and Samir Rezaoui, in Merrimack. They are members of Temple Beth Abraham.

Camp Was a Blast!

By Zach Rezaoui

Thank you to the Jewish Federation for a grant toward my two-week experience at Camp Young Judea, literally just down the road from my home. I was a little hesitant to go at first, not knowing anyone, but once I got to know my bunkmates, I had a blast. The counselors did a great job making sure all the boys who have been there year after year treated me like an old friend. I'm even on a special group chat with my B5 buddies. My favorite parts of CYJ were playing sports, Maccabia Games, and using the pool. I loved camp so much that I can't wait to go back next year.

Zach, age 10, lives with his parents, Amanda and Samir Rezaoui, in Merrimack. They are members of Temple Beth Abraham.



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David Goldstone of Bethlehem Joins JFNH Board

Manchester — The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is pleased to announce the addition of David Goldstone to its Board of Directors. Currently president of Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, David's personal history and connection to the North Country began when he was just six years old.



David Goldstone

As a child growing up in the heart of Brooklyn, NY, David's family spent summers at the Stonecrest bungalow colony in Bethlehem, NH, joining the many Jewish summer settlers of an area known for its fresh, pure air. In its heyday, the area surrounding Bethlehem was filled with thousands of Jewish people seeking relief from asthma and hay fever, filling hotels and building a summer resort community filled with recreational opportunities for families of all ages.

David has many fond memories of his childhood summers at Stonecrest, as well as the continued summer seasons spent there and in the surrounding hotels as a young adult working in various capacities at the resorts. He possesses a wealth of knowledge about the Jewish history of the North Country, and he is still an involved member of this vibrant community.

In his professional career, David was Deputy Chief of Construction for Capital Projects for the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation. With a background in landscape architecture, he renovated and built parks throughout New York City and Brooklyn, while still maintaining a home in Bethlehem. David and his family spent many High Holidays at the Bethlehem synagogue, where he eventually became president in 2009, and he continues in that role today.

David is enormously proud of the small but vibrant Jewish community in Bethlehem, which hosts many cultural and educational events each summer. He describes the transformation of the Bethlehem synagogue in recent years, becoming more progressive and focusing on outreach to the greater community. He is proud of the work they've done to bring in a wide range of interested individuals, including local pastors, who enjoy the various types of services being held, as well as the many educational experiences and opportunities that they offer.

The welcoming spirit of the Bethlehem Jewish community is evident, as David de-

scribes the desire "to always find new ways to increase camaraderie and friendship, to bring factions together, and to work to become more modern, open-minded, and current." David's wife, Dorothy, is the driving force behind the annual summer "White Mountain Jewish Film Festival," which highlights the theme of Jewish life in America. As David says, "This event, complete with food and guest speakers, is seen as a great service to the community. It sheds light on the Jewish experience and brings people in." Other programs with this goal in mind include the annual Hanukkah menorah lighting, Purim party, Tu B'Shevat Seder, and a large, annual Holocaust memorial event. All events share the goal of maintaining a presence and continuing outreach and education in the community.

David also has reached out to other Jewish communities, connecting with a synagogue in St. Johnsbury, VT, as well as havurahs in the North Conway area,

always with the mission "to keep the Jewish spirit alive in the North Country." He recently became aware of two Jewish cemeteries in Berlin, New Hampshire, and is working to help preserve these.

David is happy to join the Federation Board, and he hopes that by increasing the affiliation between Federation and the North Country, the Bethlehem community can offer programming and other services to the greater NH Jewish population. He would love to see people from all over the state come to enjoy an outdoor program or a family outing.

Preserving Jewish traditions and protecting the rituals of our past are another of David's priorities. Describing his father as someone who "always made sure the Yahrzeit lights were on," David continues in this spirit and "does not want to let any of it go." In addition to offering additional programming and outreach, he looks forward to working with Federation to preserve our history and "keep the Jewish light alive."

JFNH Invites NH Hebrew School Educators to Professional Development Day

JFNH Signature Program

Manchester — The Federation Preschool is excited to announce a NH Hebrew School Educators Professional Development day on Monday, February 19, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Temple Adath Yeshurun Social Hall in Manchester. Participants from Hebrew and religious schools across the state will ex-

plore ways to engage students of all ages about Israel through music, movement, technology, and sensory activities. Additionally, participants will have a chance to meet and network with peers to discuss common challenges, exchange best-practices, and design new curriculum together with the help of JFNH shlichah Noam Wolf.

Noam is touring Hebrew schools across the state fostering inspiring connections to Israel with learners age 2 to 14 -- helping to transport them to Israel with their imaginations. Come hear about what's working and why as you develop new tools and approaches to forging lifelong connections to Israel for your class.

Lunch is included with registration, and CEU certificates/credits are available to those who require them. Registration for NH educators is \$25; the cost is \$35 for those just beyond our borders. For more information, please visit our Facebook event page. To register, contact Alane at preschool@jewishnh.org or by phone at (603) 782-5174, or click the "buy tickets" link on the Facebook event page.

Campaign continued from page 1

We continue to provide responsive and personalized social services (note: NH doesn't have a "Jewish Family Services" entity other than JFNH!). The emotional, psychological, and tactical support we are able to provide to the most vulnerable members of our community reinforces the importance of *kavod* (respect for all) and *rahamanut* (Compassion), especially as our matriarchs and patriarchs age.

We are gathering children for PJ Library events, discussion, and activities that amplify the importance of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). We are activating and motivating through example our youngest and most impressionable Jewish leaders.

As New Hampshire's only statewide Jewish organization, we keep our diverse and isolated communities connected and informed about ways to participate in and celebrate Jewish life day to day. When Jewish families plan to relocate to New Hampshire, we are most often their first call, providing an orientation to our Jewish community, connecting them to their future synagogue of choice, a lifeline as they consider this important aspect of their transition.

From Federation's Preschool (celebrating 30 years!) to PJ -- JFNH provides young Jews and interfaith families with tools, support, and resources. We produce New Hampshire's only statewide film festival (New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, celebrating 10 years!) which connects folks of all faiths to Jewish cinema -- an experience of the arts -- a universal language. We provide administrative support

to Manchester Hadassah and NH Seniors Forever Young so that they can carry out their activities and mailings.

Having worked in the nonprofit sector for nearly 20 years, I can honestly say, I've never seen a statewide organization do more with less. We are carrying out programming at a pace that cannot be sustained without your support. As our new initiatives succeed, we are fielding new inquiries from the community to do even more. We simply can't do more without your financial support. Your donation to our Campaign for a Proud & Vibrant Jewish New Hampshire ensures that we can continue to grow and serve an increasingly diverse demographic.

Last year, just prior to my stepping into this role, we experienced our lowest campaign yield to date. Despite the decrease in support, we managed to not just maintain, but EXPAND and INCREASE the volume and quality of our programming. Now let's work together to help JFNH really thrive! On behalf of our board, staff, and volunteers, thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Making your tax-deductible donation is fast and easy:

- 1) Call us Monday-Thursday, 8:30-3, at (603) 627-7679.
- 2) Mail us a check at JFNH, 66 Hanover St., Suite #300, Manchester NH 03101.
- 3) Donate online at www.jewishnh.org/give.
- 4) Give via our Facebook page's DONATE button.
- 5) Answer our volunteer's call on Tzedakah Sunday, December 3!

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Do you recognize yourself in this early Preschool photo? How many of your friends can you identify? Email us at preschool@jewishnh.org.

Reflections of 30 Years Ago

JFNH Signature Program

By Rochelle Lindner

Manchester — It was the spring of 1987, and we were a group of about a dozen women, many of us fairly new to Manchester, who were interested in having our preschoolers attend a Jewish school. We were told by many senior members of the Jewish Federation Board that “We had one and it didn’t work out -- there is not enough interest” to restart a preschool.

But we were a pretty determined group and felt we could overcome the problems others saw as obstacles: We would have Jewish teachers, and we had a group of Jewish children ready to attend. We were particularly fortunate that Alane Sabel was one of our group and had the requisite training and skill to lead such a school. We crunched the numbers and knew we needed a “critical mass” to be successful.

Within a few months, we learned of other families who had recently joined our community and were also seeking a Jewish preschool for their children. Soon, nearly 20 three- and four-year-olds were signed up, and the Board gave the go-ahead to restart a school. It didn’t take long for the skeptics to come around; the preschool brought families together, and many became active in Jewish community life.

From the start, Alane and co-teacher Carol Greenberg created a warm, welcoming environment for our children. A class for two-year-olds was soon added, and the school was well on its way to become a growing, vital program of the Jewish Federation.

Growing up in a city with a small Jewish population, our children found a



The 1986 Preschool grand opening: This is how it all began.



Our first class of Preschoolers in 1987

“home” at the preschool and many friendships that carried through their ensuing years in Manchester. Our oldest daughter, Heidi, was in the first class as a three-year-old. Our two younger children subsequently attended, and all share fond memories of their experience. In fact when our second daughter, Melanie, was in high school and college, she enjoyed assisting and acting as a junior teacher.

The fact that the school has grown to allow for so many students and expand to full days is a testament to the vision and dedication of Alane Sabel and the many teachers who joined her team. I am grateful to have had a chance to be part of the school’s beginnings, and for the many friendships formed among us.

PJ Library



PJ families celebrated the New Year with a visit to Alyson’s Orchard in Walpole. They began by reading Julian Edelman’s new book, Flying High.



In October, PJ Library observed Fire Safety Month with a trip to the Fire Station in Bow, NH. Families learned about fire safety, got a tour of the fire house, saw the different emergency vehicles, and had a chance to climb on and explore a real fire truck!



While visiting Alyson’s Orchard with PJ Library, the children tasted apples and honey and then picked their own apples.



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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

from the Bimah

Chanukah Lights

The story of Chanukah, or at least the one that is usually taught in our religious schools, tells of the Jews oppressed by Alexander the Great around 323 BCE, and the Hasmonaen effort to defend their people and beliefs. The Hasmonaens were the family of Matthias, who fought the Assyrian-Greeks who took control of the Temple in Jerusalem and defiled it. Matthias and his sons fought valiantly, but were on the brink of defeat. Near death, Matthias handed over leadership to his son, Judah, and the new fighters were called Maccabees, meaning hammers.

For two years, Judah and his brothers fought soldiers who were larger in numbers and power. But they never lost faith, and eventually they won. When they returned to Jerusalem, they found the Temple to be a mess, and the *Ner Tamid*, or eternal flame, not burning. They needed to relight the lamp, but all of oil -- save one jug -- had been destroyed in the war. And that one jug had very little oil in it. But a miracle! The oil that should have lasted just a few hours burned for eight days. And so we celebrate for eight days.

In truth, there was no jug of oil. Rather, as we read in 1 Maccabees, during the fall harvest holiday of Sukkot, the Maccabees were busy fighting the war. So once they won the war and rededicated the Temple, they held their delayed observance of Sukkot, *an eight-day festival*.

The Talmud recounts a story in a rabbinic academy during a discussion on wicks to be used to light Shabbat candles, in which a student asks if the same rules apply to Chanukah candles. A classmate asks, *Mai Chanukah?* or "what is Chanukah?" The Rabbi gives an answer about the rededication of the Temple and the miraculous small vial of oil.

Why the shift? First and foremost, Jews do not celebrate war. Our heroes (until the establishment of the modern state of Is-

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Robin Nafshi

Temple Beth Jacob

rael) have been sages and scholars, not soldiers. Our tradition teaches us to "seek peace and pursue it."

Second, Chanukah is about bringing light into the darkest time of the year. God's first act was to create light. We humans, created in God's image, must bring light into the world. And it is not just physical light. Light and dark are metaphors for good and bad. We Jews are called upon to be *or l'goyim*, a light to the nations -- to work toward *tikkun olam*, the healing of the world.

There is a story of a king who has three children and who must decide who will inherit the throne. He gives each a purse of gold and the task to use the money to fill the palace. The one who does the most will inherit. They are sent away for a year.

The oldest child returns with a large pile of straw. The king is disappointed. His younger brother brings bracken and makes a bigger pile. The king can only shake his head.

Finally, their sister appears, carrying nothing. She closes the hall doors and shuts the windows. She lights a candle and sings. Her father tells her that she has filled the room three times over. She has filled it with light, and light is knowledge. She has filled it with song, and song is joy. And knowledge and joy together make wisdom. She is chosen to lead his kingdom.

May your Chanukah be filled with light, and may we spread that light throughout the world.



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Singer/Songwriter Julie Silver in Concert at Temple Beth Jacob

Concord — Join us for a very special Shabbat Evening Service on Friday, December 1, at 7 PM and discover the celebrated music of Julie Silver, renowned songwriter and performer of contemporary Jewish music. Julie has been engaging audiences with her wonderful compositions and liturgical settings, her lyrical guitar playing, her dynamic stage presence, and her megawatt smile for over 25 years.



Singer/songwriter Julie Silver

Julie focuses on writing, playing, traveling, mentoring singer-songwriters, participating in social justice projects, and making the Jewish experience more meaningful for all. She says, "I try to enhance the way people experience Judaism by adding my own take on our sacred texts. Our tradition compels us to express ourselves... our joys, our hopes, our faith, and our fears. The only path to healing is through sharing our stories with one another. As a songwriter, I write and sing my story

and hope it resonates with others." In 2014, Julie released *Anniversary*, a retrospective collection celebrating her 25 years of composing, recording, and performing Jewish music throughout the world. To hear how wonderful Julie's music is visit www.JulieSilver.com/music.

We are so fortunate to have Julie visit us in New Hampshire the weekend prior to taking the main stage in Boston at the URJ Biennial. She will Join Rabbi Robin Nafshi and Cantor Shira Nafshi on the *bimah* at Temple Beth Jacob for Shabbat evening services, followed by an Oneg Shabbat and concert. You won't want to miss this special Shabbat experience! Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to all. More information at office@tbjconcord.org. This program is supported by a mini-grant from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.



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JFNH Mini-Grant Brings Bible Raps to Temple Beth Abraham

By Noreen Leibson

Nashua — While most people in New Hampshire were preparing for that crazy night where one goes from door to door to get candy, those of us at Temple Beth Abraham were excitedly welcoming Artist in Residence Matt Bar of Bible Raps. On Tuesday, October 31, we welcomed Matt Bar to our community. It was a spectacular week of learning Torah and learning to write a rap as a way to interpret Torah. Through his own music and powerful lyrics, Matt did more than entertain us. He brought us back to his beginning. He spoke of his upbringing in Iowa City, where he was one of four Jews in his school. He brought us along on his journey into rap, when he was the only white guy in a rap group. From that experience came one of his first Jewish inspired raps: "I ain't white, I'm Jewish."

Matt found himself in Jerusalem studying at Pardes, a well-known non-denominational school of Jewish learning. This was a spiritual turning point in his life. He dove head first into Torah, in which he continues to immerse himself. Over the years, he has released three CDs filled with powerful responses to the narratives in the Bible. Matt's ability to bring a Bible story alive is a gift, one he chooses to share with the community through visits to religious schools, day schools, and Jewish camps, to name a few.

While he was with us, he not only worked with our students but he was the

guest teacher at our Adult Torah class and led a Lunch and Learn on Shabbat. He jammed with the Klezmer Band and integrated their music into the final performance on November 4.

Here is one example of a rap about Noah written by three 6th graders, Bekah, Hannah, and Aliyah. They were working on the question of whether Noah was an "Up stander" or a "Bystander."

"The world was corrupt but God did not give up
Noah was a righteous man so God sent him to find a new land
And even though they were crying and the people kept on dying
Noah just saved himself and didn't worry 'bout anyone else
Noah built an ark to save the day and when the dove came back they shouted hooray!"

If you read this rap closely, you will see that that these students grappled with how Noah did not try to help any of the people. Unlike Abraham, he did not challenge God's plan to destroy the world. Was he an "up stander or a bystander"? What do you think?

Bringing Matt Bar to our community would not have been possible without the support of our many sponsors. I would like to take this time to share my deep gratitude to Peggy Weisman, Darlene and Charles Drutman, Alan and Becky Green, and an anonymous donor. In addition, we are very grateful to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for awarding us a mini-grant.



Artist-in-residence Matt Bar of Bible Raps worked with Beth Abraham students to create and record raps exploring the theme of up stander vs. bystander through characters in the Torah from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4.



It wasn't just for kids! Matt Bar teaches and raps with members of Beth Abraham's weekly Thursday Torah class.



Rabbi Beth Davidson conducts Havdalah at TAY before The Forbidden Conversation.

The Forbidden Conversation Presented at TAY

Manchester — Dramatist, photographer, and Israeli sabra Gili Getz performed his one-man play, *The Forbidden Conversation*, at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester on Saturday evening, October 28. The play portrays Getz's experiences as a photographer for the Israel Defense Forces, his love of Israel and politics, and the tension and sorrow he feels when family and community discussions about Israel become fraught and contentious.

In the small group discussions



Gili Getz performs The Forbidden Conversation.

following the play, people shared their own experiences in conversations about Israel, their concern that young people don't feel connected to Israel, and the desire for people to be able to discuss Israel openly and respectfully.

The program was sponsored by NH J Street, a pro-Israel, pro-peace advocacy organization that believes vibrant but respectful debate about Israel benefits the American Jewish community and Israel.

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Hadassah Medical Organization Leads in Stem Cell Research

By Michele Bank

Manchester — Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah will attend a region and multi-chapter installation of board members on Sunday, December 10. The ceremony will take place at Temple Emanuel in Andover, Massachusetts. Appetizers, dessert, and beverages will be served.

The chapter will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 4, at 1 PM, in the community room located at 1400 Front Street, Manchester. Discussions are lively and there is always something new to learn about the wonderful work of Hadassah. Refreshments are served and all are welcome.

Over the last few decades, Hadassah Medical Organization has been a leader in stem cell research to combat multiple sclerosis, ALS, and other neurodegenerative diseases. They are also conducting stem cell research to cure breast cancer. They have discovered that cancer stem cells are sometimes resistant to radiation or chemotherapy. Hadassah researchers

have shown that as few as 20 powerful cancer stem cells are enough to generate tumors in mice.

These researchers are working to detect the most aggressive breast cancer stem cells with a new set of biomarkers. They are searching for a medical intervention that will make these breast cancer stem cells more fully susceptible to chemotherapy.

You can help fund ground-breaking research at Hadassah Medical Organization by purchasing one of the many beautiful Hadassah certificates. They are available for \$5 to \$36 for memorials and all occasions. In addition, an \$18 certificate that benefits The Mother & Child Center is available, as well as a \$50 certificate that goes for cancer research. Cards are also available from \$5 to \$25 that can be inscribed as requested. These are available from Roberta Silberberg at 625-6037.

For additional information about Hadassah or donating to Young Judea, please contact Michele Bank, chapter president, at Michele.bank@gmail.com or 488-5657.



The room was filled with happy people enjoying a wide array of delicious Jewish foods.

Essen... Mir Gayn Essen

By Sol Rockenmacher

Manchester — Well, it wasn't in the Catskills, the subject location of Lee Tully's delightful song of many years ago (check it out on YouTube) but, nonetheless, 250 attendees enjoyed an afternoon of wonderful essen (eating) in Manchester at Temple Adath Yeshurun's fourth annual L'Chayim-Jewish Food Festival on Sunday afternoon, October 15. Organized by the hard-working duo of Cate Tanzer and Ruthie Gordon, who were assisted by a host of hard-working helpers, the event proved to be TAY's best-attended food event so far.

And eat we did! The fine food fare included pastrami, corned beef, brisket, matzo ball soup, tzimmes, stuffed cabbage, knishes, challah, rye bread, pum-

pernickel, rolls, coleslaw, rugelach, Mandelbrot, babka, black and white cookies, and strudel. Available beverages included Dr. Brown's sodas and even egg creams (with Fox's UBet syrup, of course).

Thank you to all who attended and who were so very patient as things got busy. We apologize for running out of some of the delicacies and will work on increasing the amount and also the variety of treats next year. We also hope to be able to use the newly renovated patio to decrease the crowding inside the function hall and to help improve the overall flow of the happenings.

As they used to say in Brooklyn, "Wait 'til next year." So look ahead to next autumn and mark Sunday, October 21, 2018 on your calendar for another delicious and delightful afternoon of "essen und fressen."

Join TAY Brotherhood for Winter Events

Manchester — The TAY Brotherhood continues to roll along. Sunday, December 17 will see the Joel Gordon-led (and much anticipated by children and adults alike) Chanukah Party.

The 2017 year will end with our traditional, many-year-old Mitzvah Program, which allows time off to our Christian friends at various functions on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

As usual, we will help at New Horizons Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, cover the information desks at Elliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center, deliver luncheon platters to the Police and Fire Departments of Manchester and Bedford, run the Bingo program at the Veterans Administration Hospital, and deliver Meals-on-Wheels to seniors and others who receive the service.

We will start 2018 with our fabulous Deli Nite on Saturday, January 27. Organizer David Penschansky assures us that this will be another fabulous event. Check on available reservations via the TAY office.

The Brotherhood Constitution states: "The purpose of the Brotherhood is to act as an arm of the congregation to further the purposes and objectives of the Congregation, to perform worthwhile acts of service to our Temple and our community, and to develop and build friendships and fellowship among its members." In view of the recent tragic storm damage affecting Houston, St. Thomas, and Puerto Rico, we have included in our community our Jewish brothers and sisters in those regions and have sent donations to help them recover as they deal with these disastrous conditions.

Wishes of health, happiness and peace
this Chanukah season.



Jeanne Shaheen

Paid for by Friends of Jeanne Shaheen

NH4Israel Learns About Hamas and Its Principles

By Ken Kowalchek

Manchester — On October 11, NH4Israel hosted Prof. Joseph Spoerl of St. Anselm College, who discussed the timely subject of Hamas and the changes, or lack thereof, that Hamas claimed to have undertaken in May of this year in its “Document of General Principles and Policies.” Prof. Spoerl also wrote about this topic in the August 2017 edition of the *New English Review*, where copious references to his findings are found in his article “Meet the New Hamas, Same as the Old Hamas.”

Prof. Spoerl makes the argument that the supposed changes Hamas made are an attempt at an image makeover. Their attempt fails largely because Jew hatred is at the core of Hamas. Although, since May, Hamas may claim it is not anti-Jew, only anti-Zionist Jew, such a claim in the Middle East is essentially Jew hatred. Corroborating this is the fact that Hamas has yet to change its 1988 charter, which calls for murdering Jews and eliminating the state of Israel.

The Hamas 2017 May makeover docu-

ment still contends that Zionism impedes Muslim happiness and states, “Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine ‘from the River to the Sea.’” The day after Prof. Spoerl’s talk, the *New York Times* broke a story with the headline “Unity Deal Offers Hope for Palestinians and a Respite for Gaza.” Under the deal, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority would merge governance. But, as the *NYT* reported, “Hamas has insisted on its right to maintain control of its arsenal — including thousands of rockets, missiles and drones — as well as its militia and its network of fortified tunnels.”

In paragraph 25, the Hamas document further states, “Resisting the occupation with all means and methods is a legitimate right guaranteed by divine laws and by international norms and laws. At the heart of these lies armed resistance, which is regarded as the strategic choice for protecting the principles and the rights of the Palestinian people.”

These words referencing divinity would seem to trump all other May 2017 General Principles and Policies and clearly



Prof. Joseph Spoerl addresses NH4Israel at its October meeting.

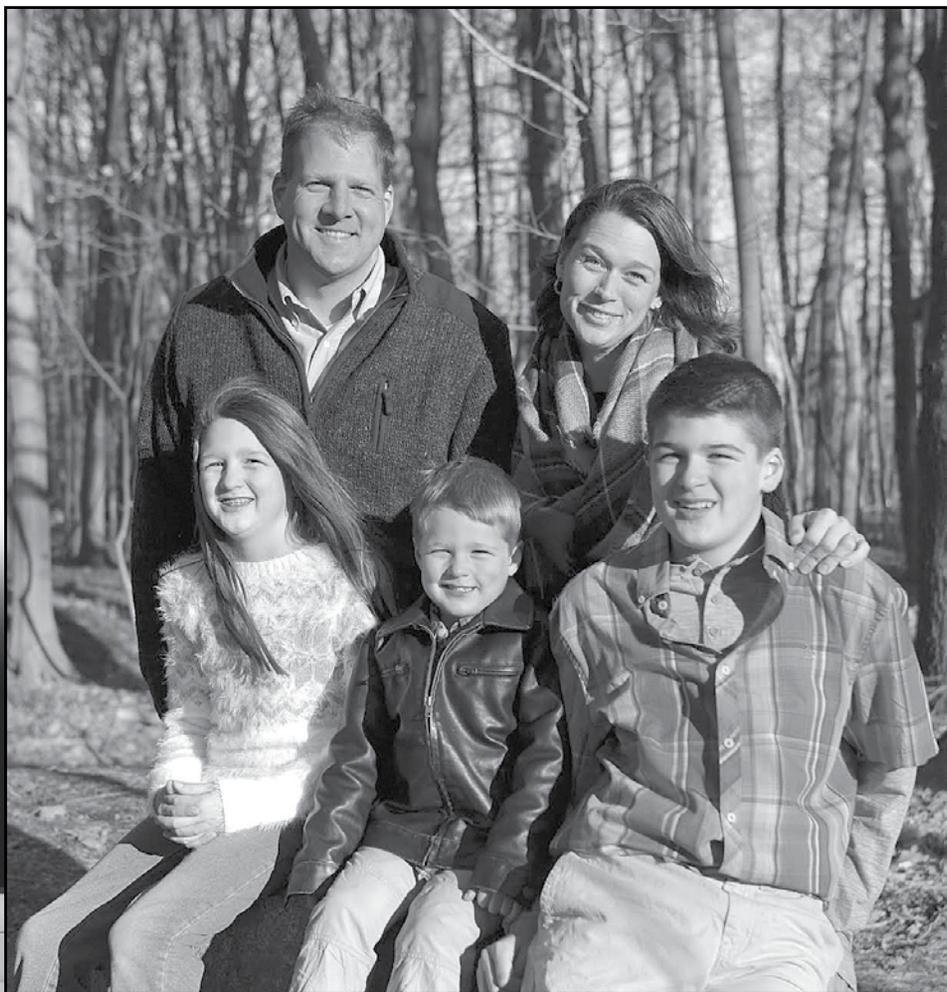
amplify the words of paragraph 23: “Resistance for jihad and for the liberation of Palestine will remain a legitimate right, a duty, and an honour for all the sons and daughters of our people.”

Prof. Spoerl left us with these remarks: “In short, despite its new ‘Document of General Principles and Policies,’ Hamas has not changed at all. It remains committed to the destruction of Israel by any means at its disposal, including indiscriminate attacks on Israeli civilians, and its world-view is still marked by deep

Jew-hatred.

More talks and educational films on Israel are planned for the 2017-2018 season. Mark your calendars for April 22, 2018, for helping with or participating in NH4Israel’s second annual springtime run-jog-walkathon race in Derry, again for the benefit of Hadassah Hospital in Israel and its programs that reach out and treat all. This year, the run will target a cure for Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Find out more about NH4Israel and sign up for email updates on guest speakers and hosted events at NH4Israel.org.

With the exception of holiday conflicts and summer break, NH4Israel hosts talks with refreshments at Manchester’s Temple Israel at 6:30 PM on most Wednesdays each month. If other venues and weekdays are scheduled, word of the change will be publicized (generally emailed) in advance, as well as posted on the calendar of events at NH4Israel.org. NH4Israel guest speakers address current issues surrounding the state of Israel as well as historical analyses of topics such as the Diaspora, Jew-hatred, and Zionism.



Happy Chanukah!

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TAY Sisterhood Membership Dinner Is Magnifique

Manchester — TAY Sisterhood members started the 2017-2018 year with their annual dinner, this year with a French theme. Roslyn Block selected an outstanding French Bistro menu that members prepared under her supervision.

Ami Cadugan had recently returned after spending three years living in Paris with her family. She gave a fascinating talk about their impressions and experiences. This included travels to many nearby countries as well as Israel, where daughter, Valerie, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah. A talented photographer, Ami shared a slide show of her favorite images.

The annual Woman of the Year Award was presented to Nancy Frankel. Often the first to volunteer, this multitasking woman most often works behind the scenes, often doing jobs others avoid. She serves on the Sisterhood board, helps in the kitchen, serves on the temple house committee, and drives a van when needed. Children and adults alike enjoy her performances as Corky the Clown.



Ami Cadugan recounts her fascinating three years in France. Photo by David Rosenzweig



Mary Atwood and co-President Linda Rockenmacher congratulate TAY Sisterhood Woman of the Year award winner Nancy Frankel.

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The Irving and Bernice Singer Israel Experience Program



Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Dear Teens and Parents:
The Israel Experience is an exciting teen initiative of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. It is based on the guiding principle that continuing Jewish education linked with a peer trip to Israel will forge a strong Jewish identity in the hearts and minds of youth.
The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire strongly believes that a young adult peer travel experience to Israel is a fundamental educational opportunity in American Jewish communal life.
Funding for this program comes in part from the Irving and Bernice Singer Israel Experience Fund of the Jewish Federation Foundation.



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Six Etz Hayim Synagogue Teens Earn President's Volunteer Service Awards

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz, Etz Hayim Synagogue Board of Directors

Derry — The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is a national program designed to inspire citizens to “answer the call to service.” This year, six Etz Hayim Synagogue teenagers earned awards for their many hours of volunteer service: teen tutoring at the synagogue, helping at the synagogue's monthly free community dinner, working at local libraries, and engaging in other community service projects. The teens are Laura Adams, who earned a bronze award for performing 50 or more hours of volunteer service during a 12-month period; Anna Haas, who earned a gold award for performing over 100 hours of volunteer service during a 12-month period; Laura Haas, who earned a bronze award for performing 50 or more hours of volunteer service during a 12-month period; David Meyer, who earned a bronze award for performing 50 or more hours of volunteer service during a 12-month period; Jack Meyer, who earned a bronze award



Anna and Laura Haas (on right) received their President's Volunteer Service Awards on October 15 at an Elijah's Table community dinner at which they, of course, were volunteering

for performing 50 or more hours of volunteer service during a 12-month period; and Eliana Patterson, who earned a silver award for performing 75 or more hours during a 12-month period.

Etz Hayim Synagogue is extremely proud of its hard-working teens, relies heavily on their exuberant participation in its Hebrew School and community efforts, and is very grateful to them.

Mazel tov, kids!



Laura Adams, Jack Meyer (middle), and David Meyer received their President's Volunteer Service Awards on November 3 during Friday evening services at Etz Hayim Synagogue.

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Bnei Mitzvah

Temple Israel Manchester is proud to congratulate Mikayla (Miky) Feldman and Samuel (Sam) Cooperman on being called to the Torah on October 14 and 21, respectively.



JFNH Director Melanie Zalman McDonald and Shlichah Noam Wolf joined others in attending TBI's 'We Care' concert.

TBI's We Care Concert — A Great Success!

Temple B'nai Israel's recent We Care Families Matter concert was a great success. The entertainment, Pitch Slapped, from the Berklee College of Music, provided a wonderful performance, and the event was also a financial success for both of the nonprofit partners: Belknap House and

Genesis Behavioral Health. Thank you to all who volunteered for this program, and to our event sponsors, Meredith Village Savings Bank and Golden View Health Care. It was great to see so many folks from Federation at the event, and to get to reintroduce ourselves to Shlichah Noam Wolf.

An Engaging Novel Focuses on Women in 1930s New York

Modern Girls (Berkley, 2016) by Jennifer S. Brown was actually not what I expected. I thought it would be a story about young working girls living in a more modern style than their mothers, working, going out to parties, and drinking with friends after work at the local bar.

Every generation wants to think of itself as more modern and experienced than the last. Every parent dreams that their children will be better off than they were. They work hard to give their children all the advantages that they could not afford or that were not available to them. Yet, each child has to be their own person. Children are independent and take chances that lead them down the path they must take in life. Parents can only advise and maybe be there to pick up the pieces when things don't turn out perfectly. Every daughter thinks she is more knowledgeable than her mother, is sometimes embarrassed by her mother, and feels she is more stylish than her mother.

Modern Girls is set in 1935 in New York City. Dottie still lives at home with her

parents and brothers on the Lower East Side. She has grown beyond her neighborhood by getting a job at Dover Insurance, and she has just been promoted from an office girl to the head bookkeeper because she has a talent for numbers. She has a long-time boyfriend, Abe Rabinowitz, her devout and, Dottie hopes, devoted boyfriend whom she hopes to marry. Then things go horribly wrong, and in an effort to make Abe jealous, Dottie spends a night with Willie Klein.

Dottie has prided herself on being modern, working, dressing in the most fashionable clothes. But when she becomes in a family way without the benefit of marriage, she must figure out how modern she really is.

A parallel plot line involves Dottie's mother Rose, an immigrant who came to America and married 20 years ago, now the mother of five children. Rose is just finding her light at the end of the parenting tunnel. Feeling that she can go out and socialize with her women friends and work for social justice causes with her friends,

she is not ready to start all over when she finds out that she is pregnant again.

Rose is feeling too old and tired to start over with a new baby, with feedings and dirty diapers. She is frustrated that she will not be able to help organize a letter-writing campaign to encourage the U.S. government to relax the quotas for Jews coming into the country from Europe as reports are filtering in about the horrors of Hitler in Germany.

Two women at different stages in their lives face major changes in their lifestyles. Each must make an important choice and decision that will change their lives forever.

Also explored through this novel is the difference between living on the Lower East Side and Park Avenue. Rose and Dottie live with the Jewish immigrant population, where Yiddish is still the primary language spoken. Willie Klein, the father of Dottie's baby, and his family have left the Old World behind and are integrating into American society. "In the city, I didn't see Willie too often. His parents had distanced themselves from the lower East Side, taken

to their Park Avenue address with full body and soul.... mostly he stayed in his own world except to partake every now and then in the *Yiddische* nightlife. His parents thought the cramped and crowded Lower East Side -- the *shaddachan* making marriages, the peddlers on the street -- an embarrassment, a throwback to life in the Old Country, even though neither had experienced it."

How Rose and Dottie come to terms with and deal with their pregnancies is admirable and touching, which makes *Modern Girls* a charming and engaging read.

Jennifer S. Brown has lived on three of the four corners of the United States (Miami Beach, New York, Seattle) and now calls the suburbs of Boston her home. She has a BFA in film and television from NYU and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Washington. Jennifer loves writing historical fiction because the research lets her live vicariously in another time and place, specifically, the Lower East Side of New York City in 1935.

Letters to the Editor

There's No Need for Nastiness

Emma Rous' opinion piece in last month's issue was controversial. Understood. And it hit a nerve. And if some readers disagreed, allowing a response is fair play. I don't believe Ms. Rous was abusive, nor in blatant disregard of facts, allowing that there may be disagreement about her conclusions.

Two responses to her piece were unkind and bordered on vituperative.

1. Norman Silber (J Street-- a Wolf in Sheep's Clothing) describes Rous's piece as "set[ting] forth ...in a fuzzy way why Israel should turn the other cheek to those whose mission it is to kill all the Jews and destroy the State of Israel."

2. Richard Collier's letter headed "Lies and Deceptions" describes Rous as Anti-Israel and further down calls her ideas "misrepresentations [which are] deliberately deceptive."

While I appreciate The Jewish Reporter being a forum, it ought not allow its readers to address others in this way. Silber has no call to say that Rous would countenance those who wish to kill Jews, and Collier certainly doesn't know that Rous was being deliberately deceptive, or deceptive at all.

Melanie Zalman McDonald (and Rabbi Buchdahl) are on the right track when they say we should listen without arguing. In truth, I'm ok with arguing. But there's no need for nastiness. It will shut off conversation. And silence will not lead solutions. I'd like to see more discussion in your pages. It's well known that Rous's views are shared by many American and Israeli Jews. And there are many who don't.

But I implore you to set some guidelines for your publication. Even Twitter and Facebook have limits. So should you.

Ken Grossman, Barrington

[Response from the Editor: The Reporter's policy, as set by the JFNH Board, is to publish letters to the editor stating the opinions of our readers. We will not publish hate speech or incitements to violence, but we recognize that some readers' opinions are strongly worded and may include untruths, exaggerations, hearsay, and other types of inaccuracies. We leave it to our readers to judge their truth for themselves.]

Our publication of any opinions and letters in no way implies our endorsement of those opinions. They are solely the opinions of the writers.]

Compassionate Listening Project

I recently attended the "Compassionate Listening Project" at Temple Israel in Portsmouth. We were split into groups of three, then each person had three minutes to talk about his/her views on Israel with no interruption or questions. The audience as a group then listened to four individual and varied stories from Israel. Again, we had three more minutes to speak about those stories in our small group.

Obviously, of the millions of people in Israel, each has his/her own narrative. Most people would probably feel better knowing that they were heard, and the organizers stated that they often heard "please tell our story." It could be argued that this exercise may be beneficial to leaders trying to negotiate a peace deal, to see things from the others perspective. What I do not understand is how sharing this experience with students helps support Israel. (This program at SNHU was sponsored by the Palestinian Education Network, whose "work" prompted the creation of NH4Israel to counter their anti-Israel propaganda, and NH Peace Action, who held a "peace" rally in Concord during the Iraq war and every single sign was anti-Israel).

Over 12 years of programming events with NH4Israel, we generally have con-

cluded that the vast majority of students know very little about Israel and the Middle East. Having listened to these hand-picked narratives, in my opinion, they would walk away with a negative view of Israel that may never change.

The moderator only allowed us to speak about the experience of listening and being heard; this was not about finding the truth. There were untruths that could not be challenged: "over 50% of Gazan casualties of Operation Cast Lead were civilian." The Institute for Counter-Terrorism research disproves these claims. Or false narratives, like Arab children have the choice of bad schools or losing their culture. All schools are Israeli schools with the same curriculum; as in the United States, some are better than others.

Everyone attending was concerned that peace may never be reached. The Project falsely leads participants to think that if we just listen to each story without questioning the accuracy, peace may come. This I believe relies on utopian assumptions of human nature. With the delegitimization of Israel increasing in pace and anti-Semitism hiding under never ending anti-Israel rhetoric, I do not believe that this program promotes peace. It merely slanders Israel.

Linda McGrath, Hampstead

Letters to the Editor may be sent to thereporter@jewishnh.org.
Letters must be signed with full name and address.

Recent Events



At the CROP Interfaith Hunger Walk at Beth Abraham on Oct. 29, about 300 people from 20 religious groups in Greater Nashua came together to raise more than \$30,000 for local and international hunger relief. The day included a performance by an interfaith choir including Temple Beth Abraham's Zimria.



Thank you to Barbara and Harry Shepler for treating Temple Israel Manchester members to a wonderful reception, a private tour of "The Paris of Toulouse-Lautrec," and memberships to the Currier Gallery of Art on Oct. 19.



Members of Etz Hayim Synagogue's women's group (The FAB) and their friends began mah jongg lessons on November 2.



On November 2, 2017, the International Institute of New England in conjunction with the William Einhorn Interfaith Education Fund presented New Hampshire: A Home for All at Etz Hayim Synagogue (EHS). Miriam Gitterman (on right), William Einhorn's widow, moderated. The presentation was part of an ongoing educational series held at EHS on Thursday nights.



Many hands helped unroll the Torah at TAY on Simchat Torah. Photo by David Rosenzweig.



The Temple B'nai Israel Religious School students and families gathered on October 29 to make delicious vegetable soup for use by our Social Action Committee at dinners and lunches served through Hands Across the Table and the Salvation Army. Andy and Martina Howe generously donated vegetables from their fields for this annual effort.



The Berry-Haigh Family in the sukkah at Temple Adath Yeshurun on Simchat Torah. Photo by David Rosenzweig.



Author Dori Weinstein talks with Temple Beth Abraham students about her series of Jewish chapter books featuring YaYa and YoYo on Nov 9.

Want to see your organization's photos here? Send them to thereporter@jewishnh.org.



JFNH Tributes

Received by November 10, 2017

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