



**CHANUKAH**

**JFNH Partners with Momentum to Empower Jewish Moms Through Israel Travel**

By Board Member Tracy Richmond

JFNH is thrilled to announce that we have been selected as a partner organization for the Momentum program. Momentum seeks to inspire women to transform themselves, their families, their communities, and the world. Their flagship program, the MOMentum Year-Long Journey, empowers women to connect to Jewish values, engage with Israel, take action, and foster unity without uniformity.

The MOMentum Year-Long Journey includes a profound, personal 8-day experience in Israel, during which women explore the Jewish homeland, take in inspiring Jewish wisdom, and join a global Jewish sisterhood. Back home, women channel their energy and passion personally, professionally, and communally, and continue their journey through edu-



A Momentum trip to Israel

cational and leadership programs.

Our New Hampshire group of ten mothers will travel to Israel from No-

vember 8-16, 2020 with 200 Jewish women from around the US and Israel.

The goal is that our participants,



upon returning from the trip, will:

- Bring the inspiration home to their families
- Continue the learning and growth through monthly classes, webinars, and gatherings with partner organizations
- Build enduring relationships and a global sisterhood
- Grow as leaders
- Take action in the community
- Choose Jewish engagement for their children and
- Continue the personal, transformative journey.

A few key details to know about this program:

*Momentum continued on page 9*

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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**jewishnh.org**

**Why I Give to Federation: The Anchor of My Jewish Upbringing**

By Board Member Ross Fishbein

I first discovered the tremendous benefits of being part of a Jewish community when I studied at Brandeis University after high school. Similar to the feeling I had when I went on a NFTY trip to Israel when I was 16 (for which a one-half-cost stipend was provided by JFNH,) the sense of being surrounded by Judaism was palpable and comforting. An incredible friendship between myself and three others was born during that first semester at Brandeis. More than seventeen years later, the four of us still speak almost daily and get together at least annually, most recently as the last of us got married at the end of October.

Attending Brandeis was the first time I



Ross Fishbein

truly left home. However, that situation was one in which I would repeatedly find myself for the better part of my adult life. After Brandeis, I went to law school at the University of Arizona, a foreign place (much like Israel) very far from anyone I knew. Without family and friends to lean on, I made sure to become active in the local Jewish community, exercising in the fitness center at the Federation and regularly attending films, programming, and lectures. The comfort I found in that community lay in the familiarity that harkened back to the days of my undergraduate studies.

After I graduated from Arizona and sat for the bar exams, I moved to Austin, Texas. The world economy had collapsed, job opportunities were dismal, and I concluded

that my best option was to move somewhere where hiring was still occurring on some level, even though I knew no one in, and had zero connections to, the area. My first stop upon moving there was the Federation. By now I recognized the importance of having a Jewish connection to an area in order to learn, grow, and become enmeshed in the larger community. As I had previously experienced elsewhere, the Austin Federation was a warm and welcoming place, with numerous avenues available to become involved. I was active in the Young Adults' group of 20-somethings and 30-somethings, attended happy hours and inter-generational Shabbat dinners hosted at homes throughout the city, and participated in volunteer events. I attended an annual gala event through the Federation in one of my

*Why I Give continued on page 9*

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Jewish Federation of New Hampshire  
273 South River Rd. Unit #5  
Bedford, NH 03110  
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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 Donna Kirshbaum  
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

## DURHAM

### UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki  
72-1 Main Street, Durham  
(603) 205-6598  
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com  
www.JewishSeacoast.com

## HANOVER

### THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

### KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

## KEENE

### CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Amy Loewenthal  
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene  
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF  
(603) 352-6747  
www.keenesynagogue.org  
rabbi.ahavas.achim@gmail.com  
secretary.ahavas.achim@gmail.com  
Services: Regular Friday night services at 7 PM  
Monthly Shabbat morning services at 10 AM  
Check the website for time variations

## LACONIA

### TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

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

## MANCHESTER

### CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

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

## TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson  
152 Prospect Street, Manchester  
Reform, Affiliated URJ  
(603) 669-5650  
www.taynh.org  
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 Jeremy Szczepanski  
66 Salmon Street, Manchester  
Conservative  
(603) 622-6171  
office@templeisraelmht.org  
www.templeisraelnh.org  
Services: Fridays at 6 PM  
Saturday at 9:30 AM  
Minyans: Mon.-Fri. 7 AM. Call Stephen Singer 603-774-4048 for 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

## NORTH CONWAY

### KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

## PORTSMOUTH

### TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi Ira Korinow (Interim)  
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-F preschool.

# The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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info@jewishnh.org

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

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

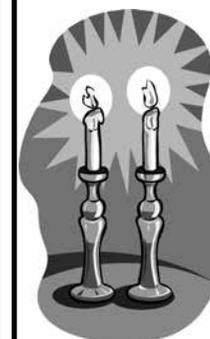
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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## Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



<b>December 6</b>	<b>3:53 PM</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>3:53 PM</b>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>3:56 PM</b>
<b>December 27</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
<b>January 3</b>	<b>4:05 PM</b>
<b>January 10</b>	<b>4:12 PM</b>
<b>January 17</b>	<b>4:20 PM</b>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>4:29 PM</b>
<b>January 31</b>	<b>4:38 PM</b>

# WE GIVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN JEWISH LIVES

You make everything we do — possible.



Why do we give? We believe  
in supporting the Jewish community.

With Federation, we know our gifts are used wherever it's needed most. We may be helping a Holocaust survivor to live with the dignity they deserve. We may be assisting someone in our community— someone we don't even know — to get a job so they can take care of their family. Maybe we're helping kids in Eastern Europe reclaim their heritage. The important thing is, we're doing something vital to help every single day. Give today.

603-627-7679



Jewish Federation  
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

[Jewishnh.org/give](http://Jewishnh.org/give)

# Statewide Calendar of Events

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

## Sunday, December 1

### Sisterhood Winter Bazaar Extravaganza

10AM – 2PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
No entrance fee

A joyous time will be had by all at Temple Israel Portsmouth as local artisans and craftspeople sell their excellent wares just before winter holidays.

## Monday, December 2

### Learn Hebrew in Less Than A Week with Rabbi Korinow

7 – 8:30PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth

There is no cost for this class, but you are required to purchase the textbook (anticipated cost \$13.95.) This 4-night class (December 2 – 5), led by Rabbi Ira Korinow, meets in the Temple Israel Board Room, 2nd floor. The class is meant to teach mechanical reading and will provide you with the skills to continue to learn to read and understand what you're reading.

## Friday, December 6

### Family Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner

6 – 8PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
Family Shabbat Service and Potluck. Please bring a dish to share! Contact: Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org).

## Sunday, December 8

### JFNH Super Sunday

9:30AM – 5PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

Answer the Call on Super Sunday, as Federation

Volunteers from all over New Hampshire gather to raise funds to continue our important work in the community. To become a Super Sunday volunteer, contact Melanie at [melanie@jewishnh.org](mailto:melanie@jewishnh.org).

## Wednesday, December 11

### Sharing Chanukah in Your Child's Multi-Faith Classroom

6 – 8PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

\$18/participant

If you're feeling unsure about sharing Chanukah in your child's multi-faith classroom, join us for this "how to" session!

Every participant will receive: an easy to explain summary of the Chanukah story, the dreidel game - includes dreidels, coins, and directions, a PJ Library Chanukah book for your child's classroom, explore Chanukah craft and activity ideas - Make and Take, and Sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and coffee while you shmooze with other adults.

Please call the JFNH Office at 603-627-7679 to reserve your spot!

## Thursday, December 12

### Seniors Forever Young Annual Chanukah Party

\$10/person (non-refundable) please pay by December 5

Celebrate Chanukah at our annual celebration! This year we'll create Chanukah art with NH Shlichah Avia Sagron and enjoy a delicious lunch including potato latkes, soup and sandwiches.

## Sunday, December 15

### Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Hosts Shlichah Avia Sagron presenting "My Israeli Story"

Cost for breakfast: \$8 for Men's Club members and \$12 for non-members

9:30 – 11AM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
My Israeli Story, a talk by NH Jewish Federation Shlichah Avia Sagron, Drawing on her own personal

experiences as a founder of a local branch of a youth movement for children and young adults with special needs, a Computer Network Manager during her military service in Ogda 36, an educator on several different kibbutzim and as an agricultural worker, Avia will provide a unique look inside her Path of Life from Childhood to Adult Life in Israel. Avia's discussion will be followed with an open question and answer period. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Avia's presentation which will start off with our Monthly Sunday Breakfast at 9:30 AM. Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email [breakfastsvp@snhjmcc.org](mailto:breakfastsvp@snhjmcc.org).

### Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood Chanukah and Gift Shop

10AM – 1PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
For questions contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org)

### Brotherhood Chanukah Party

11AM – 12:30PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

For questions contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org)

### Goodnight Bubbala – A Book Signing and Chanukah Celebration with Illustrator Jill Weber

2 – 4PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

Join PJ Library – New Hampshire as they welcome Illustrator and New Hampshire resident Jill Weber for a book signing of her new book Goodnight Bubbala by Sheryl Haft. Celebration will include, a craft, make your own snack and Yiddish charades. RSVP to [allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org](mailto:allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org)

## Sunday, December 22

### Braverman Chanukah Party

11:45AM – 1:45PM, Temple Israel, Manchester  
Come celebrate Chanukah with us! RSVP required by December 9th at [office@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:office@templeisraelmht.org) or <http://www.templeisraelmht.org>

### Chabad Menorah Lighting at the State House

4 – 4:45PM, New Hampshire State House, Concord

Menorah Lighting at the State House is slated for December 22 at the State House in Concord. During the event, the tallest menorah in NH is lit. Chocolate Gelt will fly in the Giant Gelt Drop with JFNH Shlichah Avia Sagron. PJ Library will be on hand with Chanukah books and more!

## Tuesday, December 24

### Brotherhood Mitzvah Program

8AM – 5PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
December 24 and 25, for questions contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org)

## Friday, December 27

### Family Chanukah Service

6 – 8PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
For questions contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org)

## Saturday, December 28

### Etz Hayim Synagogue to Celebrate 9 Adult B'Nai Mitzvah

9:30 AM – 12:30PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry  
A group of adults are finally embarking on a journey to celebrate their becoming B'nai Mitzvah. The students have been reading, learning and parsing the reading Miketz (מִקֶּטֶז) from the book of Genesis. Please join us for this special celebration to witness this exceptional group of adults rededicating themselves to Judaism.

## Tuesday, December 31

### First Night Portsmouth Musical Celebration

8 – 11:45 PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth  
\$25

Temple Israel will host Randy Armstrong and Genevieve Aichele, presenting stories and music from around the world. For more information about the performers and to purchase a button, please contact First Night Portsmouth at <https://www.firstnightportsmouth.org> or <https://www.proportsmouth.org/firstnight.cfm> Family and discount pricing available.

## Friday, January 3

### Family Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner

6 – 8PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
Family Shabbat Service and Potluck. Please bring a dish to share! Contact: Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org).

## Thursday, January 9

### Seniors Forever Young Popcorn and a Movie

(Snow Date Jan. 23)

1:30 PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

\$3/person (non-refundable) - Pay by January 2

Join us for a showing of Judy (2019) Rated PG-13  
Popcorn and other movie theater treats will be served.

*Calendar continued on page 5*

**the WINNIPESAUKEE playhouse**

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Summer Night Out: Pair of tickets to any summer professional show \$56

Year round info & tickets [www.winnipesaukeeplayhouse.org](http://www.winnipesaukeeplayhouse.org)



**Tupelo**  
MUSIC HALL

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with special guest Bedouin Soundclash

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28**

TMH • 10 A Street, Derry, NH • (603) 437-5100 • [TupeloMusicHall.com](http://TupeloMusicHall.com)

Calendar continued from page 4

## Sunday, January 12

### **Analytics, Social Media and Privacy**

9:30 – 11AM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua  
Cost for breakfast is \$8.00 for Men's Club members and \$12 for non-members

Jim will join us to discuss these very important issues as the scope and reach of the Internet continues to grow and influence our lives. Jim began his career over 30 years ago after earning a BS in Computer Studies and a MSEE in Computer Engineering from Stanford University. The holder of a US Patent for his "Method for Certifying the authenticity of digital objects," Jim's work history includes various upper level positions at IBM, Data General Corp and Digital Equipment Jim is uniquely qualified to discuss the

impact of Analytics, Social Media and Privacy on our everyday lives. Jim's discussion will be followed with an open question and answer period. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Jim's presentation which will start off with our Monthly Sunday Breakfast at 9:30 AM. Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email [breakfastrsvp@snhjm.org](mailto:breakfastrsvp@snhjm.org).

## Saturday, January 25

### **Brotherhood Deli Night**

6 – 10PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester  
Tickets may be purchased in advance. This event is sold out annually. For questions contact Karen Rothstein at 603- 669-5650 or [office@taynh.org](mailto:office@taynh.org)

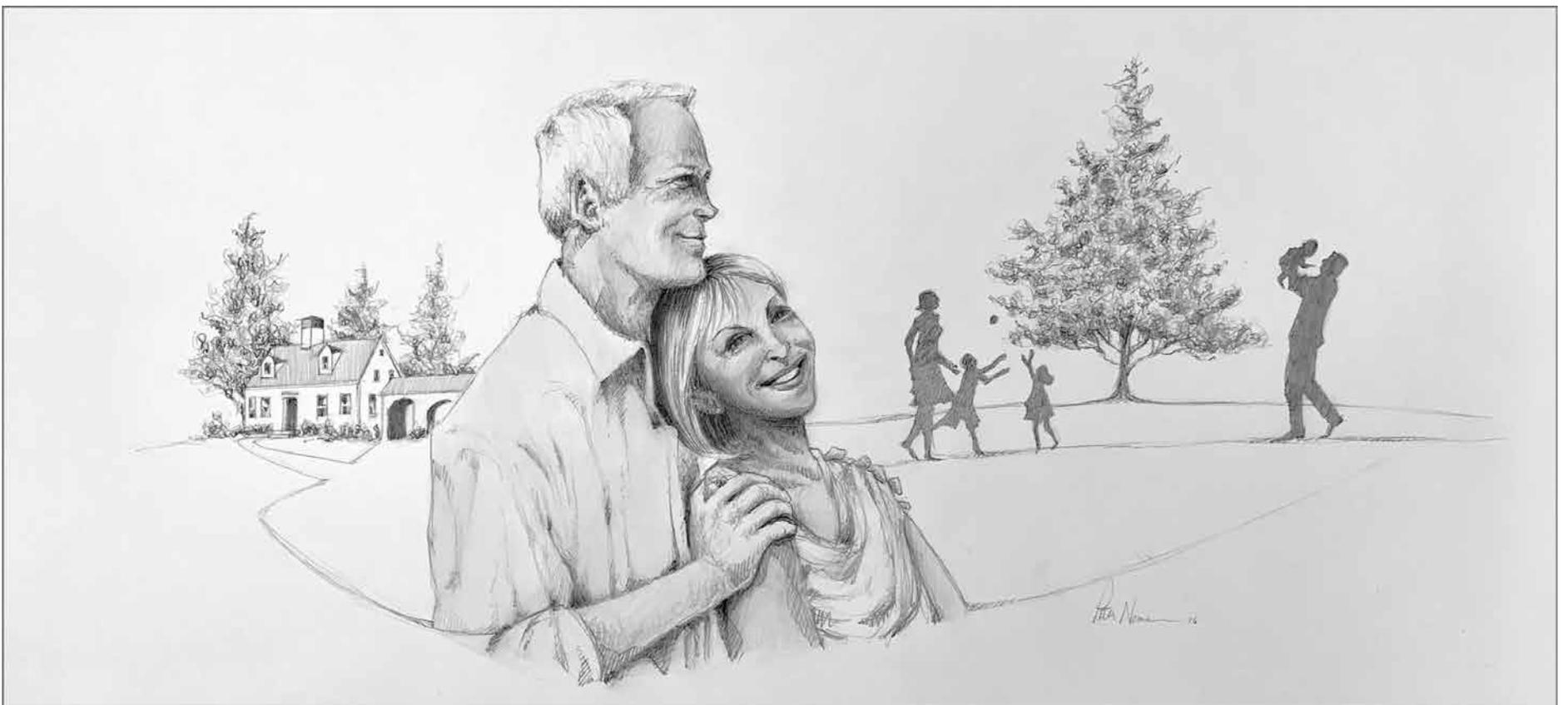


**SAVE THE DATE**  
March 19-29, 2020

Shows in Manchester, Merrimack, Concord, Portsmouth and Peterborough

Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH  
[nhjewishfilmfestival.org](http://nhjewishfilmfestival.org)

See what's happening in the community at [www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org)



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## Federation Conference Sparks Reflection and Resolve

Over the course of a century, Jews in America and across the diaspora have helped transform the world. We founded and built a nation. We rallied and worked to free millions of Soviet Jews. We saved ancient communities while building schools and synagogues, re-imagining Jewish life here at home and establishing a network that cared for our most vulnerable.

But our history is only our beginning. As challenges have evolved, so too must our solutions.

In place of Jewish Federations of North America's traditional "General Assembly" Conference, this year they convened with a renewed purpose. A call went out to Federation board and staff leadership across North America—across generations and disciplines—to engage in a three-day laboratory.

In November, I gathered along with JFNH Treasurer Harry Shepler for three days of intensive learning to re-examine our approach to long-standing issues and begin exploring new methodologies for the concerns on the horizon. The conference, appropriately called "FedLab," offered three different tracks, each designed to engage us with expert facilitators and peers in deep conversation and interactive, problem-solving experiments that tested assumptions, explored potential

**Melanie Zalman  
McDonald**

**Executive  
Director**



solutions, and brought us to the next level in addressing them:

- Action for Good in the 21st Century
- Engage Jewishly
- Jewish Security & Empowerment

The third track, "Jewish Security & Empowerment," was our charge, and the formula for progress at this "Lab" was to Discover, Define, Explore + Build and Plan + Act. I had never attended a professional development offering where so much was at stake and where so much of what we experienced was experimental.

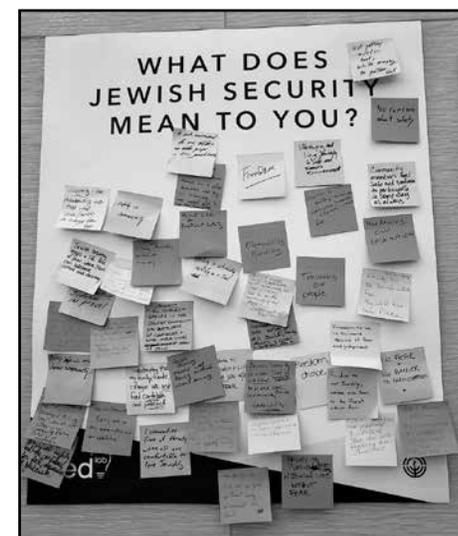
I arrived having completed the assigned reading (30 different articles about anti-semitism, synagogue security, and threat assessment,) but unsure what to expect. The marketing materials for this new, experimental offering promised that participants would "come prepared to question and leave ready to take action, equipped with the tools necessary to tackle challenges, implement change and plant the seeds for our shared Jewish future."

While I did leave with a headful of important information to disseminate and a tool kit filled with solutions, many of the take-aways were much deeper.

Doron Horowitz, Senior National Security Advisor for Secure Community Network (SCN, JFNA's Security Intelligence Branch,) addressed the crowd one morning. I had spoken with Doron regarding issues in New Hampshire in the past and had come to respect his expertise and counsel, so I was glad to meet him in person. I expected him to step towards the microphone and present a range of scenarios and responses to inform our work. His remarks offered something quite different, and the words still ring in my head. He called to mind the tragedy at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; the event was a touchstone for everyone.

Doron said, "Security is not an **option**. It is an **obligation**. You see, we are **all** a tree of life...strong roots, many branches, beautiful fruit." It was a metaphor that hadn't occurred to us, but as his voice trembled (so unlike this IDF-trained, steely-eyed soldier,) it was clear what he meant.

Doron encouraged us to stop seeing security for our community through a lens of fear, and to start seeing it through a lens of empowerment.



*Brainstorming About Security at the Fed-Lab Conference*

"We are committed to becoming safe, because we choose life!" Doron insisted. We must answer the call to action for our communities rather than reside in a place of fear and vulnerability.

The next two days challenged our thinking about security—what it looks like and how much work there is to do. We explored (at length) the dangers of the "it can't happen here" mindset, where we convince ourselves that these events are

*Director continued on page 27*

## Sweet Chanukah Memories

By Avia Sagron

I remember the feeling of warmth and light when I celebrated Chanukah as a young girl at home. Chanukah falls at a cold time in Israel (not like New Hampshire, of course!) and the days are short. There is a vacation from school and it's a family time that brings everyone together. When I smell *sufganiya* (doughnuts) and *leviva* (latkes) for the first time (in Israel we don't have doughnuts all year around) my heart expands, and I know that Chanukah is here. My favorite moment is when everyone gets together in the evening to light the hanukkiyah and sing "Ma'oz Tzur" out loud. Every day someone in the family has the chance to light the candles.

When the windows all around light up with the hanukkiyot you feel the magic in the air. We are proud to put the hanukkia in the window where everyone can see it. The lights help me remember that miracles really can happen.

There are several traditions at Chanukah and every child's favorite is "*demi Chanukah*" (Chanukah money, or in Yid-

**Avia Sagron**

**JFNH Shlichah**



dish, Chanukah gelt.) Usually it's a small amount of money, but I can remember the excitement I felt as a child to get it from my parents and my grandmother, Mama Mesodi, with a wish for me. Personally, I always loved the chocolate coins more than the real ones.

An interesting thing I never thought about before is the difference between the dreidels in Israel and other parts of the world. The first time I saw a dreidel with "*Nes Gadol Haya Sham*," ("A great miracle happened there") it looked different to me because I'm used to "*Nes Gadol Haya Po*" ("A great miracle happened here,") referring to the fact that the miracle occurred in Eretz Israel.

When I traveled in Southeast Asia after my military service, I arrived in Vietnam during Chanukah and my friends

and I didn't miss the chance to light up a hanukkiyah and sing the songs together. It made us feel like we were home, and was one of my favorite moments there.

Every Chanukah I try to think about a miracle that happened to me in the past year and say thank you for it, *todah rabah*. This year my miracle is that I became a shlichah and I have the chance to do something meaningful and to know New Hampshire's amazing communities. Most of all, I have the opportunity to do something I truly love every day, and I'm not taking it for granted.

Maybe it's time to stop for a second and think about the things you are grateful for ....

I wish you all a happy Chanukah full of joy and light!

### **Yogurt Doughnuts Recipe: (Hebrew: *Sufganiyat Leben*)**

#### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups (500g) all-purpose flour
- 4 eggs
- 1 pinch salt
- 4-5 Tbsp granulated sugar

- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2 cups(500g) yogurt or Kefir
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Enough vegetable oil for frying
- Enough powdered sugar for dusting

#### INSTRUCTIONS

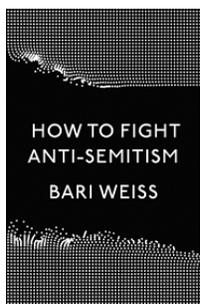
1. In a medium bowl sift the flour, baking soda and the salt.
2. Beat the eggs and add them to the flour.
3. Add the sugar, yogurt (or Kefir), vanilla and mix well.
4. Heat the oil on medium high then reduce the heat to medium low. Make sure the oil temperature is about 365-375F.
5. Drop the dough by the tablespoon, 4-5 at a time, in the hot oil and fry for a minute or until golden. Flip the doughnuts and continue to fry them until done.
6. Drain them on paper towels.
7. Dust the doughnuts with powdered sugar and serve warm.
8. Note: Fry only one at the beginning and make sure it is cooked inside. Reduce the heat if necessary, so the dough cooks through.

## Our Best Strategy To Fight Anti-Semitism Is To Build With Pride

Jewish NH – In the August Reporter’s Board Column, I had the opportunity to talk about why my family gives to JFNH and other Jewish institutions in New Hampshire—because we believe it is our responsibility, because we care, and because we can. If you have not yet this year, I hope you will join us. For this month’s column, I would like to share with you details of a book that I find very inspiring and motivating for the year’s work ahead, work that your contributions help support.

That book is Bari Weiss’s *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, and its central argument is two-fold: 1) that we are in danger, and

2) that to fight anti-Semitism, we must be proud. She concludes, “In these trying times, our best strategy is to build, without shame, a Judaism and a Jewish people and a Jewish state that are not



only safe and resilient but self-aware, meaningful, generative, humane, joyful, and life-affirming. A Judaism capable of lighting a fire in every Jewish soul—and in the souls of everyone who throws in their lot with ours.” As one friend texted back when I sent her these moving, fighting words: Amen.

Weiss, who grew up in Pittsburgh and became a bat mitzvah at the Tree of Life Synagogue, discusses how the day of her hometown synagogue’s shooting awakened her “to the fact that I had spent much of my life on holiday from history...everything was so miraculous. Everything was so fragile.” She wrote *How to Fight Anti-Semitism* as a call to the American Jewish community on how to understand—and address—this critical moment.

Weiss believes we are in danger, and that American Jews of today may not appreciate the urgency of our situation because we have been among the luckiest Jews in history. “We are not living in 1930s Europe,” she acknowledges. “But I fear that the Jews of America, thinking ourselves a diaspora apart, have lost their—our—instinct for danger.” Separately, but in a similar vein, she argues that, “one of the gifts of the modern Jewish experience is that open-hearted Jewish values have almost entirely subsumed hard-hearted ones because we have, by and large, been so welcomed here. Survival has no longer been our concern.”

Her solution? To understand anti-Semitism in its myriad forms (she dedicates the

**Julia Kay Preis,  
Board Member**



**Board Column**

meat of her book to chapters on anti-Semitism from the right, the left, and radical Islam) so that we may fight it, and fight it with all our might. It is her prescriptions on how to fight anti-Semitism that I want to discuss here.

Weiss’s solutions are motivated by the idea that we need to enter an “affirmative battle” for who we are. It is not enough to be “anti-anti-Semites.” We must know who we are and why we are here, be “lit up not by fires from without but by the fires in [our] souls.”

So how do we fight? Some of Weiss’s ideas I found most inspiring include:

- 1) How we orient towards our enemies
  - Trust your discomfort. “This rule is a simple one: Don’t wait. If an organization you support is making common cause with [anti-Semites], do not look for a way to justify their relationship.”
  - Call it out. Especially when it’s hard. “Two things can be true at once: [someone] can espouse bigoted ideas. And [that person] can [themselves] be the hate object of bigots.”
  - Apply the *kippah* (or Magen David) test. “Ask yourself: Can I safely assert my Jewishness where I live?” If not, please consider making a “plan to improve your neighborhood.”
  - Don’t trust people who seek to divide Jews. Even if they are Jews. “Anyone who participates in this ugly work—I think of the small cohort of anti-Zionist Jews who insist that the only real Jews are those who disavow the State of Israel—is doing to themselves what [known anti-Semites do] to us: insisting on separating out the good Jews from the ‘Satanic ones.’”
- 2) How we orient towards our allies
  - Notice your enemies. But even more, notice your friends. “Make sure you listen closely for that single voice,” she writes. “When a single person you admire tells you that you are courageous, that you are standing up for what’s right, that you’ve inspired them to do the same...pay it forward by being that voice for someone else.”
  - Praise those who do the right thing. “Rabbis across the country should

be using their sermons to make heroes of such groups and such people. We want to make it easier for others to do the right thing.”

- At the same time, we must fight the anti-Semitism on our own side. “In order to be principled in this fight, we must be willing to call out the anti-Semitism on our own side of the aisle.”
  - Expect solidarity.
- 3) How we orient toward our ourselves
    - Stop blaming yourself. “To think clearly about anti-Semitism, Jews must stop blaming themselves,” she writes. “We should not place ourselves in the position of beseeching our enemies to affirm that we are not, in fact, pigs. To do that, we need to truly believe that we are not.”
    - Choose life. “It can mean attending a self-defense class or an active-shooter drill or raising money for a community security assessment...we must be alert to changes in our level of comfort and be unafraid to say when we need literal protection.”
    - Never ask of yourself what you would not ask of another minority. “Do not give your time and money to causes, institutions, nonprofits, or universities that condone anti-Semitism.”
    - Fight, first and foremost, as Americans. “If you love this country, if you love freedom and liberalism broadly defined, it is in your interest to eliminate this poison.”
    - Wherever you are, vote for freedom. “Does this political party, this movement, this organization, this activist group—whatever—want me to be my most whole self? Or, to be accepted or safe, will I need to hide my true views or cut off parts of who I am?”
    - Support Israel. “We know that, if need be, we could pick up and move tomorrow to a state with an army and nuclear weapons. This sense of security that the existence of Israel provides cannot be overstated. It makes life in an uncertain Brooklyn or Toulouse possible. Anyone who denies this, I believe, is lying to you or to themselves,” writes Weiss. Later, she continues, “that I can walk

the streets of Tel Aviv today as a feminist woman in a tank top, that it is a free and liberated society in the middle of the Middle East, is an achievement so great it is often hard for many people to grasp. We should work hard to appreciate its magnitude.”

- Build community. “The work of fighting anti-Semitism requires a band of Maccabees. So find yourself that band. If one doesn’t already exist, build it.”
- Know exactly what you are fighting for. “I do not know the ultimate reason why great empires have fallen and yet millions of Jews all over the world still recite the *Shema* in the same language. What I think we can strive for, if not the answer, is to be ever grateful for this miracle.”
- Lean into Judaism. “The answer [is] for Jews to choose life—whole lives, not partial ones.”
  - Nurture your Jewish identity—and that of those around you. “Cultivating and strengthening your Jewish identity may not seem like an obvious way to combat anti-Semitism, but it is actually one of our most powerful weapons. This is especially the case for parents, who have the opportunity to raise educated, proud, and joyful Jews of the next generation,” she writes. Weiss suggests “deciding to have Shabbat dinner every week,” “booking a trip to Israel,” and “giving a gift to a charity you admire,” among other ideas.
- Know that one person can change history. Is it you?

Maybe some of these ideas resonate with you. Maybe some of them do not. I welcome your input and thoughts and would love to discuss further if this is of interest.

If something here does resonate with you, I hope that you will join our staff, very engaged board, and other volunteers in continuing this important fight on behalf of the New Hampshire Jewish community. *Am Yisrael Chai.*

*Julia Kay Preis is a board member and a trustee of JFNH. She lives in Bedford with her husband Ido and their two young boys.*

### Correction

Our November article “The NH Holocaust Memorial Lives On” omitted the author’s name. Fred Teeboom founded the NH Holocaust Memorial and wrote the article. We regret the omission.

## Become a Sponsor or Friend of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival!

By Zach Camenker

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is proud to present our 12th Annual Festival from Thursday, March 19th to Sunday, March 29th. Please consider joining us and save the dates so you can be a part of another fantastic film season!

The NHJFF's mission is to continue to expand our Film Festival audience statewide, including all demographics from children, teens, young adults, adults, and seniors across the Jewish Community and general public. Its secondary mission is to locate and engage all ages of the unaffiliated Jewish population in the state.

Our Saturday night gala event will be held on March 21st at a location to be determined. Please stay tuned for the announcement of our film schedule with dates, times, and locations throughout the state. Our screening committees have been hard at work selecting a fine variety of films ranging in genres from drama to historical to documentary to shorts.

These films provide great insight into an array of Jewish themes and values. We look forward to sharing the cultural, educational, fun, provocative, and inspirational pieces we are selecting.

Sponsorship makes our success possible. You can choose to become a Sponsor or Friend of the NH Jewish Film Festival. The festival screening of a variety of films in several cities over 11 days is made possible through the generosity and patronage of the Friends of the Film Festival, individual and corporate sponsors, and our statewide audiences' attendance. The Festival is open to the general public.

As a Friend or Sponsor, your valued support directly impacts our ability to present the Film Festival and to provide cutting-edge Jewish-themed films, along with celebrated guest speakers and engaging programs. You or your organization can sponsor a specific film of your choice as a Film Star and see your name in lights.

The Festival was awarded a grant from the New Hampshire State Council of the

Arts. When partnering with this group, communities benefit socially and economically, enhancing the quality of life for citizens, attracting visitors, and helping to stimulate local economies through the arts.

Please join us today with your contribution to the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival as a Friend or Sponsor. The Festival is an annual tradition for

our community that supports and enriches Jewish cultural life across the state.

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, we thank you for supporting the organization's largest cultural event of the year; it enhances Jewish cultural life across the state. For more information, please contact the Jewish Federation office and see our advertisements on this page for sponsorship details.



## All About Israel

By Linda L. Gerson, JFNH Israel Education and Engagement Committee

JFNH established a dedicated and active Israel Education and Engagement Committee in 2018. The committee brings education and programming about Israel to our community and works with Shlichah Avia Sagron.

On November 3, JFNH kicked off the first Israel Education program, "The Israeli Election Process." This well-attended event featured speaker Emil Campeanu presenting a comprehensive overview of how Israeli elections work. Shlichah, Avia Sagron shared her personal perspective on the Israel Elections.

How many facts about Israel do you know?

1. In 1948 Israel declared statehood in the midst of a war launched by Arab forces to prevent its establishment.
2. Israel's territory is 8019 square miles. It is 9 miles wide at its narrowest point and 290 miles long. Smaller than New Jersey, Israel is 1/800 the size of the Arab world, with limited natural resources. Most of its land is desert.
3. As of September, 2019, Israel's population is 9,092,900, 74.24% Jewish and 20.95% Arab. 4.81% are "others," including people of Jewish ancestry, Christian and Muslim non-Arabs, and residents who have neither an ethnic nor religious classification.
4. According to archeological and historical evidence and Biblical text, Jews are indigenous to Israel, maintaining a continuous presence for over 3000 years.
5. Zion is an age-old name for Jerusalem and the land of Israel. Zionism is the national movement of the Jewish people to restore their freedom and independence in their ancestral homeland.
6. Note the number of countries by religious majority:
  - 67 Roman Catholic
  - 49 Islamic
  - 49 Protestant

- 14 Eastern Orthodox
  - 3 Hindu
  - 1 Jewish
7. Israel has two official languages: Hebrew and Arabic.
  8. Israel is a democratic country that guarantees free speech and assembly and fair and open trials. It is one of the world's most diverse nations and the only consistently free country in the Middle East. Israel safeguards religious liberty for all faiths. The LGBTQ community is protected against discrimination. Israel has fought for progress on human rights issues such as equality for minorities, especially for the 1.8 million Arab citizens of Israel.
  9. Israel is a world leader in humanitarian aid. Israel helps people around the world to overcome hunger, disease, water scarcity, war, terrorism, natural disasters and much more.
  10. Israel is a world leader in Innovation. Israel has: the second-highest per capita rate of university degrees, following Canada; the highest percentage of trained scientists and technicians; next to Silicon Valley, the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world; and the third-largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies in the world, behind the U.S. and China. Israeli Inventions: most of the Windows NT operating system (Microsoft-Israel), AOL Instant Messenger/ chat room technologies, the first PC anti-virus software, voice mail technology, electro-optic chips and nanotechnology, drip irrigation, Pentium 4 micro-processor for desktop computers, the Centrino processor for laptop computers, community-driven navigation software (Waze,) and more.

Please join us at upcoming JFNH Israel programs and Shlichah, Avia Sagron's community events. *Am Yisrael Chai!*

*Facts about Israel courtesy of StandwithUs.com and Wikipedia.org.*

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## High Tech Summer Fun at 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy

 JFNH Signature Program

By Zachary Raven, age 10

In July I went to URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy. It's an overnight summer camp in Byfield, Massachusetts for Jewish kids who are interested in science and technology. There are three two-week sessions. We stayed in dorms with 1-3 roommates and there was awesome food.

Every morning we started with a Boker Big Bang. As the name suggests, it was a science experiment of some kind that sometimes went BOOM. In one of the coolest ones there were three balloons, each filled with a different gas. They put

each balloon over a flame and we watched what happened. One went pop, one went bang, and the last one went up in flames.

There were a bunch of different workshops to choose from, like Earth & Sky, Robotics, and The Science of Food. I chose Video Game Design and it was fun! We made video games using Stencyl, Unity, CoSpaces, Kodu, or Scratch. I made a racing platformer in Stencyl.

Every week we got to choose two chugim, or electives. My favorite one was called Game of Drones. There were a bunch of cool drones and a plane that we got to fly around with a big controller. It was surprisingly complicated.

Camp was fun and I'm happy that I went!

### Momentum *continued from page 1*

Momentum is designed for people who are not highly engaged in the Jewish community or Jewish ritual observance. Participants must have children at home under the age of 18 and be physically and emotionally healthy. Occasionally, Momentum does grant exceptions to the eligibility rules when applied for by a partner on behalf of the participant. Acceptance decisions are made by the partner organizations, which often receive more applications

than they have scholarships available.

For our participants, this is a heavily subsidized trip. Each participant in our women's trip receives a \$3,300 scholarship, 80% provided by Momentum and 20% provided by JFNH. This does not include airfare, a \$99 acceptance fee, or tips.

To learn more about the program or to apply, please visit <https://momentumunlimited.org> and/or email our local leader Allyson Guertin at [Allyson.Guertin@jewishnh.org](mailto:Allyson.Guertin@jewishnh.org).

### Why I Give *continued from page 1*

early years in Austin. The keynote speaker, who was given an award for his committed involvement in the community, talked about why he gives, and perhaps more enlighteningly, how he gives. He began by establishing all of the positives that come from the Jewish Federation generally, and then specified how he benefited from his personal involvement. Then he said that it is important to give until it hurts...and then give just a little more.

Now I am back to my original home in New Hampshire, building a new Jewish home with my wife, Jennifer. When I returned to the area in early 2017, I immediately became involved with the Federation, as that has always been a stalwart support system throughout my adult life. My involvement began with the film festival, of which I am now the co-chair, but it continued with assuming a seat on the board of directors so that I can help shape the future of Jewish New Hampshire. This is why I am part of this com-

munity and why I give to JFNH. The words of that keynote speaker in Austin all those years ago still regularly echo in my mind. When I consider all that the Federation offers to its community and beyond, it warms my heart.

So many pieces of Federation are part of my life today, and even more are there waiting for me in the future. When Jennifer and I decide to have children, I know that my contributions to the Federation will help bring PJ Library and then a Hebrew School education to our little ones. As they become teenagers, JFNH's commitment to exposing adolescents to the wonders of Israel will radiate within our family. And Jennifer and I will be there in the future, when a young adult moves to the area and is unfamiliar with the community but seeks to be part of it—just as I did so many times in so many places. This is why I give. This is why I encourage all of you to give. And to give until it hurts, and then give just a little more.

## A Letter to Readers

By Hannah Boyd, editor

As a longtime reader, I am delighted to introduce myself as the new editor of the Reporter. It has long been my source for information about Jewish news and events in the Granite State, and I am excited to be working on it with the wonderful JFNH staff and volunteers. My goal is not only to produce a paper you'll want to read, but one that strengthens and connects our entire community.

We are a small but diverse and vibrant group, with members living in every corner of the state. One of my priorities as editor is to include as many voices as possible. The great beauty of JFNH is that it exists to serve the entire Jewish community, regardless of religious observance, political affiliation, or membership in any "official" organizations. Think you don't belong here? You do! Never written for us before? Please do!



Hannah Boyd

Do you have an interesting story about Jewish life in New Hampshire? Write us! Is your chavurah hosting an interesting speaker? Put the date in our online calendar. Did you take a great photo at a simcha or on a Jewish heritage trip? Send it in for our "Recent Events" page. We want to spread the word about all the great things happening here, but we can only do that with your help.

While our goal is to be warm and inclusive, we are a work in progress. Over the next few months, the publications committee will be revising and publishing guidelines for letters to the editor and opinion pieces. We have heard readers' concerns and are committed to remaining a forum where different viewpoints can be debated with respect and civility.

I look forward to hearing from you in the months to come, and wish you all a very happy Chanukah!



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## An Interview with Jill Weber, Illustrator of *Goodnight Bubbala*

By Allyson Guertin, PJ Library  
Coordinator and Director of  
Community Engagement

You may have seen illustrator Jill Weber's name on quite a few PJ Library books that have arrived in your mailbox over the years, including *Pippa's Passover Plate*, written by Vivian Kirkfield, and *Even Higher! A Rosh Hashanah Story*, written by Eric A. Kimmel. The New Hampshire resident just published a new book called *Goodnight Bubbala* written by Sheryl Haft, and this adorable take on the childhood classic *Goodnight Moon* is available just in time for Chanukah!

Jill will be joining PJ Library-New Hampshire for a book signing and Chanukah celebration on Sunday, December 15. We sat down to chat with her to learn more about her work, inspirations and her own Chanukah memories!

**At what age did you become interested in art?**

I have been interested in art ever since I can remember. My Dad was an artist so supplies were always on hand. I was spoon fed art and books!

**When did you realize you wanted to become an illustrator?**

I have always made art, and have always loved books. I made my first book when I was in first grade based on the game *Candyland*. All of the characters were candy, of course.

**Which artists or illustrators inspire you?**

This is almost too big a question to answer. For fine artists, I love Matisse, David Hockney, Marc Chagall and Bonnard to name a very few from a very long list. Here's a short list of old and new illustrators—No longer with us are Alice and Martin Provenson, Simms Tayback. I am crazy about everything that Maira Kalman does. I love her color, her freedom and her point of view. I am very taken with Isabell Arsenault, Julie Morstad, Carson Ellis, Melissa Sweet and JooHee Yoon to name just a few. There are SO many more.

**What medium do you most often use when creating your illustrations?**

I have used gouache and acrylic. For this book, I used acrylic gouache which is relatively new. The paint is water-based, but water-proof when dry. It is wonderful to layer with. To all of this I added a little



Jill Weber, illustrator  
of *Goodnight,  
Bubbala*

bit of crayon and a little bit of colored pencil.

**What does the process of illustrating a book look like? How does it go from an idea in your head to a finished work of art in a book that is published?**

That is another very big question! First, after reading the story multiple times, I make little picture notes. It seemed to me, since this was a parody of *Goodnight Moon*, my characters were destined to be bunnies. Then I do some character sketches and start to plan the action. Every book has some unique challenge. For *Goodnight Bubbala*, the book takes place in one room. How to make that interesting? Next step is a storyboard with thumbnail drawings mapping out what will happen on each spread. It's a little like making a comic strip. Then I make each of those frames into a full size sketch, and put them altogether to make a book dummy. Now I can see how my story flows and how it feels turning the pages. And then (ta da!) I transfer my sketches to the "good" paper and begin my paintings.

**What was the inspiration for the art in *Goodnight Bubbala*?**

I think it is fair to say that *Goodnight Moon* provided quite a bit of inspiration. But the liveliness of the words is what gave the art energy—clearly the opposite of how very quiet *Goodnight Moon* is.

**What does it mean to you, as a Jew in New Hampshire, to be able to share this exciting new book with families in our community?**

I am very honored to share this book with our Jewish Community, but I am most excited to share my culture with people of other cultures, especially in this country right now. My family are all immigrants, and I want us all to be proud of who we are and where we came from. If we celebrate this, then we encourage others to do the same.

**Tell us about one of your favorite Chanukah memories.**

More than a single Chanukah memory, I have such wonderful memories of visiting our grandparents where all my mother and father's family lived. Starting at breakfast, the stream of relatives began—aunts and uncles and cousins—the whole mishpacha! There were Yiddish exclamations, delicious treats and—oy vey! so much love!

## The Israeli Election Experience Explained

By Hannah Boyd

Emil Campeanu, who founded NH4Israel with his wife Sonia in 2006, isn't necessarily a political junkie. An engineer by training, he came to the new JFNH facility at 273 South River Road in Bedford to talk about the Israeli election process because he believes "through education we can fight antisemitism."

"It's here," said Campeanu, who recently found an American flag with a swastika drawn on it near Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry. "We have to educate ourselves about Israel, we have to be ready to win hearts and minds. When confronted by people saying Israel is not a democracy, what do we say? Most New Hampshire residents are good people, but they just don't know."

A crowd of approximately 35 people listened as Campeanu explained that Israel is a parliamentary democracy with both a president and a prime minister. The Knesset, Israel's legislature, is elected by secret ballot in elections held every four years and based in Jerusalem.

Campeanu, who moved to Israel from Romania before moving to New Hamp-



Emil Campeanu and Avia Sagron  
explaining Israel's political system

shire in 2000, described the excitement he felt voting for the first time as an Israeli citizen. "Remember, I came from Romania. For me, elections were the same guy getting 99% of the vote. 'Okay, we have the same guy!' 1977 was the first time I voted."

"In Israel it's like a holiday," said Shlichcha Avia Sagron. "No one is working; it's a day off. Everyone wears white. It's a democratic celebration. Parents bring children."

Israeli citizens vote for parties, not individual candidates, and seats in the



Audience members enjoying the presentation at JFNH's new location in Bedford

Knesset are awarded with proportional representation. Basic Law 7A states that a party cannot be eligible for office if it denies the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish democratic state, supports armed struggle against the state, or incites racism. "Remember this if someone tells you Israel is racist," Campeanu said. "It's important."

Sagron recalled helping count votes in a recent election. "We were so excited to open envelopes at the end of the day. There was tension in the room. I was working on a kibbutz, and at a kibbutz it's more Blue and White. In the city, it's more Likud. It's very interesting, why they vote the way they do. You can feel it

in the air."

Because 61 seats are required to form a majority in the 120 person Knesset, and multiple political parties win seats, they must form coalitions to govern. The president of the country chooses a Knesset member, typically the leader of the party with the most votes, to assemble a governing coalition. If that person fails to do so within a set period of time, as happened recently, the president can give the opportunity to another Knesset member.

"They need to understand how to find the middle," says Sagron, who now casts her ballot at the Israeli Consulate in Boston. "We are all just trying to figure out how it's going to work."

## A Summer of Fun and Learning at 6 Point Sci-Tech Academy

### JFNH Signature Program

By Noah Raven

Thank you to the JFNH for a grant that allowed me to go to URJ 6 Point Sci-Tech Academy in Byfield, MA last summer. It was amazing!

We spent a good chunk of most days at workshops, where kids create projects in a pre-determined field of study. Examples include Programming in Swift and Digital Film Production. I chose Video Game Design, where our goal was to make a fully functioning game by the end of the 12-day session. I worked with another camper to modify a platformer-type game, adding fancier features and making it harder.

Chugim are weekly electives that change frequently. The four chugim I chose were Chess, Minecraft, Board Games, and Cyber Defense. Cyber Defense was about website encryption and how hackers use website source code to get access. This way we could learn what NOT to do.

Surprisingly, my favorite part of camp was Shabbat. On Friday night before sunset we got together on the front lawn to welcome Shabbat. Afterward, we had a really good family-style dinner complete with matzoh balls. The food is good every day but it's particularly good on Friday night. Later in the evening we also sat around a campfire and toasted marshmallows for s'mores.

Saturdays were much more relaxed than other days. We got up later in the morning, had extended chill time with friends after lunch, and we had special "Shabbat Shelectives" that were different from our normal chugim. Card games, challah baking, Legos, and origami were some of this year's choices.

I was nervous about camp at first because I'd never been to overnight camp before and I didn't know any friends there. However, I ended up really enjoying it and I'm going back again next year!

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## JFNH Offers Grants for Jewish Summer Camp 2020!

### 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 summer camps and apply early at [www.onehappycamper.org](http://www.onehappycamper.org).

JFNH has funded 139 camp grants since the program started in 2008. Grants are funded almost exclusively through the JFNH Annual Campaign. In 2019, five families received grants. 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 the Jewish Federation of NH, the Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps offer special grants to income-eligible New Hampshire families at all three of their camps: Tevya, TelNoar, and Pembroke. Check them out at [www.cohencamps.org](http://www.cohencamps.org). For more information and to apply for a grant, contact: Nancy Frankel ([corkysmagic@gmail.com](mailto:corkysmagic@gmail.com)).

### Jewish peer trips to Israel

JFNH offers limited grants to teens who choose a Jewish peer group trip to Israel. 87 teens have participated in this opportunity since JFNH founded the program 15 years ago.

If you are considering a program in 2020, now is the time to apply for an Israel Experience grant from JFNH. Choose the program that matches your interests and JFNH will contribute up to \$1,800. JFNH believes that continuing Jewish education linked with a Jewish 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 the Irving and Bernice Singer Endowment and the JFNH Annual Campaign. Grants are given on a rolling basis as long as funds are available. For more information and to request an application contact: Nancy Frankel, Camp/Israel Experience Grant Chair—603-472-3983 ([corkysmagic@gmail.com](mailto:corkysmagic@gmail.com)).

### A gift from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Sign up your children ages 6 months through 11 years old and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and resources delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and culture through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions, and heritage.

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

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## Making Memories at Camp Tevya

 JFNH Signature Program

By Sophia DePasse

My name is Sophia DePasse. I am nine years old. This past summer, I went to Camp Tevya for the first time. I went for second session, which is about 3 ½ weeks long. I was in the younger Olot group called Dalia. We had six girls in our bunk and four counselors. One of my counselors was from England. We had fun during our free time in the bunk, and we never actually rested during rest hour! We had dance parties in the middle of the bunk, we played games and we made bracelets out of string.

I was able to take three electives, and I chose Woodworking, Cookie and Cake Decorating, and Ceramics and Pottery. In these activities, I made crafts that I was able to take home with me. We also did activities as a bunk. We learned how to play tennis—I had never really played

this before. We also played basketball and had time at the waterfront. I took swimming lessons, and I also learned how to canoe and kayak. We had to learn how to capsize the canoe and kayak, and learn how to get them back over again. It was easier to do this with the kayak than it was with the canoe!

Shabbat is a special time at camp. We would get dressed nicely, and the food was always special for Shabbat. We had services, and we sang songs.

Color War was fun at camp. I was on the Galil team, and my brother and sister were also on this team with me. We participated in relay races and tug of war. We won the three-legged race because we knew how to skip together really fast! There is also Song Fest, which is part of Color War. We had to create a cheer, with snippets of songs, and part of this is creating a beat with clapping, stomping and snapping. We sang a Hebrew song and also created new songs to the tune of popular songs.



Sophia, Rebecca, and Benjamin DePasse at Camp Tevya

We had fun nights at camp too. One night we had a ceremony by the waterfront. The older kids put candles on

plates and floated them in the water. It was beautiful to watch. We also had a movie night, where we brought our sleeping bags, had snacks and also watched a slide show of pictures of our time at camp. There is a banquet night, which was a big party at the end of second session. We dressed up, and there were decorations and food, all with a theme. This year's theme was Marvel.

The last night of camp is nicknamed "Cry Fest." We are sad to leave our friends, and the fun times that we had at camp, so it is not unusual for our friends to be crying. It makes you realize how much camp means to you and how special it really is.

I had a great experience at camp. Thank you to JFNH for the Campership Grant. I loved Camp Tevya and I am looking forward to going again!

## Volunteer Spotlight: Norm Kushner

By Hannah Boyd

Although Norm Kushner has been volunteering for JFNH for thirty years, his roots run even deeper than that. "I was a Federation child," he says. "My parents were involved with the Federation; other family members were involved. Being first generation born in the US, my parents were significantly impacted by what they had experienced during their upbringing and subsequently events of the Holocaust, which my father had witnessed firsthand while serving during World War II.

"Both sets of my grandparents struggled through the Great Depression and undertook livelihoods that allowed them to provide for their children. Both of my parents were children of that time and never forgot their roots."

Noting that the Jewish Federation movement was instrumental in helping Jews during and after the Holocaust, Norm explains, "that type of emotional attachment to what the Federation does was instilled early, and we carry it on."

Norm and his wife Andy moved to Manchester from Pittsburgh for his career. When opportunities arose in New York City, Norm chose to commute rath-

er than uproot his family. "Moving to New Hampshire was one of those 'by accident' decisions, but one of the best decisions we made in terms of raising a family," he says. "We could have picked up and moved, but that wasn't something we wanted to do. We found a home and community in New Hampshire and never looked back."

He and Andy are longstanding members of Temple Adath Yeshurun and have two adult children with families of their own. Currently in his third year as Chairperson of the JFNH Foundation Board of Trustees, Norm helps oversee the organization's investments and is confident in JFNH's future.

"The way the Federation has been moving the past two years is very encouraging," he says. "The new location is ideal and user friendly. There's been an influx of new young leadership, and that is great because we know the Federation will be in good hands for future generations."

Reflecting on his many years of service to JFNH, Norm concludes, "we do what we do because we are big believers in trying to leave this place we inherited better than we found it. *L'dor v'dor*."



Norm Kushner

## A Summer Filled With New Friends and New Experiences

 JFNH Signature Program

By Ben DePasse

This past summer I went to Camp Tevya, in Brookline, NH. I had been to day camps before, but this was my first time going to an overnight camp. To be honest, I was not interested in going to overnight camp, but my parents insisted that I give it a try. My sister has been going for a few years and has loved it so much that I agreed to go. I was nervous, but as we got closer to camp starting, I became more and more excited to go.

Each age group has a certain number of electives that they can choose. For my age group, we were allowed to choose three electives. In Woodworking, I was able to use a special saw to cut shapes out of the wood. I made a football and also a soccer ball that had pegs attached for hanging hats. The wood was sanded and painted and I brought them home to use in my room. In Animal Life and Agriculture, I was able to take care of small farm animals, feeding them and giving them attention. I liked the baby chicks, the bunny and also the duck! My third elective was archery, and by the end of the session, I was getting pretty good at hitting the target!

Color War was fun too. I was on the Galil team, which was white. We came in second place, but had a good time competing against the other color teams.

On the side of the camp where the boys'

cabins are, we would play cards in the bunks during our free time and we would play four square, blast our music, and also would make tipis out of big branches.

I went to camp for second session and my age group was the Older Ole's. We went on two field trips. We went to Water Country, which is a water park, and we also went to Max's in Tyngsboro, where we played mini golf and went on bumper boats.

The whole camp had activities that they did together. On Fridays and Saturdays, we celebrated Shabbat at camp. We dressed up in nice clothes and we attended services. I liked participating in Shira (singing) and Rikkud (dancing). We had free swim on Fridays and I liked to swim to the Lily Pad, which was a giant water mat, as well as play on the water trampoline. Saturdays we had coffee cake for breakfast, and we had extended free play too!

The camp got together for a funny skit night called "\$1.98." The boys' groups got a girl counselor and the girls' groups got a boy counselor and we each created a dance to a song and performed it on-stage. On another night we had a big dance party with Party Excitement as the DJ. Not only did we dance and do games on the dance floor, but they also brought in video games for the night.

I met good friends and made great memories at camp! I would like to thank the Jewish Federation of NH for the Campership Grant and for giving me the opportunity to experience something new and fun! I can't wait to go back next summer!



A capacity crowd of 50 teens and parents from across New Hampshire (and Vermont!) attended “Words to Action” a JFNH-sponsored workshop presented by ADL New England aimed at empowering teens to confront Anti-Semitism.

## ADL’s “Words to Action” Empowers Teens to Fight Anti-Semitism

Swastika graffiti in public parks. Anti-semitic jokes in the locker room. Anti-Israel conspiracy theories in the news and pro-BDS rhetoric in the classroom. Above all, the fear that rising violence against Jews will strike at home. Jewish teens in the Granite State face higher than average rates of anti-semitism; for many of them, the question isn’t how to respond if they encounter anti-semitism, it’s when.

One local mother who asked to remain anonymous says, “there is close to no education on anti-semitism or even the origins of the Holocaust in the public school setting.” She brought her teens to the ADL event because she was concerned that “when they come across a hate incident, they won’t have the tools to react appropriately.”

Originally called Confronting Anti-Semitism, Words to Action was born after a survey of Jewish youth in New England showed that they were regularly enduring anti-Semitic harassment, often remaining silent because they simply didn’t know what to say. In recent years, participants have reported seeing swastikas on desks and in school bathrooms, hearing stereotypes about Jewish customs and appearance, and having pennies thrown at them. For this networked generation, home is not the safe haven it used to be; hate sneaks in through Instagram, Youtube and Snapchat.

When Jewish kids speak up, they say their concerns about anti-semitism are sometimes minimized or ignored.

“Oftentimes, we focus on working towards solving injustices in society that are more visible, such as racism and Islamophobia,” says Caleb Richmond, a junior at Phillips Exeter Academy. “Anti-semitism is often ignored, however, as it works around a different system entire, and I feel that we need to work to solve antisemitism just as much as other forms of hate in the world, even if it is less easily visible to spot.”

The fifty teens who attended the event with their parents talked about their experiences, learned strategies they could apply in the future, and left more confident in their ability to handle anti-semitism when it arises.

“We were proud to offer this timely workshop and inspired by the complex and meaningful conversations that unfolded during our time together. The teens who participated shared their experiences openly and learned so much from each other and their parents—many of whom had also experienced anti-semitism and other forms of hatred,” said Melanie Zelman McDonald, JFNH Executive Director. “Creating a safe space where these interactions could unfold and where participants could be empowered with information and tools was transformative for participants of all ages.”

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## From Spiritual Darkness to Chanukah Light

The traditional greeting on Chanukah is "Chag Urim Sameach," or "A Joyous Festival of Lights." Light is a potent metaphor; it was the first thing that G-d created to begin bringing order to the chaos that was the primordial void before creation. Light served as the primordial boundary between Creation and the void of chaos, just as the dry land that G-d later created served as the boundary past which the waters of the Earth could no longer flood.

Chanukah is a holiday that first and foremost celebrates and commemorates the Jewish people's victory over an oppressive regime and how they beat back the tide of that regime. The story of the miracle of the oil, beautiful as it is, detracts from the fact that the biggest miracle in this instance was the ability of a seemingly weak and oppressed people to overcome a seemingly impossible and oppressive force that brought darkness over the entire land.

When we're kids, many of us have something of a fear of the dark. Some of us never quite get over that fear as the dark can arouse an almost primal fear of what may be lurking in the unknown. Horror movies often feature dark as a prominent motif; my favorite horror film, John Carpenter's *Halloween*, has a par-

<b>Rabbi in the House</b>	
	<b>Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski</b>
	<b>Temple Israel Manchester</b>

ticularly eerie scene in which Michael Myers seems to materialize from the darkness to attack Jamie Lee Curtis's character, Lorie Strode.

The dark is so foreboding that many of us wouldn't dream of fumbling around in our basements without at least a flashlight to provide some illumination. We tell ourselves that it is so we don't bump into walls and such, but at least for some of us the light provides a measure of comfort in an otherwise dark and frightening part of the house.

While we can allay these fears with the flick of a switch, many of us live with darkness in our lives in another way. Many of us silently battle the darkness brought on by anxiety, depression, mental illness, addiction, or abuse. We sit in our darkness questioning our self-worth and wondering how long it will last. And

it's a frightening place to be because there is no switch we can turn on to make the darkness go away. So great is this darkness in some that it overshadows the divine spark that burns in each of us, that piece of G-d that we call our souls.

As we gaze at the lit hanukkiah throughout this Chanukah and revel as the flames cut through the literal darkness of the winter night, we should remember those in our lives and in our community who live in a different kind of darkness, a spiri-

tual darkness that no amount of oil, flame, and light can cut through. May the Holy One bless us all that our divine sparks should burn brightly and that we help one another to combat spiritual darkness so we can live as our highest spiritual selves. *Chag Urim Sameach*, a truly joyous Festival of Lights to us all.

*Rabbi Jeremy Szczepanski is the Rabbi of Temple Israel in Manchester. He can be reached at rabbijayski@gmail.com.*

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# Happy Hanukkah!



*May you and your family  
be blessed with joy, good  
health, and peace.*

*- Senator Maggie Hassan*



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## Gifts of Food and Friendship at Congregation Betenu

Amherst — We always start with a community candle lighting, then have a festive family-oriented service, an *oneg* and our gift swap. Latkes and dreidels along the way.



Collection of chanukiot at Congregation Betenu in Amherst



Community Candlelighting at Congregation Betenu in Amherst

## Cocoa and Community at Chanukah in Bethlehem

By Eileen Regen

During our winter season, the big event is the lighting of the Chanukah menorah in front of Bethlehem Town Hall. This event began about five to six years ago when we were invited by the town to set up a menorah and light it. Congregation President David Goldstone begins the ceremony with a very brief explanation for the Chanukah celebration. Then, the *b'rachot* and a couple of Chanukah songs. We then have a light reception with doughnuts and hot chocolate inside the Town Hall building. We have sometimes welcomed folks from some of the other religious groups up here in winter in the mountains.



Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation President David Goldstone Lights the Menorah.

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### December 12 - Annual Chanukah Party 12PM ~ Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Celebrate Chanukah at our annual celebration! This year we'll create Chanukah art with NH Shlich Avia Sagron and then enjoy a delicious lunch including potato latkes, soup and sandwiches.  
\$10/person (non refundable) - Pay by December 5

### January 9 (snow date Jan 23) - Popcorn and a Movie 1:30PM JFNH Community Room ~ 273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford

Join us for a showing of Judy (2019) Rated PG-13  
*The showbiz legend, Judy Garland arrives in London to perform her final concerts. After working for 45 of her 47 years, she is haunted by memories of a childhood lost to Hollywood and longs to be back home with her kids.*  
Popcorn and other movie theater treats will be served.  
\$3/person (non refundable) - Pay by January 2

### February 13 - Lunch and Learn 12PM JFNH Community Room ~ 273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford

New Hampshire Shlich Avia Sagron will present her Israeli Story  
Pizza and salad lunch  
\$5/person (non refundable) - Pay by February 6

To register for any of these programs please call 603-627-7679 to pay by credit card or mail payment to:

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## Creativity and Interfaith Candle Lighting at Temple Israel Portsmouth

By Heather Tomlinson

At Temple Israel Portsmouth, *chanukkiot* come in all shapes and sizes! In the Early Learning Center, children read by the “light” of a classroom menorah made from foam pool noodles. In prior years, youth group members have sculpted them from clay, glazing and painting a variety of designs. Last year, students brought *chanukkiot* from home and displayed them on a long table for everyone to enjoy. Outside, in the garden courtyard off State Street, Sumner Winebaum’s large bronze “Hands of Hope” hold a fixture with candles that shine in the darkness at the annual interfaith Candle Lighting and Prayer for Peace.



*Hands of Hope Sculpture Holds Chanukah Candles at Temple Israel Portsmouth*



*Temple Israel preschoolers read by the “light” of a pool noodle menorah*



*Temple Israel families celebrate with a variety of chanukkiot*

## Celebrating History and Making it with Chabad Seacoast at Chanukah

By Hannah Cohen

Portsmouth/Newington — The Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center will be lighting a 9 foot menorah at Strawberry Banke [in Portsmouth] at the Candlelight Stroll event on December 22. As well, we will be

having for the first time in the state of New Hampshire a Car Menorah Parade, followed by a gelt drop and a Chanukah lighting celebration at the Mall at Fox Run [in Newington.] We are also working on having a menorah display in the square in Downtown Portsmouth.



*Temple Israel's Handmade Wooden Menorah*

## A Handmade Chanukah at Temple Israel Manchester

By Steve Saulten, President, Temple Israel Manchester

Manchester — I have a woodworking shop and teach woodworking. I also make heirloom grade furniture. Several

years ago, our rabbi suggested to me that I make a menorah that we could place at the front doorway area of our temple. I did make it out of mahogany and black walnut, and we have had a first night menorah lighting every year since then.

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## Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Plans Centennial Celebration for 2020

By Eileen Regen

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation (BHC) has represented a continuous Jewish presence in the area, beginning with the early 20th century organization of The Hebrew Hay Fever Relief Association, and later, The National Hay Fever Association. The historic BHC Synagogue building has been a Jewish landmark in Bethlehem since 1919. A grand centennial celebration is set for August 6-9, 2020.

BHC has an event-rich history. For most of its lifetime, the congregation used the synagogue building in summertime only for the season's visitors from New York and other large cities along the East Coast. After extensive renovations in the 1990s, the building was ready to be used year round by the North Country Jewish community and summer visitors.

For 100 years, Jewish families have gathered in the sanctuary and garden to celebrate shabbatot, holidays and the full range of life cycle events: weddings, baby namings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and memorial services.



Since 2003, each summer, July through the High Holy Days, a religious leader serves the congregation full time to provide religious leadership, officiate at religious services and life cycle events, and conduct programs and classes for all ages.

Many summer visitors have been coming to Bethlehem for two, three and four generations. Stuart Teger wrote: "I, my grandparents, various uncles, aunts and cousins (the Shermans—as in the Sherman Apartments on Main Street and previously the owners of Sunlight Cottage, across from the Colonial Theatre) spent many years in Bethlehem, starting in the 1930s. We were all more or less regulars at the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation. In our days, there were daily *minyanim* there where Yiddish was more often spoken than English."

Beth Harwood added information on the Torah dressed in the blue cover. "It

was donated in the early '60s (I believe 1964) by Morris (a past BHC VP) and Mary Gould, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The Goulds had a summer house at the upper end of Strawberry Hill on the right. They were members of BHC for many years. It is because of the Goulds that I came to regularly visit and fall in love with the North Country beginning from the time I was an infant.

"The story goes that the Goulds purchased the Torah in Brooklyn from a Torah scribe. They also donated the *rimonim* and *tasim*. Daughter-in-law Ethel Gould remembers going to pick up the Torah in Brooklyn. The dedication of the Torah and anniversary party were a huge celebration at BHC. My parents, Howard and Anne Gelber, were in attendance.

"An addendum to the story. Many years ago, after Mort Fisch passed away, Moocho and I were left in charge of the synagogue. There was a large metal cabinet that was locked in the anteroom of the sanctuary. We didn't have keys, so we decided to break into it. In it we found a box containing Torah ornaments that were damaged. I couldn't believe it when I saw they were the ornaments donated by the Goulds. Well, we decided on the spot that we just had to have them restored. Shortly after receiving the restored ornaments, Bob Gould, grandson of Morris, attended High Holiday services with us (which he does fairly regularly.) We called him up for an aliyah so he could hold the newly dressed Torah donated by his grandparents. It was very meaningful for all of us. The BHC Synagogue continues to hold a special place in the Goulds' hearts."

Rhoda Sakowitz's family has been part of the Bethlehem Jewish community for over sixty years. Her father, Barney Rubin, was congregation president for about ten years in the '60s. He led the large, vibrant Jewish community and activities throughout his many Bethlehem years. Bingo games, card parties and the BHC lawn party fundraisers were always popular with the members and the entire Bethlehem community. Mrs. Rubin served as president of the very active BHC Women's Club. Sakowitz fondly remembers spending summer days with twenty to thirty youngsters her age in BHC Sunday school and a variety of BHC activities which included putting on music and dance shows for the summer garden parties.

Hilda Kate Meyer wrote a note about the Torah covers and explained, "The blue needlepoint mantel was a joint effort of Manya Wessler and Anne Friedlander. The light weight blue silk mantel, hand-

embroidered, was made by Esther Kamerling." And June Kamerling added the information that her mother, Esther, also made the white Torah cover.

In the early 1990s, Moocho Salomon of Bethlehem, then BHC president, gave up her leadership of the Jewish Family Cooperative to supervise renovations and restoration of the beloved historic building.

One of Bethlehem's historic treasures, the synagogue building began as an Episcopalian church in 1880. It was built on land given as a gift by the ex-governor of Rhode Island, Henry Howard, a frequent visitor to the area and builder of Howard House, one of the famous grand hotels.

Members of the Hay Fever Association purchased the church, remodeled the interior, and consecrated the building as the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in 1920. The building has been in continuous operation since then as the home of the North Country Jewish community.

The sanctuary with impressive wooden trim and carved wooden ark and *bima* can seat over 250 people. Newly installed in the back of the sanctuary is a library that houses books provided through the legacy of longtime member and former congregation president, Abe Goldstone, and through the generosity of Alice and Leslie Dreier along with other congregants who helped to create the expanded library space. The children's and young adults' section has been named in honor of lifetime members Carol and Bernie Kohn, formerly of Bethlehem.

Since 2001, BHC has been open year round. Major events in addition to holiday, wedding, and bar/bat mitzvah celebrations have included visits from music groups, guest speakers on a variety of topics, marriage re-commitment ceremonies, adult classes, and children's summer camps. To reach out to the community, BHC has created the annual summer Building Community Through the Arts Program that includes the Thursday White Mountain Jewish Film Festival in partnership with Bethlehem's historic Colonial Theatre, the Friday afternoon Sounds in the Sanctuary Classical Concerts, and a Books of Jewish Interest Group in partnership with the Bethlehem Public Library.

In October 2006, a Jewish cemetery section was established in Bethlehem's Maple Street Cemetery thanks to the efforts of Harold Friedman and Kim Pearson who worked closely with John Keller and Dick Robie of Bethlehem.

Watch for more information about BHC's history and centennial celebration plans in upcoming editions of the Reporter.

**Jeanne Shaheen**  
U.S. SENATOR

*Happy Chanukah!*

Best Wishes of Health, Happiness, and Peace  
this Holiday Season from the Shaheen Family

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## Kristallnacht Remembrance in Keene Honors Holocaust Survivor

By Jake Lahut, Keene Sentinel Staff

[This article was previously published in the Keene Sentinel and is published here with their permission.]

The operating word at Thursday night's annual Kristallnacht remembrance in Keene was "choose" — "We choose to remember," community leaders said.

But just passively remembering, or going through the motions of paying respect to the millions killed during the Holocaust — which started in earnest with Kristallnacht, or "The Night of Broken Glass," 81 years ago on Nov. 9, 1938 — will no longer suffice, each speaker stressed.

Silence, candlelight and more silence gave attendees ample time to think of instances where they could make a difference, or could have made a difference but fell short.

Driving home the parallels that illustrate why understanding genocides like the Holocaust remains crucial today, the story of one survivor anchored the evening.

Stephan Lewy, who was born in Berlin in 1925, was honored during the ceremony at The Colonial Theatre, but was unable to travel to Keene for the occasion.

Appearing via video recording, Lewy captivated the audience as he told of his journey and that of his fellow "Ritchie Boys."

Lewy, who lived in New Hampshire for years and now resides with family in Buffalo, N.Y., was given the French Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honor) in 2014 at the Statehouse in Concord — the highest honor for any civilian or military official.

He was 13 and living at the Auerbach Orphanage for Jewish children in Germany during Kristallnacht, when Nazis carried out a near-nationwide burning and pillaging of synagogues, businesses and other Jewish institutions. Many Jewish people were also murdered during the violence in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland, and thousands were sent to concentration camps.

That night, Nazis forced the orphanage's children into a synagogue with a severed gas line, locking them inside, according to a bio about Lewy available through the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo. The children survived by breaking windows.

"The fresh air saved us," Lewy recalled.

His father and stepmother scrambled to find safe passage to the United States,



James Waller of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College speaks during the annual Kristallnacht commemoration at the Colonial Theater in Keene. Photo courtesy Michael Moore/Sentinel Staff.

a process complicated when his father failed a medical exam required for a visa, and Lewy ended up in France via the Kindertransport, according to his bio.

Miraculously, he was reunited with his parents some three years later in the U.S. after leaving fascist Vichy France. He ended up returning to Europe, however, to fight the Nazis in World War II.

Due to immigration restrictions in America at the time, serving in the military was the best way for Lewy and many other refugees of the Holocaust to have a shot at a new life stateside.

Lewy was part of a special intelligence unit trained at Camp Ritchie in Maryland, hence the "Ritchie Boys" nickname. The group of predominately Jewish immigrants used their native German to collect well over half of all battlefield intelligence gathered by the Allied Forces during WWII, according to author Bruce Henderson in his book "Sons and Soldiers."

Despite all the Nazis had done to their friends and extended families, Lewy and his unit refrained from using torture, according to a documentary excerpt shown Thursday, and instead extracted information from captured German soldiers on their way to saving countless lives.

After the war, Lewy started a family, and continues speaking out about his experience.

Several community leaders gave prepared remarks Thursday, culminating in the candle-lighting ceremony after Keene Mayor Kendall Lane, Fire Chief Mark Howard, Police Chief Steven Russo and others pledged to keep the Elm City welcoming and inclusive.

There was also a dance presentation from MoCo Arts students, with choreography by Tracy Grissom depicting a



MoCo Arts students perform during the annual Kristallnacht commemoration at the Colonial Theater in Keene. Photo courtesy Michael Moore/Sentinel Staff.

struggle between an in-group and an out-group, ultimately leading the audience to examine their own judgments and willingness to help someone in humiliation and despair.

Several basic facts from the 1930s rang eerily true when juxtaposed with the headwinds of American politics in 2019.

Tom White, coordinator of educational outreach at Keene State's Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, drew parallels from simple recurring phrases such as "America First," a slogan of the resurgent Ku Klux Klan.

Building on the ethos of the Cohen Center, White emphasized that genocides are a "process, not an event," encouraging members of the audience to engage in introspection.

"Tonight, as we hear from the 1930s, we must wrestle with the question: Who do we want to be?" White said.

The urge for self interrogation was palpable at several points Thursday night, such as when Kati Preston came up to the microphone to light a candle, thanking a Hungarian woman who let her hide in her barn as a five-year-old, saving her from the Nazis.

"She was a simple peasant girl, and she hid me in her barn, and risked her own life to save me," Preston said.

At the commemoration's close, the audience was encouraged to leave the theater in silence.

When the cellphones came back on and the lobby cleared out, the candles remained lit.

## News from Hadassah

Manchester Hadassah's ticket drawing is in December. Two winners will receive either a \$100 or \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant of their choice. Proceeds will go toward renovation of the Round Building at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem. Tickets were included in the Fall issue of the Bulletin and cost \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. For additional tickets, please contact Gail Ellis at gailellis49@comcast.net.

The chapter's next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16 at 1 PM at 1400 Front Street, Manchester. Guest speaker Gail Ellis recently visited Spain and will discuss "Jews in Spain." This is an open meeting and all are encouraged to attend.

Hadassah has played a key role in introducing and advancing an important bipartisan federal bill on Holocaust educa-

tion and fighting hate. The Never Again Education Act (H.R.943/S.2085) would expand and encourage Holocaust education and use the lesson of the Holocaust to address modern-day extremism, hate and bigotry. The legislation would authorize the Department of Education to award education grants to education institutions offering classes, teacher training, resources and student field trips.

In order to ensure that we never forget, we must remember the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and educate future generations about the dangers of hate. Please contact and urge your elected legislators to support this crucial Never Again Education Act.

For additional information about Hadassah, please contact Michele Bank at michele.bank@gmail.com.

## Local Businessman Howard Brodsky Honored with Rochdale Award

Howard Brodsky, co-founder, chairman and co-CEO of CCA Global Partners, Inc. has been named the 2019 recipient of the international Rochdale Pioneers Award. Recognized as the "Nobel Prize of Cooperative Business," the Rochdale Award is given every two years to the individual who has made the greatest impact worldwide through the innovation of shared ownership, specifically through the cooperative business model that anchors value with members, employees, customers, and their communities. It is the highest honor the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) bestows, and has been awarded only 16 times in ICA's history.

"Throughout my career, I have felt that businesses should be more than profit centers," says Brodsky. "While profit is important, it is equally, if not more important, that businesses be a force for good. The cooperative business model epitomizes capitalism with a conscience. A more inclusive future is in our grasp. Shared ownership advances shared opportunity, shared wealth, and ultimately shared hope. I am honored and humbled by this recognition."

The award highlights Brodsky's innovation in re-envisioning conventional business through shared ownership. Dedicated to what he calls the contemporary cooperative business model, Brodsky has fundamentally transformed family businesses in the United States in an array of industries by structuring the companies as cooperatives where putting people above profit and leading with values are the priorities.

"Howard has a passion for invention. He does not simply talk about the future – he leads through his actions," says Trebor Scholz, Director of the Platform Cooperativism Consortium. "Howard is a rare leader that combines vision, innovation, gumption, and connectivity in all aspects of his work."

Brodsky co-founded CCA Global Partners in 1984, bringing scale to entrepreneurial family businesses by creating an international enterprise of 15 cooper-



Rochdale Award Winner Howard Brodsky with Ariel Guarco, President of the International Cooperative Alliance

ative businesses in multiple sectors of the economy including home furnishings, business services, sports retail stores, childcare, and non-profits. CCA now serves 1 million small businesses in four countries and 20,000 childcare centers across America.

Brodsky has also emerged as a leader in the global cooperative movement, founding Cooperatives for a Better World (CFBW), a not-for-profit dedicated to sharing the benefits of the cooperative business model. CFBW has partnered with cooperatives in 14 countries, reaching over a quarter of the world population.

He accepted the award on October 16th in Kigali, Rwanda, during the biennial ICA Global Cooperative Conference. "It was very inspiring to have the conference and award in Rwanda," says Brodsky. "To see the powerful healing that is at the core of building one of the

world's fastest growing economies is [to see] more than hope for the country's future, but a guide to the rest of us on how we all can come together to build a better world. At the forefront of Rwanda's social healing is the cooperative business model – shared ownership in the businesses driving their growing economy. In that country there are around 9,000 cooperative businesses representing almost half the country's population through membership & employment. Those cooperative businesses are credited as a key contributor to the reconstruction of Rwanda, specifically through combating poverty—a tracked 20% reduction in poverty the last 15 years. It is an incredible story, how shared ownership in community businesses provides a forum for reconciliation, how shared ownership leads to shared vision, shared hope."

Ultimately, says Brodsky, the fact that he is both a member of the Jewish community and the world of cooperative business is not coincidental. "Judaism's belief in the inherent goodness of all the world and people aligns with my cooperative principles that put people over profits and help build an inclusive society."



## Happy Chanukah!

May the lights of Chanukah bring you,  
your family and all families  
Good Health, Peace and Happiness  
throughout the year to come.

Chris and Valerie Sununu



# In the Community

## Susan Silberberg Addresses TAY Brotherhood Breakfast

On the morning of Sunday, November 3, over 70 listeners enjoyed a stimulating educational presentation on “Manchester’s Millyard: Past, Present, and Future” delivered by city planner, urban designer, architect, author and educator Susan Silberberg. Susan is the Founder and Principal of CivicMoxie, LLC, a planning, urban design, and strategic placemaking group with experience in serving municipalities, nonprofits and private clients. (See [civicomoxie.com](http://civicomoxie.com).) Susan led the Manchester Connects Multimodal and Land Use Plan for Manchester and the Waterfront Master Plan for Bridgeport, CT. She is currently leading the Sharon Master Planning Project and a Cultural Master Plan for North Hempstead, Long Island, and is on the team for the transit-oriented development plan for the southern part of the Millyard in Manchester. She has offices in Brookline, MA and Woodstock, VT and has served 31 communities in 14 states, including Keene and Manchester.



*Urban Planner Susan Silberberg speaking at the TAY Brotherhood Breakfast*

She was a lecturer in Urban Design and Planning at MIT for 13 years. Community, connections and innovation are recurring themes of her work.

Susan discussed the history of innovation at the Millyard and how current plans attempt to reconcile historic building layouts and urban streets with new ways of working, living and playing. There is a



*TAY Brotherhood Breakfast*

need to integrate workspace, housing, parking and transportation for everyone’s use and enjoyment. This is a challenge, not only for Manchester, but for many other cities with similar industrial areas. We look forward to seeing how Susan and

her colleagues work things out for our own historic Millyard.

The Silberberg family has a long chronicle of service to our Manchester community and it is wonderful to have Susan continue that legacy.

## Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club Sponsors Brunch Series

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club is proud to welcome two dynamic speakers this winter. My Israeli Story, a talk by JFNH Shlichah Avia Sagron, will take place on Sunday, December 15 at 9:30 AM at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua.

Avia will explain the Israeli path of life from childhood through military service and beyond. Avia, whose family emigrated from Morocco and Tunisia to Israel, was born in 1995 in Kiryat Shmona during the Israeli-Lebanese conflict and grew up in Northern Israel where incoming rockets were a common occurrence during the first nine years of her life. In spite of that, she had a wonderful childhood in one of the most beautiful places in Israel.

Today, she enjoys drawing and painting and is a social activist and teacher. Avia believes in education through interactive experience and loves to combine her love of art with her educational work.

Drawing on her own experiences as a founder of a local branch of a youth movement for children and young adults with special needs, a computer network manager during her military service in Ogda 36, an educator on several different kibbutzim, and an agricultural worker, Avia will provide a unique look into life in Israel.

Jim Isaak will discuss Analytics, Social Media and Privacy on Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 AM at Temple Beth Abraham. As the scope and reach of the Internet contin-



*Speaker Jim Isaak*

ue to grow, these issues become ever more important, and Jim is uniquely qualified to discuss their impact on our everyday lives.

Jim began his career over 30 years ago after earning a BS in Computer Studies and a MSEE in Computer Engineering from Stanford University. The holder of a US Patent for his “Method for Certifying the authenticity of digital objects,” Jim’s work history includes upper level positions at IBM, Data General Corp and Digital Equipment. In addition to teaching Information Technology at the collegiate level, Jim has held numerous positions within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, including President of the IEEE Computer Society and Vice President of the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology.



*Speaker Avia Sagron, JFNH Shlichah*

Both presentations will be followed by question and answer periods, and will open with brunches sponsored by the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club. Our kitchen crew will be preparing sumptuous feasts of eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. The cost for breakfast is \$8.00 for Men’s Club members and \$12 for non-members. For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email [breakfastsvp@snhjmc.org](mailto:breakfastsvp@snhjmc.org).

### About The Southern New Hampshire Men’s Club

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club was founded in 1982 and meets monthly for Sunday brunches. The Club’s mission is based on building a

brotherhood of like-minded men who wish to share their commitment and values to those in the greater NH Jewish community. The SNHJMC has provided quality programming such as a town hall-style political event each fall and our annual children’s breakfast, which this year featured a science exhibit designed to both educate and entertain young minds. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men’s Club is a non-profit organization serving all of southern NH’s Jewish communities regardless of synagogue membership for over thirty years. If you or someone you know would like to join our Men’s Club, please contact our President, Don Gorelick, via email: [president@snhjmc.org](mailto:president@snhjmc.org) or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>.

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# Happy Chanukah!

Wishing you good health, prosperity and happiness this holiday season.

Mayor Joyce Craig



@MayorJoyceCraig

Paid for by Joyce Craig for Manchester. Arthur Gatzoulis, Fiscal Agent.

## Happy Chanukah



from your friends at



## Local Man Donates Purple Heart in Veterans' Day Ceremony

Rindge — Milton Wisan was a tank gunner when he was injured in the first wave of the campaign for North Africa during World War II, earning a Purple Heart. His nephew Mark Wisan of Peterborough presented that Purple Heart to the Peter J. Booras Museum at the non-denominational Cathedral of the Pines in a special service on November 11, Veterans' Day.

The service also included the Rindge Veterans' Association Honor and Color

Guard, the reading of "In Flanders Field," and the playing of Taps.

The Museum, which houses an extensive collection of World War II artifacts, is now closed for the season, but will re-open for visitors in May. The site also includes the Altar of the Nation, a memorial to Americans who lost their lives in battle, and the Women's Memorial Belltower, the first memorial to women's service in the United States.

## Temple B'nai Israel's "We Care" Concert Shatters Records

By Barbara Katz

Laconia — A night of "doo wop and do good" on Saturday, October 26 will go down as a record-setting event. The "We Care" Committee of Temple B'nai Israel hosted Boston-based DooWop DeVille performing to a nearly sold-out house at the InterLakes Community Auditorium. The crowd was enthusiastic and spirited, singing along and swaying to the memorable tunes of the 50's and 60's. The audience also enjoyed complimentary refreshments of homemade baked goods provided by the members of Temple B'nai Israel, coffee from McDonald's, and platters of fruits, vegetables and cheeses generously donated by Moulton Farms, Hannaford, and The Common Man. There were samples of the best local bagels and cream cheese from Winnepesaukee Bay Gulls of Gilford and Moultonborough. Everyone went home with great memories to savor and felt good about

making a difference in the Lakes Region community. The concert benefited InterLakes Community Caregivers.

Executive director, Ann Sprague, communicated her gratitude: "words cannot express our appreciation of all your hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to organize, promote and put on this successful event. We are grateful. And what a fun night! The musical entertainment was fantastic and enjoyed by all."

Over the seven years that "We Care" has hosted concerts and supported local non-profits, this event surpassed all thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to promote the concert along with the donations from main event sponsors Miracle Farms Landscaping and Electrical Installations, Inc.

The "We Care" tradition will continue in May and October of 2020. Planning is in the works to bring together music and nonprofit for another night of fundraising and fun.

## Join the TAY Brotherhood Holiday Mitzvah Team

Please lend a Helping Hand!

We Need Volunteers for the TAY BROTHERHOOD HOLIDAY MITZVAH PROGRAM, a good deed that goes back over 40 years.

For: Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25, 2019

There are 4 ways to perform a good deed for our Christian friends:

1. **Eliot Hospital and Catholic Medical Center reception desk staffing for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**  
Get a partner to share a few hours OR we can find a partner for you.

2. **Delivering Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day**

3. **Veterans Administration Hospital BINGO Party on Christmas night**  
Calling all Veterans! Help spread some joy and goodwill to those who have contributed so much and who may need a special "thank you" that night.

4. **Helping hands are needed to work at New Horizons Soup Kitchen on Christmas Day**

For further information contact Sol Rockenmacher at: rockenmacher@comcast.net  
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

## And Then There Was Light: The Menorah at the State House

By Rabbi Levi Krinsky

In 1974, the very first public menorah lighting took place right in front of Independence Hall in Washington, D.C. It was fashioned out of wood, didn't look like much, and wasn't lit in front of many people. But that first public kindling sparked inspiration for Chabad centers all over the world.

As a young boy still living in Brooklyn, I watched as the idea grew, as menorahs popped up in small towns and big cities, igniting Jewish pride in so many. The menorahs became more and more beautiful and impressive, being lit on boats in Venice, in front of the Eiffel Tower, in the heart of former Nazi Germany, Hollywood, and so many other unlikely places. In 1979, in the midst of the Iranian Hostage Crisis, President Jimmy Carter lit a jumbo menorah on the White House lawn, sharing a message of light amidst the dark.

In January of 1989, my wife Shternie, our little baby Mushka, and I moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, to open the State's first Chabad center. In November of 1989, as we began making plans for Chanukah festivities, we wondered if it would be possible for us to have a public menorah lighting ourselves, possibly in front of the State House in Concord.

To start, I needed to go and find out what was entailed in the process of putting up a menorah at the State House. So I took a ride up to Concord.

I was greeted by a kind woman who informed me that I would have to request a permit by filling out and submitting an application, and then they'd need a couple of weeks before they responded. There wasn't all that much time before Chanukah, but I filled out the application, not sure what I was going to write. I had very little information - I wasn't sure where I wanted to put the menorah, wasn't sure how tall or big it was going to be. I just filled out the application stating that I was seeking to place a large Chanukah menorah at the State House, for 8 days, and submitted it.

Lo and behold, a couple weeks later, I received a response from the state saying that the permit would be granted, pending more information regarding the location of where I wanted to place it, and what the menorah looked like.

I was sort of taken aback, I didn't expect to get a response so quickly, and now I had my work cut out for me.

I wasn't sure where to start, so I opened up a fat, big book that we used to call the Yellow Pages, and under metal, I came upon Cohen and Sons Scrap Metal. I re-

membered that when I was driving up to Concord, I had seen a large billboard out of the corner of my eye advertising a company called "Max Cohen and Sons," a scrap metal company. It caught my attention because of the Jewish sounding name. Now, with the phone book in front of me, I thought "hey, that's the sign I noticed on the side of the highway! I wonder if they could help me design a menorah."

I called them up, and asked if I could speak to Max Cohen, only to find out that he had passed quite a few years prior to my call. I was told that Paul now owned the company, but when I asked to speak to him, he was out on a job. I finally was able to reach Paul's son Steven, a co-owner of the business.

I introduced myself, and began to explain my purpose for calling. He responded: "Rabbi, I don't know who you are, I don't know what you want, and I don't know what you're talking about, but if you want to come up and meet me to talk, you're more than welcome."

We set up a meeting at the end of the week.

In the meantime, I had no idea what I was talking about myself. I had no experience building menorahs, and I wasn't sure how to make it happen.

My brother-in-law in England faxed over the diagram and plans from the menorah he had built. I was now looking at a 13-foot menorah, made completely out of steel.

When I explained the idea to Steven at our meeting later that week, he couldn't even begin to imagine it, but I had prepared for this. I pulled out the book "Let there be Light," filled with photographs of public menorah lightings all over the world.

He couldn't believe it. He was taken aback. As a Jew growing up in Concord, he'd never seen anything like it. He'd always been so overwhelmed with all the other holiday decorations, but he'd never seen a giant menorah, and he decided right then that he would donate all the steel necessary for the menorah. Unfortunately, he said, as a supplier, he couldn't build it for me.

I thanked him profusely, and asked him for a recommendation for someone that might be able to help me build this menorah.

He started looking for names of the people he's worked with, and he pulled out the name Dave Shapiro, another Jewish name!

Right in the office, he called Dave, and explained the request. Dave was in the fabrication business, located in Goffstown. He



Rabbi Levi Krinsky lights the menorah at the New Hampshire State House

was willing to meet me and hear me out.

So I thanked Steven, and went to meet up with Dave.

When Dave heard the extent of my plans he said "Rabbi, you've got to be kidding. Is this for next year?"

"No, for this year!" I said.

"I can't do it, Rabbi! It's way too much work."

I looked at Dave, and I said, "Listen, Dave, we have the permit and the metal donated, the Jewish community is counting on you to make it happen."

I don't know how he did it, but he worked hard, and he built the most beau-

tiful menorah for us, brilliantly created in a way that allowed it to come apart in ten pieces for easy assembly and disassembly.

Just a week or so later, the menorah did receive full approval to be placed at the State House Plaza and has been lit there every Chanukah since.

For quite a few years afterward, Dave and his crew put it up, took it down and stored it for us for the rest of the year.

Although 30 years have passed, and our activities and community have grown tremendously since those early days, we never forgot our humble beginnings. We are incredibly appreciative to Steve Cohen and Dave Shapiro for stepping up for us. Every year the crowd grows and will, G-d willing, continue to grow. When I told Steven about this idea, he could barely imagine what a large, public menorah would look like. Today, for those who live or work near the State House, the menorah has become a familiar, heartwarming sight each year. The menorah will shine brightly at the State House Plaza in Concord, New Hampshire this year, as it has for the last 30 years, and we look forward to it continuing to shine for more and more people in the years ahead.

## WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY HANUKKAH



**VOLINSKY**  
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Paid for by Volinsky for NH, Amy Goldstein Chair & Treasurer.

## An Author's Life-Changing Exploration of Family History

By Karen Treiger

Nashua — not a place that I had heard of before. In fact, I had never been to the State of New Hampshire. After all, I live on the other side of the country. But as I drove through the town of Nashua, I found myself thinking that perhaps I was in a painting of America in the early 1900's. Some homes are large and stately with large lawns, white picket fences and large front porches, and others are smaller, more rundown, straddling the two sides of the local highways. The old buildings on the main road scream New England, with their red bricks and square structure. The many church windows are of stained glass and their spires rise high above the shops, letting me know that this is a place of deeply held beliefs.

But as I pulled up to Temple Beth Abraham, I felt at home. This beautiful *shul* established at the end of the 19th century looks more like the home of a very large family than a Nashua religious building. I arrived on a cold evening in November and knew that I would be warmed by the community. I was invited to speak about my new book, *My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story*. But how I came to be invited to speak at the temple is a story of its own.

Last June I was speaking about my book at a synagogue in Jerusalem and some friends of my brother and sister-in-law (who live in Newton) came walking in. We remembered each other from family celebrations. These Nashua residents were visiting family in Jerusalem and saw a flyer for the talk and thought it looked interesting. They didn't realize that the person giving the talk was their friend's sister-in-law and that the story was about their friend's parents, Sam and Esther Goldberg, who they knew before their

deaths. After I got home, I reached out to them and said I would be in Boston in November and wondered if their temple would be interested in hosting me. Well, the right people were contacted, and a date was set.

Now that the event is over and the AV equipment has been returned to the closet, I can say that I was correct in my gut feeling—the community welcomed me and made me feel at home. As I spoke of Sam and Esther's experiences during the war and my experience of going to Poland to walk in their footsteps and meet the righteous gentiles that helped them, the group was transfixed. I spoke of how, in 1939, both my in-law's families moved to the Soviet-controlled part of Poland. When the Germans attacked the Soviet Union in June of 1941, they found themselves in dire situations.

The climax of the story and why it really must become a movie is this: Sam Goldberg, my father-in-law, spent 13 months at the Treblinka Death Camp, working as a slave laborer where 870,000 were murdered in the gas chambers. He was part of a small group that planned and executed an uprising on August 2, 1943. Most of the 800 prisoners at the camp that day were killed as they attempted to run away or were recaptured in the first days after escape. Sam was one of approximately 65 who survived.

As Sam ran for his life—away from Treblinka—he ended up in the Polish forest about 15 miles away. There he met Esther, his future wife. She had been hiding there, just outside of her hometown, Stoczek, for a year with the help of righteous gentiles. Sam and Esther met in the woods and Sam told her (in Yiddish, of course) that he just escaped from Treblinka. Esther was flabbergasted.

By August of 1943, everyone knew what was going on at Treblinka. Esther



Author Karen Treiger

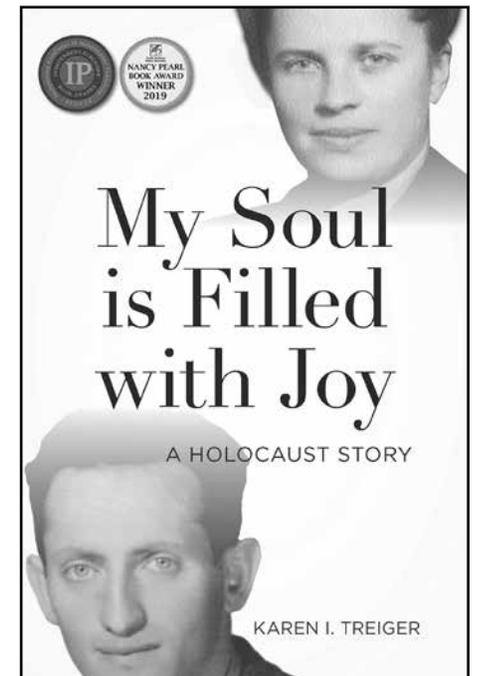
took Sam to Helena Stys, her “angel,” who had been helping her survive the past year. Though it was exceedingly dangerous to hide Jews on one's property, Helena said “yes,” and let them hide in her barn. They survived and Sam decided to stay and hide with Esther.

They went deeper into the forest, dug a deep pit, and hid in that pit for the next year. When the mercury dropped below zero, the Stys families allowed them to hide in the barn. One of the Stys fathers built them a fake haystack, where they hid during the winter months. One of the Stys children made moonshine at home, and on the coldest nights, he would bring them some alcoholic elixir to warm their bodies and souls.

After a year of hiding—mostly in the pit—the Soviet Army liberated this part of Poland and Sam and Esther were free. It was July, 1944 and they went back to Stoczek, moved into an empty house, and got married three months later. They lived in Poland for a year, making a living with a butchering business. It was during this first year of marriage that their first daughter was born.

After a year of living in Poland, Sam and Esther got word that some Poles were going to come and kill them because they hated Jews and because they wanted their property. So, they fled and were smuggled into Germany to live in a Displaced Persons' Camp. They lived in DP camps for four years, while they awaited visas to America. In May of 1949, they finally arrived in New York and settled in Brooklyn.

While in New York and later in Miami, Sam and Esther stayed in touch with the Stys family. They wrote letters back and forth and Esther and Sam would send packages of clothing and medicine that was in short supply in Poland. It was through these letters that I was able to lo-



cate and meet the three surviving children of the Stys families.

In 2016, I went with my husband Shlomo and our children to meet three generations of Stys family members and walk in Sam and Esther's footsteps. To say that this was a life-changing experience is too clichéd. But I have not been the same person since, and the book that I ended up writing was nothing like the book I started out to pen. The experiences I had in Poland added information, depth and reality to the horrors of the war years, as well as the current resurgence of Jewish life in Poland. The people that I met and the places that I saw opened me up to a new way of looking at Poland, at Sam and Esther's story, and at my own life.

While in Poland, I saw the hardships and felt the horrors of the Holocaust. I think it was when I looked into the pit where Sam and Esther hid (yes, it's still there) that I decided to stop taking my life for granted. I would go home to Seattle where I had a nice house, a closet full of clothes and a refrigerator full of food. How lucky am I?

I look forward to coming back to the great State of New Hampshire—maybe in the spring when there might be some flowers and the warmth of the air will match the personalities of the people.

*Karen Treiger is the author of My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story, which has won two awards: the Nancy Pearl Book Award for Best Memoir and a Bronze Medal from the Independent Publishers Association in the category of World History. She lives in Seattle, Washington.*

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## A Violin and a Middle School Musical Unleash a Dark Family Secret

*Broken Strings* is a middle school novel that touches on the Holocaust in a simple but poignant way. Authors Eric Walters and Kathy Kacer share the story of a young girl's relationship with her grandfather to present what can be a hard topic to address for young readers.

Seventh grader Shirli Berman is cast as Golde in the school musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. She goes to her grandfather's house to bring him groceries and check up on him. Her Bubbe has recently died and everyone in the family misses her. She always listened to Shirli sing

and went to all her performances. Zayde forbade music in the house and did not seem interested in Shirli's performances, although no one in the family knew why. He had never spoken about his experiences during the war years, even to Shirli's father, Zayde's own son.

Looking for costumes in Zayde's attic, Shirli comes across a poster and an old violin. Looking at them opens up something long closed off in Zayde. Though he has never spoken about his past, he is finally ready to share all the memories he had kept bottled up for decades.

I shed a tear or two as I read this novel about a grandfather and his granddaughter growing closer. The book shows an old man coming out of his shell and feeling vital even in his later years. There are a few times when the authors seem to stretch the edge of plausibility, but the story and the message are well presented so I let go of the questions. I could picture this Zayde as my grandfather, but I am not sure someone 14 years old today would have a grandfather of this description. Also, this book is set right after the World

Trade Towers were attacked, and the resulting emotions are compared to those of the Holocaust. I am not sure these are equivalent, but the the storyline is engaging anyway.

*ERIC WALTERS is one of Canada's best-known and most prolific writers of fiction for children and young adults. KATHY KACER is an award-winning author of Holocaust fiction and non-fiction for young readers. Her books have been published and translated in twenty countries. She is the child of Holocaust survivors.*

### Director continued from page 6

isolated, and that we here in rural New Hampshire are immune to those who wish to do us harm. We were reminded that there is no lock or security camera smart enough to substitute for active shooter training or the insistence on a "single point of entry" approach for our communities. Tabletop exercises had us questioning our thinking. The need for basic planning to respond to "more likely" public safety scenarios in our houses of worship

was a wake-up call for everyone.

There was much to absorb, process, and act upon in break-out sessions where we designed and tested solutions in groups. As we walked the halls of the four floors of conference rooms, we noticed armed security, bomb-sniffing K-9 teams, and a heightened sense of vigilance—stark reminders of what was at stake.

The final morning of FedLab began with a live debriefing by Isaac Herzog,

Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He explained that more than 250 rockets had been fired at Israel by Palestinian Islamic Jihad since the previous day, nearly 90% of which were intercepted by the Iron Dome. Later that morning, representatives from Secure Community Network suggested that we need an "American Shield" that protects our synagogues, schools, and community centers the way the Iron Dome protects the peo-

ple of Israel.

With your help, we are building and becoming that shield in New Hampshire—retrofitting buildings, engaging in training, monitoring threats, and working with police and the FBI to keep our communities safe. I left FedLab sobered by the reality we face, but full of resolve and confidence as well. New challenges call for new solutions and we will find them—together.

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# Recent Events

Would you like to see photos of your Jewish community event here? We accept a maximum of 2 high-resolution photos per event, with 1-sentence captions. Send jpeg attachments to [thereporter@jewishnh.org](mailto:thereporter@jewishnh.org).



Temple Israel Manchester's Kiddush Committee: Rachel Spierer, Renee Brenner, Carol Pressman, David Winthrop, Carol Sternberg, Merle Paltrow and Benay Birch



Seniors Forever Young Enjoy a Lunch and Learn Presentation with the Alzheimer's Association of ME/NH at JFNH



JFNH Director Melanie Zalman McDonald and Treasurer Harry Shepler at the FedLab Conference in Washington DC



Leah Plunkett, author of *Sharenthood: Why We Should Think Before We Talk About Our Kids Online*, leads Temple Beth Jacob teens and families in a discussion about online information-sharing.



Kindergarten students and their teacher prepare challah dough for baking at Temple Beth Jacob in Concord. The challah will be served at the Friday night service.



Preschool students and parents preparing challah before supper and services at Temple Beth Jacob.



Shlichah Avia leads Temple Beth Jacob students in a creative game of Israel Monopoly.



Members of CTeen, Chabad's new teen group, paid a visit to Carlyle Place in Bedford. A relaxing afternoon of challah and crafting was enjoyed by all!



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# Ways to Give

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

### How to submit an obituary

The Reporter publishes obituaries of people who made significant contributions to Jewish life in New Hampshire. Please send obituaries in Word format and photos in jpg format to thereporter@jewishnh.org. Publication is at the publisher's discretion, subject to space limitations.

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## JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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