

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 40, Number 5

February 2020

Shevat-Adar 5780



SUMMER CAMP

Finding Connection, Community, and Continuity at JFNH

By Board Member Debbie DePasse

My involvement with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire began in the summer of 2007 when my husband and I sent our two year old daughter to a week of summer camp at the JFNH Preschool. We followed up by enrolling her in the two year old preschool class. Subsequently, our family sent all three of our kids to the JFNH Preschool, and so began our introduction to Jewish life in New Hampshire as a young family. Joining a synagogue was in our near future, but we were not affiliated as of that time. We wanted to become more involved with the Jewish community in New Hampshire, and we started to attend events sponsored by JFNH. In 2009, I joined the Board of Directors of the JFNH, as this became a way for me to volunteer and to be more involved in

our local Jewish community. Shortly after joining the board, I was part of a committee given the task of updating our Mission Statement. We developed the following language that still defines our mission today:

Promoting Jewish continuity by enhancing and expanding a connected and vibrant Jewish community in New Hampshire, Israel, and around the world.

One thing that struck me in this mission statement is the concept of Jewish Continuity. I want a Jewish future for my children and my children's children, and I think this is a desire that likely resonates with all of us. I give because I want to be part of a vibrant Jewish community in New Hampshire and I want the Jewish community here to be growing and thriving in the future.

My husband and I had started the



Board Member Debbie DePasse celebrating Israeli Independence Day with daughter Sophia.

first steps of providing our children with a Jewish identity. It was important to us to continue to enhance the ways in which we were providing our kids with a strong cultural and religious background. We joined a synagogue and en-

rolled our kids in Hebrew school. We encouraged our kids to try Jewish summer camp. They love it and can't wait until camp starts this summer. JFNH financially supports Hebrew Schools throughout the state, and also provides campership grants to kids attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time. The money that the JFNH receives from donations goes to help fund many programs. Hebrew School and Jewish summer camp are two examples, but there are so many more ways that JFNH supports our community. I give so that these programs can continue to exist.

Why I Give continued on page 5

Camp Founder Annabelle Cohen passes away.

See Obituaries on page 28.

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JFNH: Enhancing My Family's Jewish Life for Three Generations

By Board Member Jay Madnick

There are a number of reasons why I'm active at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. This week, my wife and I attended a forum on the state of hate in New Hampshire, my son attended a Shabbat dinner with our *shilcha*, and my grandson received a book from the PJ Library.

JFNH does so many things to enhance Jewish life in New Hampshire.

JFNH is there to respond to anti-Semitism. Our partnership with the Anti-Defamation League brings programs to combat hate to New Hampshire.

When the trustees of the Jewish Cemetery in Berlin called, we were able to work with the town to maintain the cemetery and preserve its Jewish character.

We send young adults and teens to Israel through our Israel Experience Program and affiliation with Birthright Israel. We help children attend Jewish summer camp with camperships. We partner with synagogues throughout New Hampshire with our mini-grant program.

We bring a taste of Israel to New Hampshire with our *Shlichim* program. *Shlichim* are not only representatives from Israel, they are also great role models for children, teens, and young adults. Our *shlichim* interact with all sectors of our community, from preschoolers to seniors.

Our PJ Library coordinator brings programs for families to all areas of the state.

Through the relationships I've formed at JFNH, we've attended a beautiful baby naming in Keene, visited Laconia for a Jew-



Board Member Jay Jay Madnick with wife Rhonda (at Masada).

ish Food festival, and gone to the movies in Merrimack, Portsmouth, Manchester, and Concord for the Jewish Film Festival.

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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 Slavatticki
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

Volume 40, Number 5

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

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

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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.

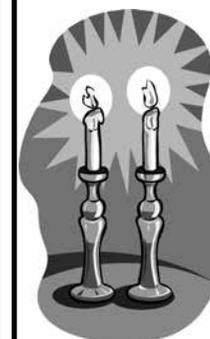
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



February 7	4:48 PM
February 14	4:57 PM
February 21	5:06 PM
February 28	5:15 PM

A Sneak Peek at Highlights of This Year's NH Jewish Film Festival

By Zach Camenker

As the new decade begins, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is excited to be celebrating its 12th year of screening the best Jewish-themed films for audiences across the state.

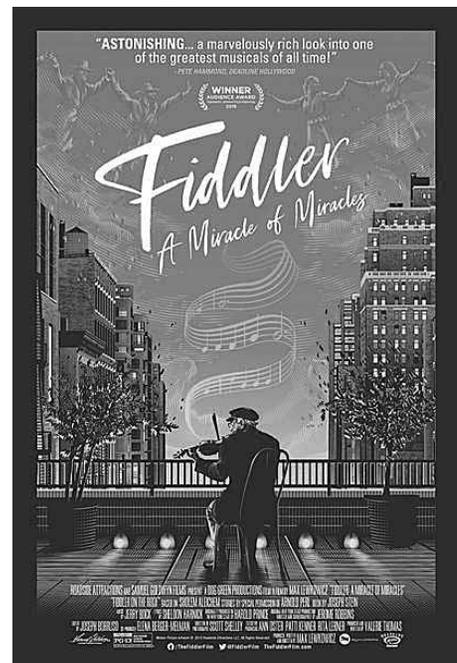
This year's Festival includes 17 films ranging from drama to documentary to short and will run from March 19th to 29th with screenings in Manchester, Concord, Merrimack, Peterborough, and Portsmouth.

The Jewish Film Festival is an annual event sponsored by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. It strives to bring films that connect audiences to Jewish contributions to our world, using storytelling and the powerful medium of filmmaking to explore themes about our shared, yet varied, human experience.

The Festival promotes the preservation of Jewish culture by showing films in a multitude of genres, encouraging dialogue about a variety of themes and issues. The movies chosen are intended to engage, enlighten, educate, inspire, and entertain moviegoers of all ages.

As usual, the Festival will screen films that include talk-backs, post film discussions, and other exciting moments!

Here's a sneak peek at some titles in the Festival line-up...



Our Gala Event will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the Roger and Francine Jean Student Center Auditorium on the campus of Saint Anselm College in Manchester. The film is *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, a documentary by Max Lewkowicz that chronicles the origin and endurance of the timeless Broadway musical based on Sholem Aleichem's stories about

Tevey the Dairyman. A musical that holds a very special place in many peoples' hearts, including those outside the Jewish community, *Fiddler on the Roof* has received significant praise and attention all over the world in the five and a half decades since its premiere. Featuring interviews with original lyricist Sheldon Harnick, Israeli actor Chaim Topol, who played Tevey in the 1971 critically acclaimed film version, and award-winning actor Joel Grey, who directed the recent Yiddish production in New York, *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* will delight audiences of all ages as it traces the genesis of one of the most loved musicals of all time.



A scene from Futures Past

Futures Past, directed by Jordan Melamed, is another documentary that will be shown on Sunday, March 22 at Cinemagic Stadium Theatres in Merrimack. In this piece, Melamed explores the power struggle he had with his father Leo, a Holocaust survivor who pioneered the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The film presents many of the standard elements of a documentary, but it ultimately becomes a deeply personal exploration of a contentious father-son relationship. This film was hailed by *Chicago Sun-Times* film critic Richard Roeper as "one of the best films I've seen this year by far," when released in 2016. Folks in the



Southern New Hampshire region will not want to miss this one!

David Kreiner's 2018 Israeli film *Shooting Life* will be shown in two locations during the Festival's Sunday, March 22 screenings. Hailed as a teen drama, *Shooting Life* tells the story of Igal Gazit, an unemployed film director from Tel Aviv, who moves to Sderot to take a job teaching high school. Positioned near the Gaza border where there is tension and imminent danger, Gazit develops a great connection with his students after promising the school principal that they will pass the State Film Exams. What unfolds is an ensemble-driven coming-of-age story with several rising stars depicting a wonderful story of hopes and dreams. Screened at over 10 Jewish Film Festivals across the world, including Atlanta, Montreal, and Washington, *Shooting Life* will be shown at both the Peterborough Community Theatre and the Portsmouth Music Loft. If you're looking for a film with teen characters, this is the right one for you!

Our Closing Event and Wrap Party will again be held at Red River Theatres in downtown Concord on Sunday, March 29. While multiple films will screen that day, the final film of the Festival will be *Pictures of his Life*, a 2019 documentary film by Dani Menkin and Yonatan Nir that chronicles the adventures of Israeli wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum. Nachoum, highly accomplished in his field, sets out to photograph one animal he has never come in contact with: the polar bear.



Amos Nachoum in Pictures of His Life



Childhood experiences and service in Israel during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 have pushed Nachoum to find peace and tranquility in his work, which drives him as he begins his journey to the polar bear. We hope you'll join us for this unique film at our final screening of the Festival!

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is pleased to announce that it has once again been awarded the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts General Project Grant. The competitive General Project Grant will be vital in helping to support the festival in its 12th year. The Festival would not be possible without the valued support and partnership of sponsors such as the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, Business Sponsors, Friends of the Festival, committee members, the JFNH Board and staff leadership, and film lovers like you.

We also wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to our loyal and enthusiastic audience for their annual attendance. Stay tuned for the entire schedule, which will be available soon, and for the announcement that ticket sales are open. We don't want you to miss out!

SAVE THE DATE

March 19-29, 2020

Shows in Manchester, Merrimack, Concord, Portsmouth and Peterborough

Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH
nhjewishfilmfestival.org



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

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.

Saturday, February 1

And A Child Shall Lead

7PM, Granite State Art Academy, Salem
Cost: \$10/Students, \$12/Adults – To purchase tickets visit <https://ovation.ludus.com/index.php>
This is the heroic and true story of children coming of age in Terezin, the "Jewish city" established by the Nazis near Prague as a way station before the death camps. Their actual poems and stories are woven into a fast-paced drama, evoking the universality of children caught in the insanity of war. Play runs about 90 minutes.

Sunday, February 2

Jewish History of Manchester, By John Clayton, Historian

1PM – 3PM, Manchester Millyard Museum, Manchester
"Jewish History of Manchester" will be presented by local historian John Clayton at the Manchester

Millyard Museum. The free public event seeks to engage the community in discussions and learning about the history, contributions and presence of the Jewish Community in Manchester and New Hampshire.

Thursday, February 6

Instilling Jewish Pride in the Next Generation

7PM – 8:30PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Lisa Adams, Leslie Kirshman and Amy Levy will talk about If we cannot instill Jewish pride in our next generation, then there will be no one left to carry on our tradition and face our future challenges. We'll discuss some of the ways to help you instill Jewish Pride for your family, including knowledge (and how to make that fun), brotherhood/sisterhood, and way to inspire courage to be a Jew (as we know it is not always easy or convenient for young folks to be/feel different).

Friday, February 7

MANTY Winter Wonderland Shabbat Service

8PM - 10PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

Shabbat Service and Choir Exchange

8PM, Temple Beth Jacob, Concord
Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Beth Jacob Choirs will sing at Temple Beth Jacob.

Sunday, February 9

MANTY Winter Wonderland Breakfast

9AM – 11AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

TAY Brotherhood provides a breakfast nosh at Temple Adath Yeshurun for the teens before they head for home at the end of their active weekend.

Hate Crimes Training Presented by ADL

3PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

Please join us for a hate crimes training led by ADL's Associate Regional Director, Melissa Kraus. The presentation will focus on the definition of a hate crime and common misconceptions. In times of rising hate, it is crucial to be able to identify hate crimes and know how to respond. This training is designed to give communities information about hate crimes and incidents so that they are better informed as to what has happened in the region. Advanced registration is required – register here <https://forms.gle/unWdMZwCaomKePVy5> or call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679.

Song of the Inspired Soul

6:30PM – 8:30PM, Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Manchester

\$20 reservations at www.chabadofnh.com/soulmusic

The entire community is invited to a multimedia production that brings together the modernity of film and the classical musical of a live string quartet playing hassidic tunes, to create a space where past and present play off each other and become one.

Thursday, February 13

Seniors Forever Young – Lunch and Learn

12PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

\$5/person, please register by calling the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 to pay by credit card or mail payment to JFNH Attn: SFY 273 South River Rd. #5 Bedford, NH 03110

New Hampshire Shlicha Avia Sagron will present her Israeli Story.

Pizza and Salad lunch will be served.

Friday, February 14

Shabbat Service and Choir Exchange

7PM – 9PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Shabbat Service, Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Beth Jacob Choirs at Temple Adath Yeshurun.

Saturday, February 15

Parent's Night Out – Paint Night

6:30PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

\$10/person – please call the JFNH office to register at 603-627-7679

Seniors Forever Young and teens have had their chance to paint with Avia Sagron NH Shlicha and now it's time for parents to have some fun! Parents are invited to join PJ Library - New Hampshire and Avia Sagron NH Shlicha for an adult evening of painting fun! We'll have wine and appetizers and everyone will take home their very own piece of art! This is sure to be a night full of laughs and you don't want to miss it.

Sunday, February 16

My Big Story: Customs, Narcotics, FBI to the Dept. of Labor IG's Office

9:30AM – 11:30AM, Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
My Big Story: from Customs Inspector, to the Bureau of Narcotics, the FBI to the Department of Labor IG's Office via the Whiskey Pier and Katz's Delicatessen! Learn how Peter started his career wearing a silly blue uniform and a big hat while riding in an old beaten up squad car, annoying longshoreman and wandering through ships for six months. Hear all about Peter's first boss, Ike

Feldman, a little Jewish guy who always walked around with a cigar almost as big as he was! You'll feel like you personally knew Peter's first partner, Morty Benjamin, otherwise known as "Pickles," you won't have to ask why. Peter will introduce you to Howie Safir who later became Chief of the New York City Police Department. Hear all about how Peter, Howie, Pete Srocca and "Shakey" O'Neill got involved in Peter's first shooting, and more. Be ready to relish (and laugh) in these stories as Peter recounts his career culminating with 20 years investigating organized crime and labor racketeering.

CRASE Training for Houses of Worship

3PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, Bedford

The Jewish Federation of NH together with the Bedford NH Police Department will be hosting a Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event, (C.R.A.S.E.) . Bedford Police Lieutenant Michael R. Bernard will be the presenter for the class. Lt. Bernard has over 23 year of Law Enforcement experience and is a certified C.R.A.S.E Instructor. The class, also known as Avoid, Deny Defend will provide strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Clergy, layleaders, religious educators and congregants are all welcome. Security teams are strongly encouraged. Advanced registration is required for security purposes and space is limited. To reserve your space, please email info@jewishnh.org or call (603)627-7679.

Mega Challah Bake

7PM – 9PM, Seacoast Jewish Center, Durham
Cost: \$25/person, \$18 early bird special before Jan 21. Student: Free

<http://JewishSeacoast.com/JWC>

Unite with women of all ages & affiliations in the Jewish community. Discover the secret to great tasting Challah and the beauty of this tradition unique to Jewish women. Music, Refreshments, & Amazing raffle!

Friday, February 21

Family Shabbat and Pot Luck

6PM – 8PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester
Bring a dish to share

Sunday, February 23

The Future of Work and Play

10AM – 12PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry
Wayne Kurtzman walks you through the emerging technologies and how they are now and will affect how we create better (or at least new) consumer and employee experiences, and how new technologies will affect with way to work and play.

Friday, February 28

Temple Israel Portsmouth Book Club Discussion

1PM – 3PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
The Temple Israel Portsmouth Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Shmoozatorium. Please see our website for the Book of the Month at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org



Sunday, February 16th 3-5pm

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
273 South River Road #5, Bedford, NH

The Jewish Federation of NH together with the Bedford NH Police Department will be hosting a Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event, (C.R.A.S.E) on Sunday February 16th from 3-5pm. Bedford Police Lieutenant Michael R. Bernard will be the presenter for the class at 273 South River Road in Bedford. Lt. Bernard has over 23 year of Law Enforcement experience and is a certified C.R.A.S.E Instructor. The class, also known as Avoid, Deny Defend will provide strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Clergy, lay-leaders, religious educators and congregants are all welcome.

Advanced registration is required for security purposes and capacity is limited.



To reserve your space, please email info@jewishnh.org or call (603)627-7679.

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Why I Give *continued from page 1*

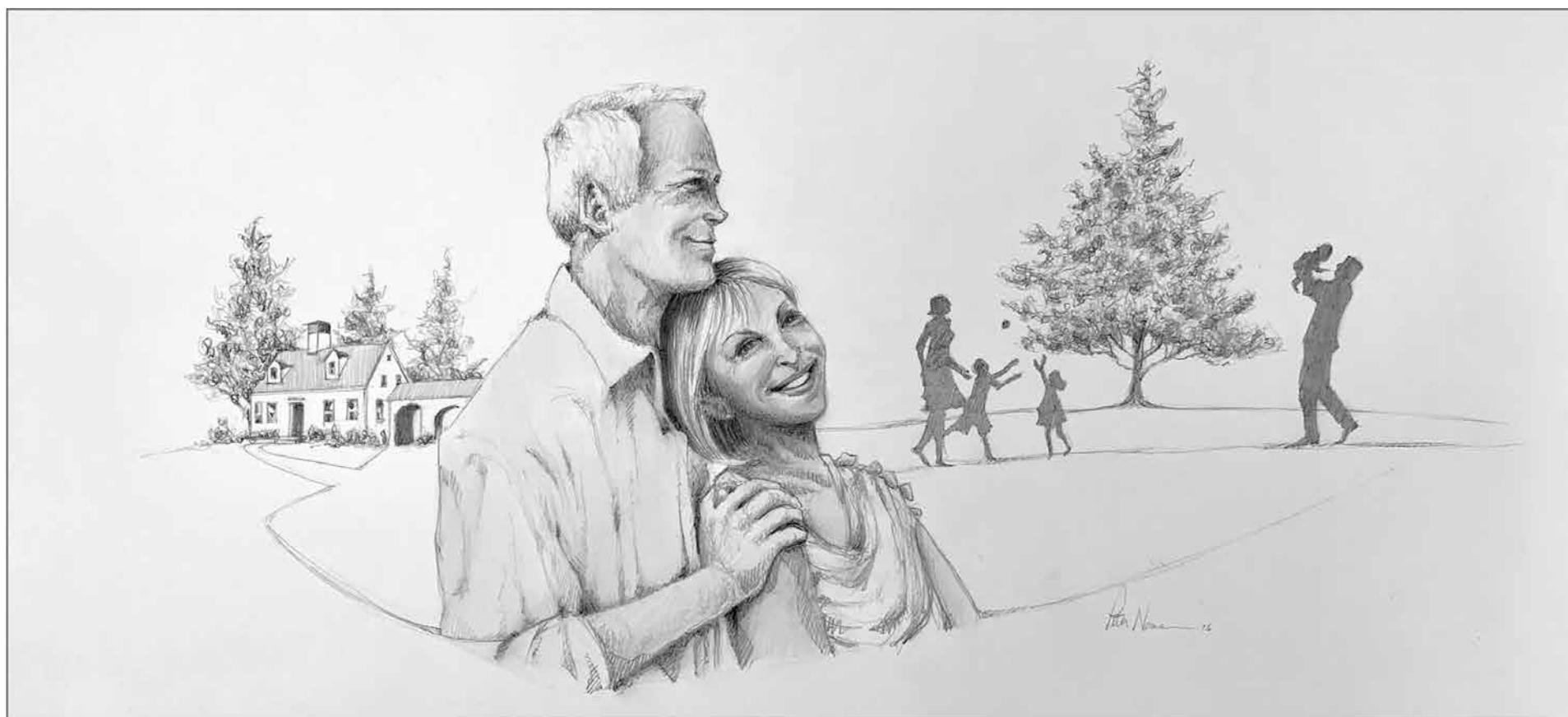
Our family has had the opportunity to meet and get to know the *shlichah*, the Israeli emissary who comes to New Hampshire for a year or more to lead programs and discussions and share her love of Israel with all of us. Our family has been lucky to meet a few of the *shlichim* through the years, and this opportunity would not exist if JFNH did not have the funds to support this program. I give so that our Jewish experience can be enhanced through these programs.

Last spring, I brought my daughter to Boston to celebrate Israeli Independence Day with a sing-along event

where we made a music video with a group called Koolulam. The timing of this event was not that long after the shooting at the synagogues in Poway, CA and Pittsburgh, PA. As we entered the House of Blues, and walked toward the stage waiting for the event to begin, I had a serious discussion with my daughter. In case of an active shooter, we would either run to the nearest exit, or we would hide underneath the stage, which was only a few feet in front of us. My nine year old understood the instruction. I had tears in my eyes as I said this to her, just as I do now as I write this several months later. I have discussed an exit strategy while attend-

ing events with my family multiple times since then. This is new for me. Now more than ever in my lifetime, Jewish people around the world are being targeted. This impacts all of us in the way that we join together for fun events or to worship. Our synagogues have had to bring on additional security measures to protect our congregants. JFNH recently hosted a program on the State of Hate in NH, and is hosting a training session called Civilian Response to an Active Shooter Event on February 16. Bringing these programs to our community is vitally important. JFNH could not do it without the financial support of our donors.

When thinking about why I choose to donate to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, I wanted to express how I have been personally impacted by the work and the programs that JFNH has to offer. There are ways that the JFNH has or will impact each of us, many of which I had not yet mentioned, such as Seniors Forever Young, the Young Mensches, PJ Library, NH Jewish Film Festival, social work support and more. It is your financial support that will allow the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire to continue to provide these programs and services. Please join me in supporting this amazing organization with your donation.



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264 South River Road, Suite 422, Bedford, NH 03110
www.investwithcohen.com

Become a Friend of the Festival



Presented by the
Jewish Federation of NH
nhjewishfilmfestival.org

The 12th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival premieres March 19-29, 2020

Playing in Theaters Statewide

Manchester, Merrimack, Concord, Portsmouth, and Peterborough

YES, I want to support the 12th Annual NH Jewish Film Festival and be a Friend of the Festival

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contribution: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$180-\$249

Contributions accepted by check mailed to:
JFNH, 273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110
or by calling the office at (603) 627-7679
Sponsorship opportunities are available
for this highly anticipated cultural event.
For details, contact Patricia Kalik at (603) 627-7679
or email info@jewishnh.org.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Federation Voices

Summer Camp, Israeli Style

I can't believe that it's snowy outside and our theme is SUMMER camp! But I love the sun and I love camp.

In Israel, we have 8 weeks of summer vacation and summer camp is called "*keytana*." Our *keytanot* are usually 3-4 weeks long and there are a variety of them.

When I was a child I went to Bney-Akiva, a religious *keytana*, and I loved it! Our *keytana* wasn't an overnight camp. In Israel a lot of the *keytana* belong to youth movements and when you're old enough you can become a counselor and work there over the summer.

Because there are only 3-4 weeks of *keytana* and there is one more month of vacation, parents usually sends kids to *Savta* (Grandma) and *Saba* (Grandpa) for a few days. There are grandparents who take it to another level! Once, I saw grandparents with 15 grandsons and they all had t-shirts that said, "*H-Keytana shel Savta*" (The camp of grandma). I thought it was amazing!

For the past two years I have worked at Kibbutz Ortal and Kibbutz Yakum, where there are *keytanot* every school vacation and we work with the children every day. That way, every holiday and over the summer you have the chance to meet the kids and make a wonderful connection with them and with your team.

Avia Sagron

JFNH Shlichah



My favorite part of working at *keytana* was "the big summer trip" when we traveled with the kids for 3-4 days in Israel. That was the high point of every summer, and I loved seeing the kids fall in love with Israel. Each year we choose another part of Israel to discover and explore. As you can see, my love for Israel has always been part of my life, and it's important to move it forward to the next generation.

The summer in Israel is my favorite time! I visit lakes and rivers up north and go to the beach in Tel Aviv. Friday's at noon the flea market in Jaffa has great food, and it's a time to be out in the sun and meet with all your friends.

In Israel we say "*h-kol ani ya-cho!l, bahofesh h-gadol!*." I can do everything on summer vacation!

Have a wonderful snowy winter. I promise to keep you updated on my summer visit home. (Until then — I will be busy learning how to ski!)

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Fun is Always in Season at JFNH Preschool!

 JFNH Signature Program

By Alane Sabel, Preschool Director

No matter what the season, there's always fun happening, inside and out, at



JFNH Preschool, where best friends are made.

the Jewish Federation Preschool. From STEM activities and visits from Miss Avia to our Friday challah baking and Shabbat program, our days are filled with fun and learning. We want to thank Rabbi Beth, Rabbi Jeremy, Rabbi Jon and



Fun in the leaves!

Rabbi Robin for joining us at our Friday Shabbat programs. We always enjoy their visits.

Preschool is the place where best friends are made.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook!



A future doctor at JFNH Preschool.



Snow never stops us!

A Letter to Writers

By Hannah Boyd, editor

When's the last time you changed your mind about an important issue? The answer matters because most of us don't like to change our minds, and that's especially true on issues we feel strongly



Hannah Boyd

about, like anti-Semitism and Israel's future. It's easy to conclude that people with different opinions are simply wrong, but that's a mistake. If your intent in writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed is to reach people who disagree with you — and if you were only preaching to the choir, what would be the point in writing? — you are much more likely to win hearts and minds with empathy than contempt.

The Reporter is written by and for the Jewish community of New Hampshire — each and every one of us, from secular to observant, liberal to conservative, young to old. It belongs to interfaith families and Haredim, Israeli ex-pats and New Hampshire natives. We have diverse backgrounds and views, but we are all on the same team. We all want a strong and secure Israel and to live freely and peacefully as Jews in the United

States. While we may disagree on how best to reach those goals, *Ahavat Yisrael* must rule our debates. There is simply too much hatred in the outside world for us to forget that we are strongest when we stand together.

As JFNH Board Chair Sarit Itenberg said at the annual meeting, “anti-Semitism is not a Democratic or Republican issue; it is our issue. It is a Jewish issue.”

In *Writing to Persuade* (available through the NH public library system), Trish Hall, former editor at the *Wall Street Journal* and long-time editor of the *New York Times* Op-Ed Page, writes, “it's not effective to shame people, to make them feel guilty, to bait them or make fun of them.” Think about that time you changed your mind. It probably didn't happen because someone insulted your intelligence or your character.

Please: before you hit “send” on a submission, ask yourself if it is true, necessary, and kind. Opinions must be backed by facts. Personal attacks and denomination-bashing are never acceptable. Assume the best of your fellow readers and writers and appeal to them as equals worthy of respect.

Who knows? You just might change their minds.



PJ Library children enjoying story time with Jill Weber, illustrator of *Goodnight Bubbala* by Sheryl Haft.

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Empowering Parents to Share Chanukah Traditions in the Classroom

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

The winter holiday season can be an isolating time for Jewish children in schools where most kids celebrate Christmas. As Alisa Hurwitz says, “with the predominance of other holidays in our towns, especially Christmas, it’s so easy to be ‘othered’ and inadvertently be given the message that our culture is unimportant. Being one of the few Jewish families in the school, the only way to change this is to BE the change. The pride on my girls’ faces when they get the chance to talk about their traditions with their peers is priceless.”

This December, PJ Library New Hampshire offered a workshop to arm parents and caregivers with ideas, activities, and materials to help them bring Chanukah into their children’s classrooms in a fun and appropriate way. The group discussed the challenges of parenting Jewish chil-



Misha Greenblatt and Eli Shpindler were proud to show their classmates a menorah.

dren in multi-faith schools and the importance of parents visiting classrooms to introduce the community to Jewish holidays.



Parents practiced their Chanukah crafting skills at the PJ Workshop.

“Having a place to discuss, connect, and receive guidance on navigating our children’s Jewish identities as a minority in our predominantly Christian schools is so important,” added Hurwitz. “There are so few people we can discuss these issues with, it’s good to gather together and share ideas and experiences.”

Each parent left with a concise version of the Chanukah story to read aloud to the class and a PJ Library book and



Miri Shpindler and JFNH Board Chair Sarit Itenberg were well-prepared to teach the children of World Academy in Nashua all about Chanukah after the PJ workshop.

dreidel set to donate to the classroom. “The JFNH/PJ Library materials were excellent and most helpful in facilitating the message of Chanukah to this young age group,” said Miri Shpindler, who visited her son’s classroom at World Academy in Nashua. “The teacher mentioned to me that the kids really loved the PJ Library dreidel game set and spent time playing with it during indoor recess.”

Teaching the wider community about Jewish holidays and traditions isn’t just fun and games. As JFNH Board Chair Sarit Itenberg, who visited World Academy with Miri Shpindler, said, “in the spirit of the complex world we live in now, and with the ability to set the right and healthy tones in early childhood, programs such as this could help shape the future one classroom at a time. Not to mention, it helps our Jewish kiddos who live in a mostly non-Jewish world feel completely included during the holiday season! Being able to share a special activity with not only my children and their classrooms but with one of my closest friends was so meaningful.”

The reaction from schools was equally positive. “I can tell you that the response from Chase’s teacher and the other parents in his class was overwhelming gratitude that we were able to teach their kids about our holiday,” said Rose Treitel. “I sent each kid home with a dreidel and some coins and many of them played that evening with their families.”

A gift from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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Upcoming Programs In Response to Rising Anti-Semitism

By Board Member Dina Chaitowitz

At JFNH, we are rising to confront and combat growing anti-Semitism. As recently reported, we, along with Holocaust survivor Kati Preston, have co-sponsored a bill to mandate Holocaust and genocide education in New Hampshire public schools. State Senator Jay Kahn of the Tenth District filed the proposed bill, which he expects to be heard in the Senate Education Committee this winter. Holocaust education is crucial to teach students about the decisions — the actions, and failures to act — that led to mass violence, and to help them grow to be empathetic and socially responsible citizens and community leaders.

In November, we brought the Anti-Defamation League (“ADL”) to our new home in Bedford to provide guidance to teens and their parents on addressing anti-Semitism in schools. The resulting “Words to Action” program was filled to capacity.

The ADL’s “State of Hate” presentation on January 5 was extremely informative, as we learned the difference between “hate incidents” and “hate crimes” and talked about actions we might take to combat anti-Semitism. The program was well attended — about 70 people — and the audience included important allies in the fight for tolerance and acceptance, including Professor C. Paul Vincent, Interim Co-Director, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies; State Senator Jay Kahn; Shannon Desilets, program director for the State of New Hampshire’s Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement; our speaker, Margaret (Peggy) Shukur, ADL Senior Associate Regional Director; Reverend Jason Wells, Executive Director, NH Council of Churches, and John Lewis, retired NH Superior Court Justice and Chair of the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education. Of course, everyone in the audience was wonderful, and the conversation continued well after the expected time for ending the program.

We encourage you to join us at these upcoming programs, and to invite teachers and other community leaders to join you. All programs require pre-registration, which can be accomplished by calling JFNH at 603-627-7679 and specifying the program for which you wish to pre-register and the number and names of attendees.

1. Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. - ADL’s Hate Crimes Training Program. This program, presented by ADL’s Associate Regional Director, Melissa Kraus, will focus on the definition of a hate crime and common misconceptions. In times of

rising hate, it is crucial to be able to identify hate crimes and know how to respond.

2. Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. -Teaching the Holocaust: Keeping The Moral Core, Presented by Tom White of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Program description: The task of educators is to make historical topics relevant to their students. The Holocaust must be taught in a multi-disciplinary way as a human story taking place in modern society - one human being to another - by neighbors, in the same civilization. This workshop explores ways to humanize the experience of the victims and perpetrators in order to motivate successive generations to recognize an ethical responsibility to respond to prejudice and hatred. This presentation illustrates how to connect students to the victims as human beings; putting people above statistics; how to explore everyday life in the ghettos; how Jews fought dehumanization by confronting moral dilemmas; the choice many survivors made to choose life and continuation over despair and violence; proper contexts; suggested appropriate lessons and use of film; and the burden and responsibility of representing trauma. Specific attention will be given to the use of imagery. A fundamental approach will be to discuss the limits and goals of teaching about the Holocaust while teaching students how to maintain a moral core. The methodological considerations can be applied to any social studies or English curriculum.

3. Thursday, March 17 at 6:00 - The Human Problem of Genocide, presented by Tom White of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Program description: April is Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in the State of NH. The program presents and seeks to answer an array of important questions: What is genocide? When do processes become part of a genocidal momentum? What is required to recognize, deter and prevent genocide? How do we prevent the escalation? How do we identify moments in the process where intervention (any type) can change the momentum? What can we do to make a difference? We will discuss the United Nations’ definition of genocide, and genocide risk factors and warning signs. We will explore proactive and reactive responses. We will also wrestle with the tension between the moral imperative to act and the principles of non-intervention and state sovereignty. This presentation seeks to empower students to make such attitudes and behaviors culturally unacceptable.



Pictured here are (from left to right): Professor C. Paul Vincent, Interim Co-Director, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies; Allyson Guertin, JFNH Director of Outreach; State Senator Jay Kahn (10th District), who recently filed a bill to mandate Holocaust and Genocide education in the State of New Hampshire; Shannon Desilets, program director for the State of New Hampshire’s Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement; our speaker, Margaret (Peggy) Shukur, ADL Senior Associate Regional Director; and Melanie Zalman McDonald, JFNH Executive Director. Also in attendance were Reverend Jason Wells, Executive Director, NH Council of Churches, and John Lewis, retired NH Superior Court Justice and Chair of the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education.

FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD™

ADL's Hate Crimes Training



Please join us!

Join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for a presentation by ADL’s Associate Regional Director, Melissa Kraus. Melissa will discuss how to define identify hate crimes. In a time of rising hate, this training can inform communities what they can do and how to respond.

February 9, 2020

3:00 PM

273 South River Rd. #5
Bedford, NH 03110

Advanced registration is required. Please call JFNH at 603-627-7679 to register. For more information, please visit www.jewishnh.org

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Fighting Anti-Semitism With Wisdom, Hope and Joy

Even when times are good, American Jews have been concerned about anti-Semitism. Back in the mid-nineties, I happened to move my synagogue desk right by a window. Almost immediately, the synagogue president was on the phone. “Rabbi, I don’t like where your desk is; it frames your head perfectly for a shooter.” And this was in a quiet Wisconsin town, at a congregation that had not seen vandalism in decades. Now, following the violent events in Pittsburgh, San Diego, New Jersey, and New York, we American Jews are even more on edge.

Already, before the Tree of Life shooting, our congregation in Laconia was working with the local police to shore up our building’s security. Now, like many New Hampshire synagogues, we are partnering with the Jewish Federation to work with state and federal authorities to further protect our community. We are grateful to have somewhere

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Dan Danson
Temple B'nai Israel

to turn and for these resources, but there is a pronounced sadness in this. In my thirty plus years in the rabbinate, I have worked with churches, civic organizations, and the Federation to fight anti-Semitism. Like most of my colleagues, I have spoken to literally thousands of people about anti-Semitism’s causes and why it is incumbent on everyone to fight it. I really thought we were getting somewhere, but the ADL’s statistics on anti-Semitic incidents are sobering. Since 2017, incidents are up 60% from 2000. It is hard not to despair, but if fig-

uring out the nuts and bolts of making Jewish institutions safe is the work of Federation and the ADL, finding pathways to hope is the rabbi’s task.

One place to begin is with three recent books on the subject, (((*Semitism*))) : *Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*, by *New York Times* reporter Jonathan Weisman, *How to Fight Anti-Semitism* by Bari Weiss, also with the *Times*, and *Antisemitism Here and Now*, by Deborah Lipstadt, a professor at Emory University. As Weisman’s title indicates, it is challenging to do anything in the public realm without it becoming political, but the books offer something across the political spectrum.

Weisman’s work has its origins in an event that happened to him during the 2016 presidential campaign. He retweeted an op-ed written by Robert Kagan, a neo-conservative writer, criticizing then-candidate Donald Trump. Within minutes he received this response, “Hello (((Weisman))) .” When he asked what the parentheses meant, the response was, “It’s a dog whistle fool. Belling the cat for my fellow goyim.” Weisman then received a flood of thousands of anti-Semitic images and messages.

Weisman’s hope is that the Jewish community focuses on “the beauty and breadth in humanity,” which he describes as following the teachings of the prophets Micah and Isaiah. He also counsels us not to stop defending the elemental right of free speech that undergirds our democracy.

Bari Weiss understands anti-Semitism to exist on both the left and right sides of the political spectrum. She thinks we should all be focused on calling out the anti-Semitism on even our own sides, and the key to this is to “trust your discom-

fort.” We must ask ourselves if, “this political party, this movement, this organization, this activist group, accepts me or, will I need to hide my true views or cut off parts of who I am?”

Weiss grew up in Pittsburgh and sees hope in the city’s response to the Tree of Life shooting. “The entire community – Muslim leaders, Christian leaders, politicians, government leaders, police department, corporations, even our sports teams – stood up and said no. we will not give this oxygen.”

Professor Deborah Lipstadt is the best known of these authors and is renowned for her scholarship on Holocaust denial. She reminds us that we need to be strategic and use our energy well. For example, when there’s a swastika drawn on a wall of a Jewish building, we need to distinguish an ignorant or immature kid from that done through an organized effort.

She also urges us to note the good times as well as the bad and tells this story. A friend of hers came into shul with her 5-year-old daughter. The mother, seeing the security guard at the door said to her daughter, “Let’s say hi and thank you to the guard for keeping us safe.” The little girl was baffled. Why would this synagogue where she found so much joy be a place she needed to worry about being safe? Lipstadt writes, “My hope for my little friend is that as she grows up, her awareness of the dangers that may threaten her well-being at the synagogue or any other Jewish venue will never over-shadow the joys she finds there.” I would add that even as we struggle against anti-Semitism, our hope lies in building communities and lives that are rich in Jewish wisdom, spirituality, and joy.



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"There's such a lot of hatred in the world today and I am so frightened of certain things that are happening. If I can voice what happened to me it can change for the better."

**Kati Preston- Bethlehem High School (April 2016)
80, Holocaust Survivor / Author / Activist**



Whether you heard Kati Preston's moving testimony live at our Annual Meeting and Shem Tov Awards, or have been moved by the stories of other Holocaust survivors....

These emotional reflections remind us all of our promise to Remember, to do whatever is within our power to stand up and to say "Never Again!"

In these difficult times, with incidents of hate and Antisemitism increasing here in New Hampshire and around the world, the stakes have never been higher, and our work together has never been more important.

As we begin a New Year and quickly approach the anniversary of the deadliest attack on American Jews in US history, we are mindful of the way our community has shifted our focus - out of fear, out of necessity, and with the resilience for which our people are known.

If you have not been a Federation supporter, now is the time to stand with us and consider what more you can do to advance our efforts on behalf of our Jewish New Hampshire!

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Summer Camp

Going to Camp and Finding Home

By Kelly Zakar, MSN, RN, PPCNP-BC

On Friday, September 6, 2019, my daughter Elise Nordstrom and I entered the mikveh at Mayyim Hayyim in Newton, and “officially” converted to Judaism. I say “officially,” as both Elise and I have considered ourselves to be Jewish for quite some time.

My conversion to Judaism began in 1996 when I first began working as a camp nurse at Camp Young Judaea. My conversations at the head table with Tzvi and Harris (CYJ’s own Statler and Waldorf) along with my experience of Judaism at camp led me to consider what living a Jewish life would look like for me. While I was not ready to convert to Judaism back then, I decided that any children I had would not be baptized at birth, but would be able to make their own decisions regarding their religious affiliations.

Flash forward to 2011, I arrived back at CYJ with those then future children in tow. My daughter, Elise Nordstrom, was 5 years old when she first began spending her summers at Camp Young Judaea,



The CYJ Directors and their families lit a candle for Elise. Pictured with Elise: Stephen Marks, Rachel Kornreich, Jamie Marks, and Marcy Kornreich.

first in the infirmary, then in the Red House and eventually G1, where she would take up residency for many summers. As she started “going around with G1” as a day camper, she started learning about Judaism. In the Judaica cabin, she learned to sing *HaMotzi* and the *Birkat Hamazon*. In 2012, we started celebrating Jewish holidays at home and she taught her Brownie troop how to play Dreidel at their “Christmas celebration.”

From the very beginning Elise was your stereotypical camper, living “10



Elise Nordstrom being lifted in celebration by Wayne Goldstein and Samm Smith-Rappaport during her bat mitzvah celebration at Camp Young Judaea.

months for 2,” counting down the days until camp started each summer. When we moved to Brookline, NH in 2014, she introduced herself as Jewish, and signed up to bring in latkes for her school’s “holidays around the world” celebration. She took pride in sharing her religious customs and celebrations with her new classmates. She began learning more about her faith while not at camp and took an active part in family Seders and Rosh Hashanah celebrations. As much as her “10 months” away from camp were spent living a Jewish life, it was the “2 months” at camp that solidified this identity.

She has had the privilege of growing up being cared for by adults who are like parents and extended family to her; the counselors, nurses, and administrators of Camp Young Judaea. When Elise made the independent decision to convert to Judaism, she sought guidance from the camp Judaica director, Wayne Goldstein, in helping her to prepare for her conversion and to become a bat mitzvah.

Celebrating her bat mitzvah with her camp family was incredibly meaningful to her (and to me). In her D’var Torah, she shared: “One thing I have learned is



Jewish educator Wayne Goldstein with Elise Nordstrom.

that I need to not only act in a certain way myself, but that I must also try, even when it’s hard, to stand up for other people who may be the targets of lewdness, cruelty, or injustice. Being at Camp Young Judaea every summer has helped me to learn how to act appropriately in all types of situations and to grow into a mature young woman. While it may be hard to follow all of the 613 mitzvot prescribed in the Torah now that I am having my Bat Mitzvah, the laws that relate to respect and kindness are ones that I will try my hardest to fulfill.”

When she is with her camp family she feels accepted and loved, in the one place where she feels she belongs most in this world. In describing her connection with camp, Elise describes “CYJ as a place where my Judaism took root, grows, and becomes stronger.” For those of you who have had a part in her upbringing, please know how much you have helped her to become this amazing young woman. L’Shalom.

Kelly Nordstrom Zakar, a pediatric nurse practitioner, is Camp Young Judaea’s Medical Director.

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Summer Camp

Art and Torah at Tizmoret Shoshana

 JFNH Signature Program

By Chana Chesler, campership recipient

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feel imbued with the invaluable message of living your life using your creativity to build your relationship with Hashem!

I made so many precious friendships which I am so grateful for, which I hope will be with me forever. All in all, I had an extraordinary time at Tizmoret Shoshana, and I believe these memories will be gems forever. This was made possible with a generous scholarship from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, to whom I am eternally grateful.



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Cohen Camps

Summer Camp

The Magic of Jewish Overnight Camp: a Camp Nurse Perspective

By Davida Rubin-Baker, RN, JD

Family camp attendee, parent of campers at two different Jewish overnight camps, parent of a counselor, One Happy Camper scholarship family member, camp nurse, and Infirmary Director. In this last decade, I've been all of these, and each role has given me insight into the true magic of Jewish overnight camp — none more so than my experience as a

camp nurse over the last three years at Camp Young Judaea in Amherst, NH. Being a camp nurse provided the aha moment, the why explaining why people go back to camp year after year and why camp children grow to become camp parents and camp grandparents.

Many ingredients come together to create the magic of Jewish overnight camp. Here's what my summers as a camp nurse have taught me:

Camp is a family. Families share the bonds of experience. They share a history and a future. As in a family, the youngest children look up to the older children and the youngest campers look forward to the privileges that come with age. As in a family, the older children remember what it was like to be the youngest and in turn, they mentor the younger campers.

Adults supervise the relationships between campers and between campers and

staff to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive. As in a family, there is love. And as in a family, there is mutual understanding. But, when conflict arises (because inevitably it sometimes does, as in any family), adults ensure that such conflict is resolved in a productive way.

Camp is a place to grow. Not infrequently, young children experience temporary homesickness when they first come to camp. As the camp nurse, I see these children. They come to me with real stomachaches or headaches. Their bodies sometimes manifest physical symptoms in response to this emotional challenge. Of course, counselors and staff are trained to handle homesickness in campers. But I've realized over time that rather than being a negative experience, in the end, homesickness is an empowering experience for a child.

There is a transformation that occurs when a camper makes it through homesickness (and almost without exception, every camper does). These kids, with a little love and help from their friends and their counselors, survive and thrive. The experience makes them proud. They made it through and fall into the routine of camp life; they did it! The children who came to me one year because they were homesick are often the same children who can empathize best with new campers who are homesick a subsequent year. Making it through a challenge and providing support for others who are trying to help children grow.

Camp is a place of Jewish pride. Every single summer day, I watch about 400 Jewish young people celebrate being Jewish. They sing *Hatikvah* after they pledge allegiance to the American flag. They say the *HaMotzi* before each meal. They sing the *Birkat* after the meal. They learn the Hebrew word of the day. They interact with their Israeli counselors and campers. They have fun being Jewish. There's no need to explain being Jewish. Their friends understand. Their counselors understand. The administration understands. There is no need to explain Shabbat; together, the whole camp celebrates. Special clothing. Special food. A special service. Shabbat at camp is a time apart from the rest of the week (just as it should be) and that special time is spent with an entire community who understands and celebrates alongside you.

In addition to the evidence I see daily, studies confirm that camp facilitates Jew-

The Magic continued on next page

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Summer Camp



Davida Rubin-Baker with the Camp Young Judea nursing staff.

The Magic continued from page 14

ish identity. In 2011, The Foundation of Jewish Camps put out a report analyzing the impact that Jewish camp has on Jewish identity and engagement. The report showed the most pronounced increase in Jewish engagement in four areas. Three of them have to do with Jewish communal identity: camp alumni are 55 percent more likely than Jewish adults who did not attend camp to say they are “very emotionally attached to Israel”; they are 45 percent more likely to attend synagogue at least once a month; and 30 percent more of them donate to Jewish federations.

Every individual matters at camp. Whether a person is young or old, people need to be needed. I learned this lesson many times in life but the lesson was most pronounced when I brought therapy pets to visit hospice patients; even hospice patients wanted to be needed and felt useful in their last days when they could give love to an animal. At camp, there are many times each day that each child plays a necessary role. Each child is part of a table community in the dining hall and part of their bunk community. As such, they participate in these communities to lead a blessing before a meal or to tidy up their bunk each morning after breakfast. Campers count on one another to participate in activities together, to play sports together, to perform in plays together, to dance together, to make decisions together, and to support each other.

Camp is a place which inevitably leads to future generations. At this point in my life I have seen a lot of marriages that originated at camp. Needless to say, camp

marriages lead to camp babies and future campers. Nuff’ said.

Being a counselor is training for life. I see the growth and development of the counselors each summer. They come in sometimes having to be reminded that they are no longer campers. Soon enough, they go from playing the role of counselor to embracing and shaping the role. I’ve seen counselors advocate for campers. I’ve seen them help their campers show up for medication. They remind campers about hygiene and remind them to check their bodies for ticks. They learn to wash the sheets of campers who may have gotten poison ivy. And when the issue requires administrative support, counselors learn to ask for help. I’ll never forget my son who was home on his day off last summer. “I need to get back to my kids,” he said. He cared about his campers. He cared about giving them as good an experience as he had at camp. When he went off to college this summer, I had no doubt that he was ready. Being a counselor is training for life.

This year I have spent my weekends shuttling my daughter to bar and bat mitzvahs near and far. These are her camp friends. I hear them tell each other how proud they are of each other. I hear them call each other “sisters.” I hear them talk about going to Israel together one day. I hear them talk about their aspirations to be counselors. I have no doubt that my daughter and her camp friends will one day have children of their own who are bonded through their love of camp. For me, this is nothing short of magic, and I wouldn’t have it any other way....

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How to Talk to Children About Anti-Semitism

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PJLibrary.org

Let's face it, no one wants to have to tell their child that there are nasty people in the world who will try to hurt them

just for being themselves. We raise our kids to be good people, mensches, to help and accept others, and to do the best they can to treat those around them fairly and with respect.

Research shows that one of the best ways that we can help prepare our children to cope with discrimination and intolerance is by being open about it. When we show our children that these topics, though tough,

are not taboo, we let them know that they can always come to us with questions or thoughts about life's scary situations.

Part of growing up and getting older will mean that our kids come face to face with some of the ugliness of the world. Given recent events, like a rise in anti-Semitic acts and bias crimes, a mass shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh as well as waves of bomb threats against Jewish Community Centers, we may have to have these conversations sooner than we'd like.

Talking To Your Kids

Many sources recommend being direct with kids about difficult topics while also tuning in to gauge how much your kids can handle.

The American Psychological Association stresses that for children in groups that are likely to be targets of discrimination, it's vital for parents to have ongoing, honest, discussions with their children rather than shying away from the subject. The APA also recommends:

- Let the discussion be ongoing.
- Keep talking. Yes, even--and especially--when it gets hard.
 - It's also ok to say "I don't know."
- Be age appropriate. Keep things basic. Young children especially need simple information balanced with reassurance.
- Encourage your children to ask questions.
- Help kids learn how to deal with being the potential target of discrimination.
- Develop healthy comebacks or responses to hurtful discriminatory statements. For example: "What an unkind thing to say." "Excuse me? Could you repeat that?" "I disagree with you, and here's why..."
- If you catch your child using insensitive language, use the moment as a teaching example.
- Model good behavior for your child.

Books and Stories can Help

The Bible features many stories about the Jewish people facing oppression and persecution, especially as a minority group. The important theme in stories like Exodus, the Purim story, and the Chanukah story, though are that small groups of brave individuals band together to triumph over adversity.

For more family resources, book suggestions, or to sign up for PJ Library, visit pjlibrary.org.



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

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WHY ATTEND THIS PROGRAM?

This professional development session will give you the tools to teach and initiate important discussions about the complex lessons of the Holocaust. In exploring classroom-tested strategies that can be implemented in your classroom, you will leave with increased confidence and effective materials to tackle the tough questions your students have about this subject. The why. The how.



WHAT IS ECHOES & REFLECTIONS?

Echoes & Reflections is the premier source for Holocaust educational materials and dynamic content, empowering teachers and students with the insight needed to question the past and foresight to impact the future. We partner with educators to support them, foster confidence, and amplify their skills and resources to teach about the Holocaust in a comprehensive and meaningful way.

PROGRAM GOALS

Through this program, educators will:

- 1 Explore a sound pedagogy for the planning and implementation of Holocaust education in the classroom;
- 2 Examine instructional enhancements to support student learning and understanding;
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- 4 Enhance personal knowledge about the Holocaust, including the history of antisemitism; and
- 5 Build confidence and capacity to teach this complex subject.

"The ultimate job of a teacher is to make connections to your students with the curriculum. You want them to walk away with a personal sense of responsibility. Echoes & Reflections helps me do that."

— Social Studies Teacher,
Pinebush High School, New York

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Register at: <https://forms.gle/XJJQFwunQrLnHkbf7>
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A joint program of the Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem



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www.jewishnh.org

The Early Learning Center at Temple Israel Portsmouth Celebrates Chanukah

By Tammy Labonte

Many thanks to Laura Sher for cooking with the Early Learning Center stu-

dents again. This time we made yummy *sufganiyot* – doughnuts that traditionally have jelly inside. Ours did not, but were coated in powdered sugar. We ate them

with homemade applesauce, latkes and sour cream at the Early Learning Center Chanukah Family Celebration. During the celebration we said the blessing for lighting the menorah, told the story of the Maccabees for parents and marched like the Maccabees to the Paul Zim song “Maccabee March.” Thank you, Rabbi Ira Korinow, for joining us during the family celebration.

The Early Learning Center also “lit” our hallway menorah each morning and ended the week with a pajama party and winter activities in honor of the winter solstice that started on the first day of vacation.

We hope everyone had a happy Chanukah and a safe and happy New Year!

The ELC is a licensed preschool serving children ages 2 years 9 months to 5 years. It operates Monday-Friday, 8:45 AM to 1 PM. For more information, contact Tammy LaBonte at preschool.director@templeisraelnh.org or call 603436-5301 x23.



Cooking sufganiyot with Laura Sher at the Early Learning Center - Temple Israel Portsmouth.



Temple Israel Portsmouth students “light” the hall menorah.



Temple Israel Portsmouth students march like the Maccabees.

Calling All Young Jewish Musicians!

By Chanchie Krinsky

Calling all young Jewish musicians! A team at Chabad in Manchester is in the exploratory phase of an exciting new opportunity for budding child/teen musicians. Under the directorship of accomplished musician and all-around mensch Jim Pendergast of Mill Pond Music Studio, the kids will get together regularly to learn and practice Jewish music, with the goal of performing at Chabad events and other functions open to the broader community.

The main idea is to give young instrumentalists, who are already either taking private lessons or learning in school band/orchestra, an opportunity to put their skills to use playing Jewish music as a group.

Jim led a successful group like this, called the Klezmer Kidz, in Nashville, where he worked for 30 years as a studio guitarist, arranger, bandleader and pro-

ducer. The Klezmer Kidz played Chasidic nigunim, Klezmer music, Yiddish folk and theater songs, and Israeli dance music. This lively band became very popular, playing at many events and simchas, and recorded a well-received CD.

All instruments are welcome to participate. There will be very loose, informal ‘auditions,’ mainly to see if there is enough interest. There is a particular need for lead melody instruments: woodwind

(flute, clarinet, etc.), brass (trumpet, trombone, etc.), violin, mandolin and (yes!) accordion. There will be roles for enthusiastic beginners as well as advanced hotshots. This project is open to ages 8-17, guys and gals.

If this school year is already too full of commitments, but you'd want to fit it in for the 2020-'21 school year, get in touch! Please email Chanchie@ChabadofNH.com if your child has a serious interest in this project.



Jim Pendergast of Mill Pond Music Studio in Portsmouth.

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Chanukah at TAY: The Game Show Hits the Mark!

By Dr. Sol Rockenmacher

Sunday morning, December 15 was the occasion of another Joel Gordon-led TAY Brotherhood holiday party, Chanukah: The Game Show, with over seventy attendees. The theme was on-stage entertainment contests, an audience participation event where the members of the audience were called up to participate in silly party games. Joel's able assistant was mistress of buffoonery, world-renowned magician, Corky the Clown's cousin, Kugel the Clown (aka Nancy Frankel). Following the show, Kugel made balloon sculptures for the kids.

David Rosenzweig, Sol and Linda



It's a wrap ... of parents by their children!



Kugel the Clown tells kids, if everyone lit just one candle ...



Shlichah Avia Sagron presented her Israeli Story program at Temple B'nai Israel in early November. Her warmth and humor have made her a beloved speaker, and they are looking forward to her next visit to Laconia in February!

Rockenmacher, Michael Bank, Jud Belmont, Doug Black, Mark Bilech, Ed Schoen, Mark Granoff, and Jeffrey Jolton helped Joel carry out the morning plans, set up in the kitchen, and serve.

Students came through the doors at 11:00 and were directed to tables by class. There were three tables filled with parents. Each table was pre-set with plates, forks, condiments, drinks, and bowls of jelly Munchkins.

After the students were seated, the proceedings opened with a video rendition of Shake it Off – Chanukah.

This year there were five games, two of which were new additions. The show started with Tin Man – a tin foil wrapping competition where three parents were wrapped by their own children. This was followed by the new Menorah Lighting Relay Race, where three teams of two raced each other to most quickly light the menorah. There was the added excitement of watching children running with fire back and forth across the stage. (Joe Gallant stood at the ready with a fire extinguisher!)

Following this contest, there was a Simon Says game, and Ted Yegerman was the “last man standing” in the room. Then it was on to the Champagne Glass Stacking competition. The fourth contest



Have I got some games for you! said MC Joel Gordon.

was a table wrapping competition by the entire high school class who took turns wrapping their selected tables and, mid-game, expanded that to every table in the room. This was MC Joel's favorite game of the party. Finally, we ended with the Whipped Cream Catapult – which, with participation limited to students, was fascinating to watch.

The entertainment went nearly a full hour, after which the food was served family style: Munchkins, latkes with sour cream and apple sauce, and hot dogs in buns.

Following the program Joel handed out Chanukah gelt to all the attendees.

In summary, a really good time was had by all, children and adults alike.

Calling all Scouts for Scout Shabbat!

Temple Emanu-El will hold its annual Scout Shabbat service at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7 at 514 Main Street in Haverhill, MA. The service is open to all Scouts (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Daisies, etc) and their families and will be followed by an oneg. Scouts should

wear their uniforms and plan to arrive at 6:45 p.m.. This service is co-sponsored by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. Although walk-ins are welcome, Scouts who preregister by calling 603.382.5927 or emailing scouting@hantman.net will receive a free commemorative patch.

Up, Up and Away!: Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Hosts Children's Breakfast with Mad Science

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Annual Children's Breakfast featuring Mad Science's "Up, Up and AWAY!" presentation will take place on Sunday, March 1 at 9:30 AM at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua.

After our famous Sunday Breakfast (including waffles!) children will have a fantastic time learning about pressure (definitely not the homework type). The kids will be left flying high as the Mad Scientist explains how the weight of the earth's atmosphere pushes down on them with the force of an elephant! They'll explore how Bernoulli's Principle creates enough lift to make a jumbo jet fly and how air pressure can be used to launch a hot air balloon. The kids will watch in amazement as the Mad



Children marvel at Mad Science's warm air balloon.

Scientist's vortex generator creates giant smoke rings and much more. Want even more pressure? One lucky child will take a ride on the amazing Mad Science Hovercraft!



One lucky child will ride Mad Science's hovercraft.

Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of waffles, 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. All Children eat FREE! For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email breakfastsvp@snhjmc.org.

My Big Story: A Trip Down Memory Lane with Peter Gallaher at Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Brunch

My Big Story: from Customs Inspector, to the Bureau of Narcotics, from the FBI to the Department of Labor IG's Office via the Whiskey Pier and Katz's Delicatessen! Join us for a fun and exciting trip down memory lane with Nashua's own Peter Gallaher on Sunday, February 16, at 9:30 AM at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua.



Peter Gallaher

Come learn how Peter started his career wearing a silly blue uniform and a big hat while riding in an old beaten up squad car, annoying longshoreman and wandering through ships for six months. Hear all about Peter's first boss, Ike Feldman, a little Jewish guy who always walked around with a cigar almost as big as he was! You'll feel like you personally knew Peter's first partner, Morty Benjamin, otherwise known as "Pickles;" you won't have to ask why.

Peter will introduce you to Howie Safir, who later became Chief of the New York City Police Department. Hear all about how Peter, Howie, Pete Srocca and "Shakey" O'Neill got involved in Peter's first shooting, and more. Be ready to relish (and laugh at) these stories as Peter recounts his career, culminating with 20 years investigating organized crime and labor racketeering. Be assured that Peter will be bringing several hundred copies of his speech,

which will be made available at a decent price and will come complete with his own camera crew to record every word!

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Peter's presentation, which will start with our Monthly Sunday Breakfast at 9:30 AM. Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox, whitefish salad, 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.

About The Southern New Hampshire Jewish 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 with those in the greater New Hampshire 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 features 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 or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>.

The First Conference on the New England Jewish Experience

By Stephen Soreff, MD

The first annual New England Jewish History Conference, "What is the New England Jewish Experience?" will occur on Sunday, March 29, from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM at the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA.

The first gathering of its kind, the New England Jewish History Conference presents an opportunity to gather and network with colleagues across the re-

gion who are doing important work in New England Jewish history — including educators, archivists, genealogists, and historians. At the meeting itself, there will be a keynote address, a review of the Jewish landscape of all six New England states, and break-out groups. The keynote speaker will be Michael Hoberman, professor of English at Fitchburg State University and author of *New Israel/New England: Jews and Puritans in Early New England*, and *How Strange it Seems: The Cultural Life of Jews in Small Town New England*. The break-

out groups are as follows: Developing Your Collection, Using Technology to Document and Share Your Holdings, Discovering Lesser Known Genealogical Resources, Collecting Oral Histories, Social Media and Marketing in the Digital Age, and Jewish Public History in the College Classroom. There is a cost of \$54 which includes breakfast, refreshments, and lunch. Since space is limited, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD by email at soreffs15@aol.com or phone at 603 895-6120 before February 9, 2020 if you would like to attend.

Award-Winning Israeli Journalist to Speak at TAY

By Rabbi Beth Davidson

Manchester — Temple Adath Yeshurun and J Street are thrilled to announce that Ms. Tal Schneider, the Chief Diplomatic and Political Correspondent for Globes, the Israeli financial daily, will be speaking at Temple Adath Yeshurun on Sunday, February 9, at 3 pm. Ms. Schneider's topic: "Cousins at Heart: Continuing Connections Between the two Largest Jewish Communities on Earth: Where do American and Israeli Jews Meet?" will also touch on the New Hampshire Primary, and the unprecedented upcoming 3rd Israeli national election.

Ms. Schneider covers Israel's fierce political arena, including both rounds of the intense 2019 elections. She is a top Israeli analyst in high demand, a frequent media commentator, writer, and speaker who served as Washington correspondent for *Ma'ariv* covering the 2004, 2008, 2016 US election cycles. Tal ran an influential po-



Tal Schneider, Chief Diplomatic and Political Correspondent for Globes

litical blog for which she was awarded the 2012 Google Digital Excellence-in-Journalism Award and the 2015 Ometz Award for Courage in the Public Sphere.

Before embarking on her career in journalism, Tal, an attorney, worked as a media lawyer in Israel's leading media law firm, where she was responsible for censorship cases, gag orders, and libel court litigation. She is a founder and board member of Israel's Journalism Association, a founding member of Israel Women Reporters' Society, and a frequent commentator on Israeli radio and television. She lives in Israel but frequently visits the United States, and will be covering the 2020 campaign trail, including both national conventions and the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries. Ms. Schneider comes to New Hampshire under the auspices of Kolot Management.

The program is free of charge, but please call the TAY office at 603-669-5650 to RSVP so that we know how many folks are planning to attend.

Coming Soon: A Night of Hassidic Melodies & A Unique Multimedia Concert

Manchester—On Sunday, February 9 at 6:30pm, Chabad of Manchester will host a unique multimedia concert, *Songs of the Inspired Soul*.

Combining film with a live musical performance by a string quartet, *Songs of the Inspired Soul* tells the story of the Hassidic melodies taught by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi M.M. Schneerson.

Though he is known more for his written and spoken words, of which there are hundreds of printed volumes, the Rebbe also left a musical legacy of Hassidic melodies. He taught these melodies to his Hassidim on the holiday of Simchat Torah, well after midnight, after many hours of dancing with the Torah.

"It's the memory of this surreal setting that I wanted to capture," says Bentzi Avtzon, who produced this concert. "Set in this context, the special depth of these Hassidic melodies really come alive."

When the Rebbe taught these melodies, he would accompany each of them with a story and message. "This is very much in line with what the Rebbe taught generally,"

says Rabbi Levi Krinsky, Director of Chabad of New Hampshire. "He would always say that a feeling, no matter how lofty and spiritual, is not enough, indeed it doesn't matter at all, if it isn't accompanied by a message that looks to change one's actions for the better."

Six of these melodies will be brought to life in arrangements by Maestro Israel Edelson and a performance by a string quartet led by Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh. Each of the melodies will be introduced by a short narrated film.

An original production by Yuvla Media, a boutique production company that specializes in Hassidic themes, this concert is a powerful experience in which words and melody mix, so that you hear the music in the story and the story in the music.

Indeed, there is an ancient Hassidic saying, "If words are the quill of the mind, then melody is the quill of the soul." On February 9th at Chabad, these two quills will dip in the same well of ink. This event is open to the entire community. Visit ChabadofNH.com/soulmusic for tickets, wine and cheese reception included.

Temple B'nai Israel Announces New Rabbi

By Karen Rines

Rabbi Dan Danson was installed as Temple B'nai Israel's rabbi on December 6. His colleague Rabbi Dena Feingold was a featured speaker at the Shabbat service, and joined in to lead adult education that weekend. The temple community is thrilled to have found such an insightful and intuitive rabbi, and is so grateful for all he and his family bring to us and for his willingness to travel so far to be with us.



Rabbi Dena Feingold spoke at service welcoming Rabbi Dan Danson.



TBI welcomed Rabbi Dan Danson in December.

Zioness Organizer Carly Pildis Speaks at TBA: How to Talk to Candidates About Anti-Semitism and Zionism

Carly Pildis, a grassroots organizer for an organization called Zioness, spoke at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on December 10. With ideas ranging from rehearsing talking points in advance to giving an overly long handshake to a candidate as you talk, Carly inspired those in attendance to make their voices heard during and after the primary season.

This is her posting on the Zioness Facebook page: "Last night, Zioness was honored to lead a training for Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, New Hampshire. Our Director of Grassroots Organizing, Carly Pildis, taught 20 members of the local Jewish community how to effectively engage candidates for President on anti-Semitism and on Zionism using skills she honed in the 2008 and 2016 New Hampshire primaries. Members of the community expressed anger and dismay that activ-



Temple Beth Abraham Program Committee Co-Chair Ellie Schwartz with Tablet Magazine writer and Zioness organizer Carly Pildis after Carly's speech on Israel, anti-Semitism, and the presidential campaign.

ist groups from outside the New Hampshire Jewish community had used it as an opportunity to push an anti-Semitic agenda and felt empowered and excited to tell candidates how they really feel about these issues. Zioness looks forward to seeing what these incredible Jewish activists achieve and will support them every step of the way."

Key Grant Funding to Protect Non-Profits and Houses of Worship Quadrupled in Government Funding Bill

Funding Bill Also Provides \$17.5 Million for Separate Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Program

WASHINGTON – Senator Maggie Hassan's office has announced that key grant funding to protect non-profit institutions, including houses of worship, will be quadrupled as part of the final bipartisan budget agreement to fund the government for the next fiscal year.

During the last fiscal year, FEMA distributed \$10 million to states through the State Homeland Security Grant program to help non-profit institutions strengthen their physical security. In August 2019, Senator Hassan and the New Hampshire delegation announced that seven New Hampshire religious institutions were awarded a total of \$150,000 through the program. Under the funding agreement, this program will be quadrupled, allowing FEMA to distribute a total of \$40 million to states to help non-profits harden their

buildings' physical security.

The funding agreement also provides \$17.5 million for targeted violence and terrorism prevention. This new funding initiative provides \$10 million for grants to local and nonprofit organizations to determine the most effective terrorism prevention activities, for both international and domestic threats. The remaining \$7.5 million is to support the formation of prevention frameworks and to conduct awareness briefings across the country.

"Synagogues, churches, and mosques should be places of comfort, not fear," Senator Hassan said. "But sadly, given domestic and foreign terrorist threats, we need to ensure that community and religious organizations have the resources they need to help protect their members. Increasing funding for this vital non-profit security grant program is important for helping mitigate the impact of an attack, but hardening our buildings alone is not enough. That is why it's so important that

this government funding bill also restarts a program to fund effective community-based terrorism prevention efforts, and I will conduct oversight to help ensure that the Department is effectively carrying out this mission."

Explaining what this increased funding means for the Jewish community of New Hampshire, JFNH Executive Director Melanie Zalman McDonald says, "it is our hope that Jewish entities that did not

apply will do so for this round of funding and that those whose requests did not get funded will have new opportunities to apply."

"JFNH is working closely with Senator Hassan's office as well as with FEMA/NH DES to create opportunities to have the grantmaking process demystified for layleaders and to remove obstacles for Jewish houses of worship looking to benefit from this increase in funding."

Calling Seacoast Book Lovers!

Temple Israel Portsmouth announces the formation of its new book club. They will meet in the Shmoozatorium on the last Tuesday of each month to discuss the monthly selection. On February

18th, the group will discuss *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. If you have any questions, please email Jill White at jillrobert1@gmail.com.

News from Hadassah

By Michele Bank

Manchester — The Manchester Chapter of Hadassah held a ticket drawing with proceeds going to Hadassah's Full Circle Campaign. Over \$600 was raised for renovation of the Round Building at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem. Many thanks to all who participated for this worthy cause. Congratulations to our winners, who will enjoy dining out with their gift cards.

At a chapter meeting, Rachel Spierer and Mary Singer presented a wonderful program on Debbie Friedman's liturgical music. They discussed Friedman's life and the impact of her music in Reform Judaism. The group enjoyed watching video/audio clips and singing with the help of music sheets that were passed out.

The Bridge Ladies by Betsy Lerner was discussed over a potluck dinner at a member's home. Mother/daughter relationships were the main topic of discussion.

A Hadassah Shabbat Service and *oneg* is scheduled for Friday, March 27, at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester. Rabbi Beth Davidson will plan a service that Hadassah members will participate in. This is always a very memorable service that the community is invited to attend.

Save the date: the chapter's annual brunch will be held on Sunday, June 14 at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford. The committee is planning a fun event with entertainment to be announced.

In an emergency, Hadassah physicians

don't waste a moment. Heart attack patients skip the Emergency Room and are taken directly to the Catheterization Laboratory and then, if necessary, to surgery. Treatment can begin within 34 minutes of a patient's arrival in an ambulance. HMO's lifesaving approach and patient-centered vision of hospital care is why patients choose Hadassah's hospitals.

Researchers — and physician researchers — at HMO are changing the future of medicine every day. The Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Institute in Jerusalem, part of HMO's Heart Health Institute in Ein Kerem, is leading the way in documenting and raising awareness about how heart disease and heart attacks present differently in women. It is also reaching out to Haredi and Arab women, who have heightened risk factors for heart disease, such as diabetes and obesity, and limited exposure to health information and a healthy lifestyle.

The Interventional Cardiology team is comprised of some of the most experienced physicians in minimally invasive surgical techniques, such as TAVI, where they replace the aortic valve without open-heart surgery. (TAVI stands for transcatheter aortic valve implantation.) When world-renowned Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff's first stent surgery failed to repair his aortic valve, he consulted with Dr. Haim Danenberg, head of Hadassah's Cardiovascular Research Center.

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

Fighting the Good Fight: ADL's Tips for Responding to Anti-Semitism

In an ideal world, we'd never encounter anti-Semitism — and if we did, we'd react like superheroes, ready to teach the ignorant a lesson at a moment's notice. In the real world, anti-Semitism is increasingly common, and many of us freeze the first time we experience it, too shocked, scared, or confused to respond. While no one can guarantee lightning-fast reflexes, the ADL now offers a toolkit to help people prepare.

Call it what it is. While some symbols and statements are blatant, Americans today may be more likely to hear subtle "dog whistles" or hatred disguised as simple political commentary. Conspiracy theories and stereotypes about Jews running the world are inherently anti-Semitic and dangerous, regardless of the speaker's intent. "Criticism of Israel is not always anti-Semitic, but it crosses the line when it: delegitimizes, or denies the Jewish people's right to self-determination, demonizes Jews, portraying them as evil or blowing Israel's actions out of sensible proportion, or when it holds Israel to a double standard."

Safety is paramount. If you don't feel safe — if, for example, someone shouts something when you're walking down a

dark street — don't engage. Get to a safe location and call 911.

If you feel safe, question. "Do you mean everyone who is [Jewish] or are you speaking of someone in particular?"

Explain the harm. "When you say that, it is really damaging to an entire group of people."

Put it in context. "What you're saying actually feeds into a really old stereotype..."

Report, report, report. Depending on the type of incident, telling the police, an employer, the school principal, the website platform or even the media can insure action is taken. Young people are often reluctant to "tattle," but schools typically allow anonymous reporting and have rules preventing retaliation. (Ask first if that is a concern.) It is helpful to have as much documentation as possible: photos of graffiti, screenshots of offensive texts, notes taken after a confrontation. The ADL tracks incidents and can provide support: adl.org/reportincident.

Be proactive. Talk about anti-Semitism with your family and friends, contact your political representatives to share your concerns, write letters to the newspaper, and get involved with organizations that fight bias.

Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Restoration Wins Historic Site Award

By Hannah Boyd

Manchester — The Manchester Historic Association has announced that it will honor the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery's Restoration and Renovation Committee with a Restoration of a Historic Site Award to celebrate its work in restoring and preserving the 100 year old cemetery at an awards ceremony in May.

Built on land purchased in 1918, the cemetery is jointly owned and maintained by Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Israel Manchester. It is the final resting place of Dr. Ben Bronstein, the first man

from New Hampshire to die during World War II, and Ralph Henry Baer, the "father of video games" and creator of the game Simon.

Over the years, the grounds and the historic chapel, built in 1947 as a memorial to local servicemen killed in World War II, had fallen into disrepair. Under the leadership of Michael Sydney, committee members Rabbi Beth Davidson, Sue Niederman, Michael Litvin, and Larry Eckman raised funds from donors, including JFNH, to "bring it back to a respectful place to conduct burial services."

The chapel was rebuilt with a new roof,

modern sound system, insulation, energy-efficient windows and up-to-date bathrooms; repaired with aesthetic touch-ups; and made handicap accessible. The grounds were landscaped, the paths repaved, the gravestones pressure-washed until every headstone was legible. Modern security including video surveillance, lighting, and alarms were installed along with electrical and internet updates.

"This dedicated group took the initiative to renew a piece of local history that had been in disrepair," said Michael Sydney. "This rebuilt and restored chapel and cemetery will now be a part of Manchester's past, present, and future history."



The restored chapel at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery.

NH4Israel Hosts CAMERA Speaker Dexter Van Zile

By Ken Kowalchek

NH4Israel presents guest speakers, films, and documentaries which address both historical and current issues in or about the state of Israel. Given special attention are topics on the Diaspora, Jew-hatred, Judea and Samaria, and the developing story of Israel from its biblical beginnings.

On December 4th, NH4Israel's guest speaker was Dexter Van Zile, a Christian Media Analyst for CAMERA (The Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis). Dexter's bio states, "his work is focused on anti-Israel propaganda broadcast by Christian churches and para-church institutions and the failure of Christian peace activists to address human rights abuses in Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East. He has played a major role in exposing the errors in the Palestinian Christian narrative. His articles have

appeared in *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *Jewish Political Studies Review*, *The Algemeiner* and *The Jewish News Syndicate* (JNS)."

Dexter discussed issues he is currently engaged with surrounding the title of his presentation, "The Lost Taboo - Achieving Jewish Safety in a Forgotten Age." The lost taboo of openly tolerating public anti-Semitism brought him from membership in the United Church of Christ, his church since birth, to devout Catholicism. One might reasonably ask, "How's that again?" It came about because Dexter noticed anti-Zionism, the new anti-Semitism, in the leadership of the Church of Christ. He protested, researched other faiths, and found himself embracing the "Church of Christ of two millennia" — the Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic hierarchy took a firm stance in the 1960's, admitting its errors in past treatment of Jews and condemning anti-Semitism in its monumental publication of and general adherence to *Nostre Aetate* (Latin for "In Our Time.") Dexter conveyed that "this statement said that Catholics were no longer going to hold Jews collectively and eternally responsible for the death of Christ in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. It also declared that anti-Semitism was a bad thing. A very bad thing."

Dexter points out that in our current day public discourse, even at high levels of the body politic, many are starting to accept anti-Semitic statements or avoid the former taboo with studied phraseology. For example, the Jersey City attack occurred after Dexter's talk. According to a recent MSN article, Terrell Page, a Jersey City official, still employed as of this entry on New Year's Day, essentially posited that the Jewish victims shot in December's

kosher supermarket shooting were actually the perpetrators and that the shooters were in fact the victims. To whit: Terrell Paige wrote that the Jewish community threatened, intimidated and harassed black homeowners into selling their homes and asks of the suspects, "what is the message they were sending? Are we brave enough to explore the answer to their message? Are we brave enough to stop the assault on the black communities of America?" The complete MSN piece can be read online at <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/officials-call-on-jersey-city-school-board-member-to-resign-amid-anti-semitic-remarks/ar-BBY7f7u>

She is likely never to resign. Check with an Internet query after reading this. The resurgence of open anti-Semitic discourse in polite circles should be worrisome to Jews today, a time still within living memory of the Holocaust.

Dexter noted that in the past, the major newspapers and the three TV networks ensured the taboo stayed in place. With the rise of the internet, cable TV, and independent radio networks, anti-Semitism was able to lift its head — and indeed it has. Dexter acknowledged that well-known Catholic podcasters such as Patrick Coffin have not heeded *Nostre Aetate* and the taboo, and tout trips to the passion play in Oberromagau, for example. Rick Wiles, pastor of the non-denominational Flowing Streams Church in Vero Beach, Florida, not only has a pulpit, but also heads an internet news outlet, TruNews. TruNews seems to be treated as a legitimate news organization in spite of a lengthy trail of astonishingly egregious anti-Semitic bias. The below list of offenses is available in greater detail through the Anti-Defamation League: <https://www.adl.org/resources/>

backgrounders/trunews-and-rick-wiles-end-times-anti-semitism-and-anti-zionism According to TruNews:

- Jews are part of the "synagogue of Satan."
- "Israel took out John Kennedy."
- Israelis and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner are attempting to "completely exterminate the Palestinian people."
- Zionists are attempting to take "over the world in the Last Days and [persecute] the body of Christ and makes war against the saints.... And it's not Muslims that are going to kill us. It's the Jews."
- Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, is a "Kabbalah-practicing evil woman whispering evil things in the ear of her father."

What are you to do about these and the other anti-Semitic comments you see or hear ever more frequently? Do something! Let CAMERA or other organizations fighting anti-Israel bias and anti-Semitism know about it. Write letters to elected officials and editors. Bring your awareness of the situation to others. Be the activist thwarting anti-Semitic activists, notwithstanding a mutual "*credo in unum Deo*."

With the exception of holiday conflicts and summer break, NH4Israel will host talks at Manchester's Temple Israel (TIM) at 6:30PM on the first Wednesday of each month. If other venues and days are scheduled, these will be publicized (generally emailed) in advance, as well as posted on the calendar of events at the NH4Israel site. Find out more about NH4Israel and sign up for email updates on hosted events (ALL NH4Israel events have complimentary kosher refreshments/finger food) at NH4Israel.Org.

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Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Prepares for Centennial Celebration

By Eileen Regen

BHC's plans are underway for a grand centennial celebration August 6 - 9 in Bethlehem, New Hampshire. Program Chair Martin Kessel has assembled a powerhouse team to set all the details in place for this exciting celebration.

Weekend events begin with the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival film and reception Thursday evening at the Colonial Theatre.

Sounds in the Sanctuary on Friday showcases pianist and psychiatrist Richard Kogan with his program "The Mind and the Music of Frederic Chopin." The concert is followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service and festive Shabbat dinner.

During Shabbat morning services on Saturday, a new Torah ark curtain and reading table cover will be dedicated. Following a Kiddush luncheon, President Dave Goldstone presents his program, "BHC Nostalgia." In the late afternoon, members of the Bethlehem Heritage Society will lead a tour of Bethlehem, recalling collective memories of BHC



and BHC's role in the town's growth. Saturday evening will bring celebrants together for a gala musical event at the Colonial Theatre, and Sunday morning at the synagogue everyone will savor a traditional bagel and lox breakfast.

For BHC's 90th anniversary book, *Jewish Light of the White Mountains*, longtime members and brothers Fred and Les Apple wrote some of their favorite memories of Bethlehem: "Our parents, Ann Felsenstein and Ira Apple, met in 1947 on the tennis court of the Bethlehem Country Club. They married in 1948 and began the yearly trek and growth of the Apple family, where, as we entered the rites and passages of life, all roads flowed through Bethlehem. Our grandparents had one of the many cottages on Jefferson Street. Earliest memories are walking with Grandfather



Max Sherman, Bethlehem's kosher butcher.

(Poppy) to *shul* every Friday night and Shabbat morning. It was always a packed house at BHC. In the 1950s and 1960s, BHC was a social center for 'high society,'

Grandfather was friends with Joseph Nizer, and we remember meeting his son, the famous trial lawyer, Louis Nizer. We all moved into the four-room Jefferson Street Cottage with our grandparents every summer."

In the same publication, Stuart Teger recalled his grandfather, Max Sherman, a kosher butcher in Bethlehem, and shared photos of the Sunlight Cottage which he and his wife Sadie owned and operated as a rooming house from the 1930s into the 1950s. "My grandparents were regulars at the *shul* from their arrival until the mid '60s when illness incapacitated them. ... The Shermans were prominent in Bethlehem and the *shul*. My Uncle Ben, Max's oldest son, and his wife Ruth owned and operated the Sherman Apartments from around 1960 until the late 1980s. ... Ben's youngest brother, Uncle Sam Sherman, owned and operated the Rexall Drugstore in Bethlehem for a few years."

Stories from Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's rich history will continue to appear in upcoming issues of the Reporter as BHC members prepare for the August centennial celebration.

Keeping the Dream Alive: JFNH Executive Director Speaks at Dinner Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Manchester — Melanie Zalman McDonald, JFNH's Executive Director, was a featured speaker at the National Cultural Diversity Council's 18th annual dinner honoring Martin Luther King Jr on January 20. The theme of the event, held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Manchester, was "Celebrating Jewish Heritage and Culture" and speeches focused on relations between Israel and the United States and anti-Semitism in New Hampshire. Other speakers included Ambassador Zeev Boker, Counsel General of Israel to New England, Robert Trestan, Executive Director of the Anti-Defamation League to New England, Gordon MacDonald, New Hampshire Attorney General, and Senator Maggie Hassan. The Master of Ceremonies was Robert Leikind, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee.

"New Hampshire's Jewish community has contributed much to make New Hampshire a great place to live, work and to raise a family, regardless of one's race, religion, or ethnicity," said Wayne Jennings, Founder and Chairman of the

National Cultural Diversity Awareness Council. "Israel has long been, and remains, America's most reliable partner in the Middle East. Israel remains an ally that the United States of America can count on."

"We commend the leadership of the National Cultural Diversity Awareness Council for their efforts in organizing this event celebrating the culture of the Jewish community and for being an ally in the fight against anti-Semitism," expressed Melanie Zalman McDonald, Director of JFNH. "It was an honor to share the podium on such a momentous and important day honoring Martin Luther King Jr. whose courage and convictions are a beacon of hope to us all."

The National Cultural Diversity Council, or NCDAC, is a non-profit organization that "promotes an appreciation, understanding and acceptance of the people who comprise the various racial and ethnic groups of the state of New Hampshire." It promotes diversity in education, the workplace, foreign trade and business, and aims to maintain strong ties with American allies

through cultural exchanges and events. The annual "Keeping the Dream Alive" Martin Luther King Day dinner and "Keeping the Dream Alive" diversity youth workshops are signature programs. To learn more, visit ncdac.org.

Past dinners have focused on "America,

A Nation of Immigrants," with an emphasis on Greek Americans, "Like a good neighbor, Canada has always been there," "A Salute to the brave men and women who protect our nation and its citizens," and "Healing America's Ethnic and Racial Divide."



From left to right: Anti-Defamation League's New England Regional Director Robert Trestan; JFNH Board Chair Sarit Itenberg; JFNH Board member Dina Michael Chaitowitz; NCDAC Chair Wayne D. Jennings; JFNH Executive Director Melanie Zalman McDonald; and Consul General of Israel to New England Ambassador Zeev Boker

'The State of Hate in New Hampshire'

By Shawne K. Wickham

[This article was previously published in the *New Hampshire Union Leader* and is reprinted here with their permission.]

"All hate crimes are hoaxes," read the flyer distributed by a white supremacist group at Keene State College last March.

A few months later, a Holocaust denial leaflet was discovered in the restroom of a Lebanon restaurant.

A swastika and Jewish star were chalked on the street outside a Portsmouth eatery last September.

Recent attacks at a kosher supermarket in New Jersey and at a rabbi's home in New York have prompted synagogues and Jewish community organizations around the country to boost security. And while New Hampshire has been spared the level of violence seen in other places, watchdog groups said the state is not immune from hate speech and incidents.

Tonight, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is hosting a presentation, "The State of Hate in New Hampshire," at its Bedford facility. The event, which has drawn a capacity crowd, had been planned for months, but organizers say recent violence has made the topic more timely than ever.

"Our role as a federation is to be a convener and to help to create opportunities for meaningful dialogue and for people to become educated and informed," said Melanie Zalman-McDonald, executive director of the Jewish Federation of N.H. "I hope that people will walk away with a better picture of who the perpetrators of hate are and what they look like, and what their ideology is," she said.

Over the past two years, 20 anti-Semitic incidents in New Hampshire have been reported to the Anti-Defamation League. The organization also has compiled 29 incidents of white supremacist propaganda, including flyers distributed on numerous college campuses across the state and at a rally for President Donald Trump in



People gather at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn on Dec. 31 in solidarity with the victims after an assailant stabbed five people who were celebrating Hanukkah at a Hasidic rabbi's home on Dec. 28 in Monsey, N.Y. REUTERS/AMR ALFIKY. Courtesy NH Union Leader.



A Jewish man walks near the area where five people were stabbed Dec. 28 at a Hasidic rabbi's home in Monsey, N.Y. Reuters/Eduardo Munoz. Courtesy NH Union Leader.

Manchester last August.

Zalman-McDonald said she hopes presentations such as Sunday's event will empower people to return to their own congregations with ideas about "hardening" their facilities against possible attacks. "The best way to save lives is to create obstacles to anyone wishing to do you harm in the first place," she said.

Her organization works closely with the New Hampshire Council of Churches and other faith groups, Zalman-McDonald said, and many people have reached out to support Jewish organizations here after the recent anti-Semitic attacks. "When things like this happen, regardless of to what community the negativity and hate is directed, when we're standing up, we're not standing alone," she said.

"We're standing side by side with our neighbors and allies. A threat to one of us is a threat to all of us."

The federation plans other presentations with the ADL on the topic, including a community training session about hate crimes on Feb. 9.

Peggy Shukur, New England senior associate regional director of the ADL, is the guest speaker at Sunday's event in Bedford. In a phone interview, Shukur said she plans to talk about the



A swastika, Star of David and pentagram were discovered in September near the entrance of the Vaughan Mall in Portsmouth. Courtesy of Portsmouth Police Department/NH Union Leader.

distinctions between hate crimes, acts of bias and incidents of hate — and how best to respond to such incidents.

The ADL defines a hate crime, Shukur said, as "a criminal act that's against property or a person or a group ... where the victim is intentionally targeted because of their actual or perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, gender, gender identity or ethnicity."

Anti-Semitism, Shukur said, is sometimes called "the oldest ism." Her organization has been tracking an increase in anti-Semitic incidents, she said.

What's new is that this kind of hate is becoming "normalized," Shukur said. "People are acting out in ways that they hadn't been before," she said. "And that's something that's extremely scary to the community and very troubling to all of us as a society."

On the other hand, she said, "We're getting some great support from allies as well."

One of the most common types of incidents reported in New Hampshire is

"postering," in which individuals distribute flyers with hateful messages, Shukur said. "We also get a lot of incidents of exchanges between people that have an anti-Semitic tone to them or a hateful tone," she said.

In March 2018, a white supremacist group distributed flyers outside a Hooksett sporting goods store asking, "Why are Jews after our guns?" It included the names of five Jewish members of Congress, labeled as "European style socialists."

So what can good people do in response? Shukur offers three suggestions: get educated about the facts; be an ally when another group is targeted; and speak up when hateful acts or incidents occur.

"We want to stand up for ourselves and for others who are marginalized," she said. "And we'll continue to do that, and others are doing that for us right now, and that certainly gives me hope."

Zalman-McDonald said incidents of anti-Semitic violence can be overwhelming for someone who is Jewish. "It's difficult for me to go about my life and have a happy new year and go to the supermarket and do all the things I would be doing, knowing that a couple hundred miles away, people are feeling directly threatened even just to leave their house or worship or go to school," she said.

The best response to hate, she said, is "to be there for each other."

"We all have things that are personal in our lives that make us feel vulnerable, that are part of our identity," Zalman-McDonald said.

"The only thing that can fight hate is love," she said. "Love, and knowledge, and togetherness."

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Reggae Artist Matisyahu on Life, Religion and ‘Catastrophic Epiphanies’

By Julia Ann Weekes, Arts and Entertainment Editor of NHWeekend

[This article was previously published in the NH Union Leader and is reprinted here with their permission.]

Matisyahu, an eclectic reggae singer and rapper who early in his career performed in full Hasidic garb, wishes he'd gotten this advice as an emerging artist: “Don't read comments. Don't do it,” he told NHWeekend in an extensive interview. “If you're a sensitive kind of person or artist, you have no business reading what people think about what you do. It's only going to be a bad experience.”

“I think that what happens naturally is that people project — they project their own stuff onto the artists and musicians they love,” says Matisyahu, who plays Tupelo Music Hall in Derry Saturday night. [Note from the Reporter: the concert was December 28.] “If you're not aware of that, it can eat you up, and you become very bitter at the world for no reason.”

The Grammy-nominated Matisyahu, though, is in a more peaceful place these days, living back on the East Coast near his old neighborhood in White Plains, N.Y. His musical and spiritual exploration led to a certified gold album, and he's especially known for the songs “One” (used in NBC ads for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver) and “King Without a Crown.”

But in some ways, his outlook has shifted from a thundering storm into something that on his latest album, “Undercurrent,” meanders from a reflective river (“Back to the Old”) to a gritty stream bed in the guitar-laden “Head Right.”

As he raps in the track “Driftin,” “All this talk about my hair. Who cares?”

It's a nod to the day Matisyahu (born Matthew Paul Miller) posted a picture of himself clean shaven and with his long hair shorn in 2011. The backlash from some fans in the Jewish community was swift. But Matisyahu's own search for spiritual connection and expression was evolving.

Today he's no longer interested in “dysfunction” and “catastrophic epiphanies,” as he proclaims in the contemplative song “Back to the Old,” a music video in which he drives his Chevy through old neighborhoods and speaks of “giving up and giving in” to life in front of him.

“Undercurrent” was released in 2017, when Matisyahu was moving back East



Matisyahu, seen above in a still image from a scene in his video for “King Without a Crown” early in his career, no longer performs in the black suit, broad-brimmed hat and yarmulke reflective of Hasidic Judaism. All photos courtesy of NH Union Leader.

from Los Angeles.

“It's an album following my divorce (from his first wife — he has since remarried) and following my kind of move out of the religious world and, in a way, back to the old,” Matisyahu says. “The theme of the record is feeling those undercurrents that lay beneath as we go through life and we change — through our trials and our ups and downs. It's this sort of recurring theme of going back to myself or going back to the original version of myself, after all of the knowledge, all of the lessons and all those things.”

The album was a reaction in part to what he'd experienced while making his previous album, 2014's “Akeda,” with its dramatic Biblical references, including the story of Abraham bringing his son Isaac to the top of the mountain for sacrifice, according to God's dictate and test of allegiance. (A ram is substituted for Isaac at the last moment.)

“It's growing but also returning to a sort of essential character of who you are and where you come from,” Matisyahu says. “That line about “no more catastrophic epiphanies” or “epic stories of my history” is about getting to the climatic point potentially of our life. It's about climbing the mountain and getting to the top of the mountain. That period of my life was really more about epic moments, these grandiose moments, ‘catastrophic’ moments, or moments of breaking free, of life and death and love and madness.”

There have been both rewards and risks on that journey. Today, Matisyahu says he has a “more mature relationship with his own spirituality.” He shies away from publicly defining his belief system. What has remained a constant is using music to try and describe his place in the world.

He was a young kid when his cousins, who came to visit from Barbados in the summers, first introduced him to reggae music. It was the early days of dancehall reggae with artists such as Tony Rebel and Super Cat. Next he discovered the groundbreaking Bob Marley.

“I worked at a summer camp and there was a man there from Jamaica who was teaching the kids about drumming, and I got interested in Rastafarian culture,” he says.

What followed was an immersion into both roots reggae and dancehall reggae, with Matisyahu following musicians ranging from Israel Vibration, Burning Sphere and Roots Radicks to dub artists Scientist, King Tubby and Bill Laswell, and then onto Sizzla and Buju Banton.

“It was perfect to where I was in that time of my life,” he says. “I was interested in spirituality, I was interested in my identity, I was interested in the connection between Judaism and Rastafarianism, I was into rap music, I was into reggae music, and that music was like the perfect blend of all those things. I became super inspired, and that's basically what I listened to all the time.”

His early performances, a blend of reggae, hip-hop and soul, were striking both for his raw, cathartic lyrics and the sight of a rapid-fire beat-boxer in conservative Hasidic attire — dark overclothes, a black yarmulke on his head, and a full beard with unshorn sideburns and curls at the sides of his face.

He's distanced himself from that aspect, but it's a more complicated question when it comes to where he stands on religion. “I would say I have and I haven't — I've moved away from it in the sense that it's not the pressing (drive) of my 20s anymore,” Matisyahu says. “I think that when you're young and



Reggae artist Matisyahu earned a Grammy Award nomination for his 2006 album “Youth.”



Known for his engaging live performances, Matisyahu broke into the public consciousness with the 2005 album, “Live at Stubb's.” His latest album is 2017's “Undercurrent.”

on a spiritual journey ... I was extremely .. you know, my whole life had to be just completely filled with it. And I think as I've gotten older, it's become more of a relaxed attitude toward it, in the sense that I sort of know it's at the core of who I am; it's not something I need to exercise all the time or run after or chase or fear that I'll lose if I'm not in the moment.”

Matisyahu broke through to the public consciousness in 2005, and a year later his album “Youth” was certified gold. Since then he's followed a winding road dotted with both fault lines and firm ground, and it hasn't always been easy to keep from getting lost. But he's found that it's as important to listen to other people's stories as share his own.

“You have to be bold and courageous and keep yourself open, because some of the greatest moments I've had in the past decade have been of fans coming to me and telling me about incredible experiences that they've had,” Matisyahu says.

Reggae Artist continued on page 27

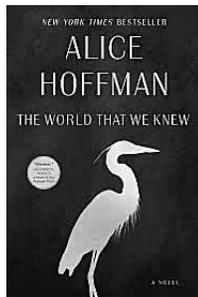
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The World That We Knew

Alice Hoffman has once again created a fascinating novel. I loved many of her previous novels, including *The Dovekeepers*, *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* and *The Marriage of Opposites*. Her newest novel, called *The World That We Knew*, is a historical novel that mixes reality and magical mysticism to build a story of love, loss and bravery during a time of hate and fear.

Though Hoffman has included Judaism in some of her other books, this time she has written directly about the Holocaust. She brings the reader into the room with a mother who wants to save her young daughter from the atrocities of war that she knows are coming. Lea Kohn has narrowly es-



caped being raped and her mother Hanni realizes that Berlin has become too dangerous to survive. Hanni does not want to leave her own mother behind, so she contrives to send twelve-year-old Lea away.

To protect Lea, Hanni asks the rabbi to create a Golem to accompany Lea as she travels to Paris and, ideally, freedom. The Rabbi's daughter is convinced to create this mystical creature and also wants to send her younger sister Marta along to escape. The Golem, Ava, is created from mud on the banks of the river Spree. She is brought to life with the recitation of the secret name of G-d. She is supposed to have no feelings of her own, just the desire of Lea's mother to continue to love Lea like a

mother would and protect her. Ava is tall, strong and confident. She learns languages — including birdsong — in minutes and can kill on Lea's behalf.

As they travel together, many things change. Their relationship develops. The reader comes to believe in Ava and the way her feelings for life and the world become more human as time goes on.

Ava represents all the parents who risked their lives and took extreme measures to save their children and protect them during the Holocaust. Hoffman uses this fairy tale like soulless, supernatural protector out of Jewish folklore to call attention to the harsh realities of World War II.

In an interview with *Moment Magazine*, Alice Hoffman answered a question about putting magic in a novel about the Holo-

caust by saying, "But also, fairy tales and myths are a way to explain what is completely illogical and makes no sense. And the Holocaust really doesn't make sense. You can't explain why people did what they did. You can't explain why some people lived and some people died." This book is a way to try and make sense of a period of our history that is indescribable.

Alice Hoffman is the author of more than thirty works of fiction, including The World That We Knew, The Rules of Magic, The Marriage of Opposites, Practical Magic, The Red Garden, the Oprah's Book Club selection Here on Earth, The Museum of Extraordinary Things, and The Dovekeepers. Her most recent novel is The World That We Knew. She lives near Boston.

Opinion

The Ninth Night: A Time for Ahavat Yisrael

By Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett

After watching the lights of Chanukah increase night after night, I find the ninth night to be special in its own way. It's the night when I try to see nine candles in my mind's eye. To ask myself: What inspiration did I find with the help of the candles, which I can continue to find even more of?

See, Chanukah isn't only about eight days of oil. The miracle of eight days was the bridge we needed, across to the place where oil is plentiful. Chanukah is the path to the ninth day.

Whatever the lights of Chanukah have sparked in you — wherever the trail of candles has been leading you — keep going further.

This year Chanukah in our country was marred by physical assaults on Jews, even on Jews who were gathered to celebrate Chanukah itself. We pray for healing. We ask once again how to respond, how to prevent.

One foundation for anything we do to respond to hate of Jews has to be: love of Jews.

Chanukah itself is one of the biggest unifiers of Jews. It's the one thing that all Jews do essentially the same way. There

isn't an Orthodox or a Reconstructionist way to light a menorah. Jews who are religious and even anti-religious, in America or Israel or any land, we're all doing the same thing.

So if there's ever a time to focus on the obligation to love all Jews, it would be now. In Hebrew the love of the Jewish people and every individual Jew is called *Ahavat Yisrael* ("Yisrael/Israel" being the original Hebrew word for the Jewish people, not just the land).

We cannot muster ourselves against anti-Semitism if we don't cultivate our care and pride for each other. Throughout centuries of unrelenting persecution, it was never a common enemy that glued us together, but our bond to each other. Our work against anti-Semites will be hollow and ineffective if it is not rooted in connection to all the people we claim to want to protect.

So on this last day of Chanukah and right after, here are three ways you can practice *Ahavat Yisrael*:

1. Love yourself as a member of the Jewish people. Whether you are Jewish or have linked your life to a Jewish family or our Jewish community, be proud

- of something you do or some ideal you hold because you are part of our people. Too often, we judge ourselves as Jews for what we are not doing. Find that point of pride not only about other Jews, but about yourself.
2. Love our Jewish community. Be proud of something we do. Be ready to tell people about that when they ask you what it is to be Jewish. Look for opportunities to take care of each other in the coming weeks, at times of joy and sadness.
3. This is the most challenging: Love the Jews who are most different from you. Think about who that Jew is for you, and love that person. Love the Jew who is "ultra-Orthodox" or atheistic. Love the Jew whose Jewish hero is a civil rights activist, or a Talmud scholar, or a Broadway playwright. Love the Jew who lives on the West Bank and the Jew who is all about

Palestinian rights. Love the Jew who supports President Trump and the Jew who reviles him. Love us all. There are times to argue with and judge other Jews — but this is a time to remember to love them as well.

Thinking thoughts of *Ahavat Yisrael* is hardly the whole of an effective response to anti-Semitism. It is an absolutely necessary first step, and one that I often forget to take time for.

Tonight, the candles you see only in your mind could represent all the different Jews, and the *shamash* who stands up next to all of them and gives them light can be you.

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett is the rabbi at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. A version of the above was sent as a letter to members of the congregation and posted on Facebook on the last day of Chanukah, after the attack in Monsey.

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.

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

Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates Adult *B'nai Mitzvah*

By Laurie Medrek

At a time in their lives when they found themselves reflecting on their place in Judaism, a group of adults finally embarked on a journey to celebrate becoming *B'nai Mitzvah*. When Rabbi Peter Levy offered a class for adults who wished to accomplish this rite of passage, these individuals signed on to explore the possibility of performing the mitzvah that most Jews achieve at age 13. Rabbi Levy noted, "Most in the class were women who did not have the option of celebrating becoming a Bat Mitzvah at age 13." He felt it his own mitzvah to offer the class and was delighted when so many responded. The total of 11 participants included a couple of the Episcopalian faith who just wanted to learn Hebrew and understand more about Judaism.

As most had not yet even learned to read Hebrew, they (and Rabbi Levy) had their hands full. Over a period of 15 months, the class not only learned to read Hebrew, but expanded into liturgy and prayer and immersed themselves in parsing and dissecting their Torah portion.

Connie and Ray Morton-Ewbank are devoted congregants of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, with whom Etz Hayim has had a long and unique relationship of interfaith learning. Connie had been attempting to learn Hebrew on her own and had gotten to the vowels and wondered, "How will I ever get this?" She jumped at the opportunity to join the class. As the rest of the group continued to prepare to become *B'nai Mitzvah*, Connie and Ray opted to stay on. "We got to learn about the beautiful, meaningful Hebrew and English prayers and be a part of planning a special service with our newfound friends."

The opportunity to celebrate becoming *B'nai Mitzvah* had deep significance



Ray Morton-Ewbank, Connie Morton-Ewbank, Midge Goldberg, Stephanie Kuligowski, Martha Tomanelli, Adam Barvenik, Rabbi Peter Levy, Beverly Barvenik, Nancy Rotkowitz, Jody Terry, Marcy McWilliam, and Leslie Kirshman celebrated adult *b'nai mitzvah* at Etz Hayim.

for class members, who have had a wide variety of Jewish experiences. Nancy Rotkowitz was born a Jew but was baptized and raised Christian after her parents divorced. "This is full circle for me — coming home to Judaism." Martha Tomanelli, whose mother was Jewish and with whom she had a very close relationship, remembers, "My mother always brought me to her parents' home to visit every week." Martha was surrounded by Jewish influence throughout her life but never celebrated becoming a Bat Mitzvah and decided she "wanted to be as close to my true identity as I could be. I am so happy I found my home at Etz Hayim."

Jody Terry was brought up knowing she was Jewish, but was non-practicing and raised her own children without religion. "When my children went to college,

they became interested in Judaism." One daughter has gone to Israel on a Birthright trip and celebrated becoming a Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem and her other daughter is now planning the same. Jody started her journey to join them in the tradition that she wishes she had done in her early years. "Who says we can't learn from our children?"

Stephanie Kuligowski, who converted to Judaism several years ago, says, "This class is the best gift I have ever been given." Our youngest participant, Adam Barvenik (32), had celebrated becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Masada in Israel through a Birthright trip years ago, but wanted to further his connection by learning Hebrew. Adam was joined by his mother Beverly Barvenik, who enjoys learning and studying and thought "this would be nice to do together."

Midge Goldberg, who already knew Hebrew and had even lived in Israel for a time, initially questioned herself. "Why are you here?" As she listened to her classmates and their diverse reasons for attending, she realized she was there to be together and to learn from others experiencing this important aspect of Jewish life.

The students learned to read and parse the Torah portion *Miketz* from the Book of Genesis. The Torah portion is for Shabbat Chanukah, and with Chanukah being the Festival of Rededication, Rabbi Levy thought it seemed like an appropriate date. The portion begins with Pharaoh's prophetic dreams, Joseph's interpretations, and his subsequent rise to power over Egypt. When a famine strikes the land of Canaan, his brothers come to Egypt seeking grain, but they do not recognize Joseph, who devises a scheme to test their character.

Each student created a *D'var Torah* offering their unique perspective as Jewish adults. Marcy McWilliam associates her Jewish identity with the parshah. "I joined the class because I never truly felt comfortable in my Jewish skin. I wanted the ability to sit in a temple and know and understand both Hebrew and Jewish spirituality. My *D'var Torah* speaks to this. The unhealthy corn ate the thriving corn but did not change immediately. The same held true with the emancipated cows. Similarly, Joseph was clothed in riches and given a title and wealth, but he initially allowed his ego to rule when he dealt with his brothers." The parshah resonates with Marcy when reflecting on her Jewish transformation. "Simply attending temple was not enough."

The special celebration was held on Saturday, December 28, 2019, when this exceptional group of adults rededicated themselves to Judaism, enveloped by the love of 140 friends and family members.

Reggae Artist *continued from page 25*

"A few days ago I met a fan in the parking lot who could have been just totally crazy, and we brought him on the bus. He ended up hanging out with us for the whole entire night, 'cuz he was so special and had had such a unique experience at the show," Matisyahu says. "He wanted to tell us all about how he had tattooed the word 'shush' onto his finger — because at one of the shows that I played he had had a life-changing experience. (At one point in the show) I

went, 'shush,' and sang a lyric from a song. You have to try to be open to hearing some of the great stories that fans (have to tell)."

Matisyahu continues to give preeminent jam band Phish credit for inspiring his own prototype for live performance. "My early experiences listening to Phish as a teenager absolutely (laid the groundwork for) what a musical experience should and could be," he says. "Nothing came close to those Phish shows, where the crowd is completely immersed in the music and lights and feeling that we're right there on the edge

of the world with that band as they are venturing forward. To me, far and away, that's been the most uplifting experience. I've tried to create that in my shows."

In a world of digitized, carefully programmed concerts, Matisyahu thrives on improvisation and the chance to constantly shape and reshape his live show from night to night. It's a "conversation" that's never the same.

"I'm rarely trying to repeat something that I know works. It's just not interesting for me," he says. "When the band hones in and starts talking to each other, and

the crowd is right there with us, allowing us to go into the space ... something new happens — new melodies, new rhythms. Then I start taking lyrics from different songs and mixing them together. It's just a fully organic experience."

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Gemilut Hasadim at TAY: Once More, Again with Feeling

By Dr. Sol Rockenmacher

The Jewish Almanac notes: “In Jewish tradition, *gemilut hasadim* are a category of *mitzvot* (good deeds) that obligate the individual to act in certain ways on certain occasions as a mark of basic human decency and respect towards others, living or dead, rich or poor, using one’s time, effort, and money whenever necessary.” They are deeds of lovingkindness involving “a degree of gentleness, extreme care, affection, tenderness — a summoning of all the human resources of sympathy for the benefit of others.”

The Temple Adath Yeshurun Christmas Mitzvah Program, organized by the TAY Brotherhood, has been in existence now for well over thirty-five years. It is a fine example of how members of our Manchester Jewish community have been giving back to their non-Jewish community, with enthusiasm, feeling and caring.

This year, once again, more than 100 adults and children participated on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Some staffed the information desks at Catholic Medical Center and the Elliot Hospital as friendly greeters to visitors. Others brought luncheon platters to the Police



Mark, Stephanie, and Brooke Flanders take over the Eliot Hospitality Desk shift from Karen and Steve Rothstein on Christmas Eve.



The Gallant Family off to deliver Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day.

and Fire Stations in Manchester and Bedford or delivered Meals on Wheels in Manchester. Some served and prepared food at New Horizons Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, providing hospitality to those less fortunate. Another group helped with the evening Bingo game at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester on Christmas night.

The volunteers came from not only TAY, but also from Temple Israel and Etz Hayim. Some were not yet affiliated with

a congregation. We again worked side-by-side with Christian colleagues, providing another pathway toward improved interfaith relations. “Think globally, act locally,” can be one starting point directive in the process of *tikkun olam* (healing the world).

Thank you to all who participated, some of whom have been on board for many, many years. Judging from the very warm messages of gratitude we have received, this program is very much appreciated by our Christian friends.



Team Hill-Groh is ready to deliver luncheon platters to Manchester Fire Departments on Christmas Day.

Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month: Making Jewish Life Accessible to All

In 2009, Shelly Christensen and the Jewish Special Education Consortium designated February Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM) with the goal of increasing access and inclusion for Jews with disabilities. It is now a worldwide movement supported by numerous synagogues and Jewish organizations around the world, including PJ Library and the Jewish Federations of North America. We salute the founders and all those who continue to learn, grow, and advocate for Jewish spaces that are open and accessible to the entire community.

Temple B’Nai Israel Plays Dreidel for a Cause: Finding Families for Kids

By Karen Rines

Temple B’nai Israel members Marsha and Karen Ostroff-Rines hosted their annual Chanukah party, which was attended by a fun mix of TBI folks and other friends and family. Every year we play dreidel and vote on a charity to receive all the funds raised by the games. This year the group decided to send our tzedakah to Second Nurture, an organization in which our friend, and former student Rabbi, Susan Silverman is very involved. Second Nurture partners with synagogues to help families adopt children into a community, which helps provide support for the children and also for the whole families.

Right now a generous benefactor is matching all donations three to one! So, while our party raised \$97, and the donation we sent was \$200... with the matching gift our donation was \$800!

Susan sent the following in response: “Hi TBI Friends, I wanted to thank you



Guests lit menorahs before playing dreidel.



so much for choosing to support Second Nurture! As you know, we partner with synagogues to help them promote and support foster care and adoption among their membership. We have more and more kids joining families, more and more families deciding to foster, and more and

more synagogue members stepping up to support these newly formed families.

And we can only do it because of those who support us! Thank you so very much!”

You can learn more at <https://communityadoption.org/>. Donations may be made payable to JustAdopt Inc., and mailed to JustAdopt Inc., c/o Fran Wasserman, 30 Wilton Crest, Wilton, CT 06897.

Local Grandmother Sends Holiday Cheer and Gratitude to Military

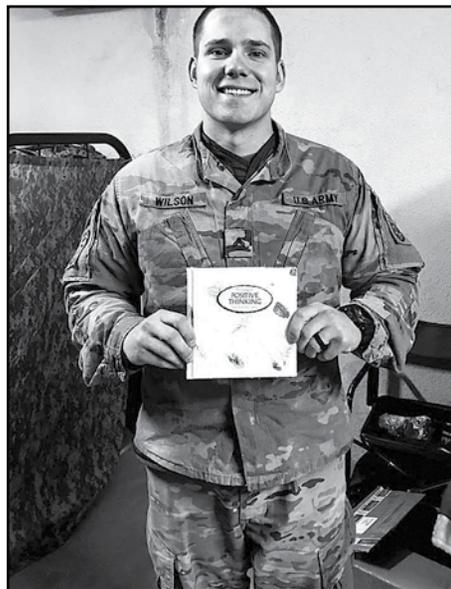
By Hannah Boyd

If you saw Hollis resident Laura Landerman-Garber on ABC News, CNN, or CBS This Morning talking about the Holiday Cards for our Military non-profit she founded, you might assume she celebrates Christmas. In fact, the grandmother of four is a member of the local Jewish community and says the project was inspired in part by Anne Frank's famous statement, "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."

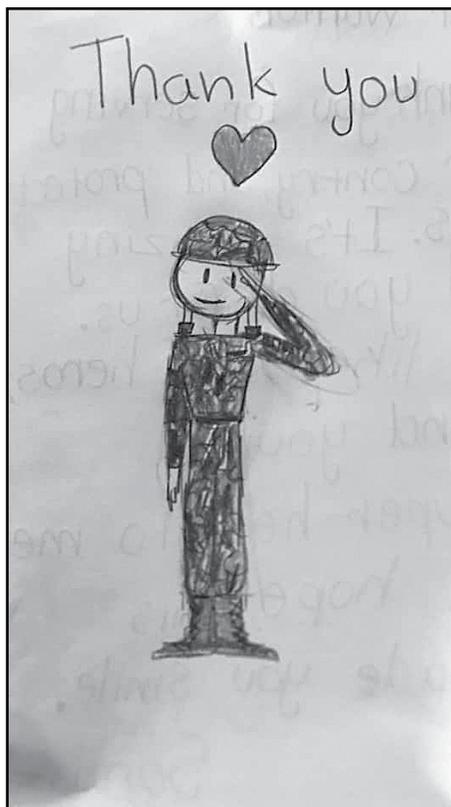
"That, combined with my parents' ongoing belief in using your voice and doing good, especially reaching back to what happened in the '40's, is what inspired me," says Landerman-Garber, a psychologist.

It all began at Thanksgiving 16 years ago, when she challenged her two children and husband Ben to sign a few cards for deployed troops before sitting down for dinner. The next year, they signed a few more. Word spread, and soon schools and community groups across the country were participating. It became a rite of passage for local politicians and candidates passing through New Hampshire to sign cards. Local stores and offices began putting baskets of blank cards and pens at checkout counters every November, and corporate sponsors like Walmart and Eversource offered grants to defray the cost of postage.

Holiday Cards For Our Military is now a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and shipped approximately 175,000 signed cards to every branch of the military, including veterans' homes, this year. Landerman-Garber brought so many cartons to the Hollis post office that they began opening early for her, and members of the Hollis Fire Department stepped in to help her carry them. Boxes of signed cards arrive at Landerman-Garber's house year 'round, waiting to be counted, packaged, and mailed to the troops in December.



A member of the 3rd BCT of 82nd Airborne Division with a card received during deployment.



A simple and homemade "thank you" from a child in Maumelle, Arkansas.



Laura Landerman-Garber and former Gunner Sergeant Harris Greenstone talked to TBA Hebrew School students about the military before signing cards for the troops. (Not pictured but also present: veteran Alan Green, MD.)

"It's important to me that the Jewish community be part of this. I try to keep it 'happy holidays,' but I don't fight the battle of Chanukah vs Christmas vs Kwanzaa vs Winter Solstice," Landerman-Garber says, noting that when people of all backgrounds participate, the cards encourage cross-cultural conversation, education, and understanding. She encourages people to set out blank cards and pens at *b'nai mitzvah* and family gatherings.

Temple Beth Abraham, Congregation Betenu, and Temple Adath Yeshrun have hosted card-signing events, as have numerous schools across the country. Landerman-Garber, who often visits schools to talk about her mission, says she was moved to see that many students

at Bishop Guertin, a Catholic school in Nashua, drew menorahs on their cards. Her favorite message, written by a young child, read, "Dear Warrior, happy Chanukah. Merry Christmas. Oh heck, I don't know what you celebrate!"

"There's so much divisiveness now that it's all the more important to reach inside ourselves to find the good and then share it," she says. "This isn't bipartisan, it's non-partisan. When someone's in combat, they're not asking the person next to them who they voted for. They're defending all of our freedom."

To learn more about Holiday Cards for our Military or get involved, visit <https://militaryholidaycardchallenge.com/index.html>.

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Finding Reasons for Hope on a Trip to Israel

By Alderman Will Stewart

The reality of the situation faced everyday by Israelis became very real to me while standing outside a police station in Sderot, a small city located just a mile from the Gaza Strip.

There, stacked alongside the station's walls, were the remnants of rockets that had been launched into the city. It was a pile of what looked like, and in many cases were, metal poles of a variety more normally used to attach street signs.

And it wasn't like these rocket remnants were all from years and years ago. Indeed, just a few days before we visited Sderot, the Associated Press reported that the air defense system known as the Iron Dome intercepted a rocket fired toward the town by militants inside the Gaza Strip.

Sobering.

I visited Israel in December as a part of a trip organized for municipal leaders in the Northeast by the Jewish Federations of North America. In addition to me, other New Hampshire participants included Keene Mayor George Hansel, Durham Town Manager Todd Selig, and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Executive Director Melanie Zalman McDonald.

The goal of the trip was to expose participants to a wide range of political opinion within Israel and the Palestinian territories, to Israel's extraordinary religious and cultural diversity, and to the complexity of the political and societal challenges Israel faces. The trip also provided a vehicle for municipal leaders in the Northeast to build relationships with local community leaders in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Going in, it was my hope that the trip would provide me with greater clarity on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and on the one hand it did. But the trip also left me with as many new questions as it answered.

On our first night in country, former U.S. Ambassador Dan Shapiro, President Barack Obama's ambassador to Israel, provided our group with an extremely nuanced understanding of the current state of affairs in Israel, the territories, and the Middle East as a whole.

And for the rest of the week, as we traveled from the Syrian border in the Golan Heights to Ramallah in the West Bank to East Jerusalem to Netiv HaAsara, a *moshav* literally on the Gaza border, that understanding deepened, taking in the historical roots of the conflict, as well as the issues, both historic and modern, that make a real, long-term peace so elusive.



The NH Municipal Delegation to Israel, including Alderman Will Stewart and JFNH Executive Director Melanie Zalman McDonald.



Alderman Will Stewart in the Golan Heights in December.

I left Israel with an even greater appreciation of just how complicated the issues are in the region. But I also left with a renewed sense of optimism that while a political solution to the conflict isn't anywhere close to becoming a reality, that hasn't stopped non-governmental groups from continuing to work for peace.

I was particularly impressed with Women Wage Peace, a grassroots movement with tens of thousands of members from the right, center, and left of the political spectrum, Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, united in the demand for a mutually binding non-violent accord between Israelis and Palestinians. I was likewise impressed with the work of Roots, a unique network

of local Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank who have come to see each other as the partners they both need to make changes to end the conflict.

And while the current political situation in both Israel proper and in the West Bank territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority doesn't exactly give one confidence in the prospects for peace anytime soon, I was likewise impressed with two groups we met that are working to change the political dynamic on both sides.

WePower is an Israeli nonprofit that helps women reach top positions in government, politics, and business, believing that when greater numbers of women advance within the political and

public arenas, they bring a unique and personal approach to address the challenges faced by women and girls in Israel, and worldwide.

On the Palestinian side, we met with leadership from Zimam, a grassroots youth movement whose Leadership Incubator inspires the voices of tomorrow, equipping them with the confidence and training to lead their own communities and to build a more democratic, actively engaged, and pluralistic society.

Hope remains.

Will Stewart recently began his second term representing Ward 2 on the City of Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Uncovering Israel's Past

By Helena and Richard England

Although it is not widely known, modern archaeological research has uncovered evidence of an amazing past in today's Israel. Beginning with British and French excavations more than a century ago and continuing with Israeli digs since 1948, hundreds of sites have revealed traces of numerous cultures that came before and after the Israelites of the Torah.

Exploration of three caves on Mt. Carmel has discovered bones and artifacts dating back more than 100 thousand years. These are evidence that Neanderthal and early Homo Sapiens bands lived near today's Haifa. Just

recently, the oldest human bone ever discovered outside Africa was found on Mt. Carmel.

Excavations in Jerusalem and other parts of Israel have uncovered lots of evidence that supports stories in the Hebrew Bible. Pottery and arrowheads of Babylonian design dating from the 6th century BCE have been found on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. These artifacts support the Biblical account of the Babylonian conquest and destruction of the First Temple. Excavations under the foundation of the Western Wall confirm that Jerusalem was the capital city of King David three thousand years ago. The discoveries include clay seals with the names of court officials who are

actually mentioned in the Hebrew Bible.

Evidence of more recent arrivals to the Land of Israel has also been excavated by Israeli archaeologists. The Roman port of Caesarea just north of Tel Aviv is still under excavation. The Muslim conquest of Byzantine Jerusalem in 638 CE can be seen today in the ruins of Arab palaces. Fortifications unearthed in Akko (Acre) document the arrival of the Christian Crusaders after 1100 CE.

These and other archaeological treasures reflect a strong commitment to scientific research ever since the founding of the State of Israel. The Israeli Antiquities Authority, a government

Israel Past continued on page 33

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.



Chanukah at Mall at Fox Run in Newington, hosted by UNH/Seacoast Chabad.



Chabad's CTeens successfully escaped the Laboratory 4D room at 102 Escape in Londonderry. Only two hints!



JFNH Shlichah Avia Sagron hosted the Young Mensches for a homestyle Israeli dinner.



Mah Jongg is back at the JFNH office! L-R: Michele Bank, Renee Brenner, Robin Rubin, Roberta Silberberg, Frankie Shapiro.



Members of Seniors Forever Young at their annual Chanukah party creating their own pieces of art during a painting class with Shlichah Avia Sagron.



New Hampshire's first car menorah parade in Durham.



PJ Library children enjoying story time with Jill Weber, illustrator of Goodnight Bubbala by Sheryl Haft.



Rabbi Ira Korinow enjoys Chanukah treats with families at the Early Learning Center, Temple Israel Portsmouth.



Rabbi Ira Korinow presides at the Inter-faith Candlelighting and Prayer for Peace at Temple Israel Portsmouth on the first night of Chanukah.



Intense concentration among Temple Beth Jacob kindergarten and first grade students matching Hebrew letters during Hebrew class.



Rabbi Levi Krinsky of the Chabad Center for Jewish Living leads the crowd in Chanukah prayers outside the Bookery in Manchester.



Shlichah Avia Sagron presented her Israeli Story program at Temple B'nai Israel in early November. Her warmth and humor have made her a beloved speaker, and they are looking forward to her next visit to Laconia in February!



Temple Beth Jacob's rabbi and principal enjoy catching up with college-age former students over lunch at the annual post high school reunion.



Stephen Singer introducing the band Shir Soul at Chanukah at the Palace.

OBITUARIES

Annebelle Cohen

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Annebelle Cohen (Jacobson), beloved wife of Arnold J. Cohen z"l, mother of Jonathan, Ethan, Dahn, and Adina, and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Annebelle was a director and officer of the Cohen Camps, and ran the Cohen Camps for many years side by side with her husband, Arnold. Accomplished and caring, she was a 1949 graduate of Radcliffe College, earned an MA in zoology from the University of Michigan, and an MBA from the University of New Hampshire. She was past president of Temple Adath Yeshurun (Manchester, NH), founder of the Derryfield School, and served on numerous Jewish community and public service agency boards and committees at Newbridge on the Charles.



Annebelle and Arnold Cohen

Services were held at the Stanetsky Memorial Chapels in Canton, MA, on December 27. Burial followed at the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery on South Beech Street in Manchester, NH. There was a memorial observance at Newbridge on the Charles in Dedham, MA on December 28. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps, 888 Worcester Street, Wellesley, MA, 02482.

Rabbi Louis Allen Rieser

Rabbi Louis Allen Rieser, age 71, died at his home in Boynton Beach, Florida on January 15.

Rabbi Rieser was born November 5, 1948, in Louisville, Kentucky, to Albert and Ellen Rieser. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1975 and was a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He received an honorary doctorate from HUC in 2000. He was the rabbi for several Hillels and served the congregation of Temple Israel in Greenfield, Massachusetts from 1982 until 1997.



His last position was at Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry, NH, where he served from 1997 until he retired in 2011. He published extensively on many topics and authored *The Hillel Narratives*, published in 2009. Even after his retirement, he remained active, regularly teaching at local synagogues and founding Nishmat Torah, a program teaching adult spirituality and meditation. Rabbi Rieser was a longtime teacher for The National Havurah Summer Institute.

Rabbi Rieser is survived by his wife, Connie; his children, Micha Rieser and Zev Rieser (Britta); and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were held Sunday, January 19, at Herman Meyer & Son, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky. Burial followed at Keneseth Israel Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038.

A Tribute to Those Lost in Jersey City

By Hannah Boyd

Jersey City, NJ — Today the Reporter breaks a longstanding policy of memorializing only those who have made significant contributions to Jewish life in New Hampshire to honor the victims of the heinous attack in Jersey City, New Jersey. Though they did not live in our state, the attack on them was an attack on us all, and their loss is a loss to us all. May their memories be a blessing.



Leah Minda Ferencz co-owned the JC Kosher Market where the shooting took place. She is survived by her husband and their three young children. Photo courtesy Chabad.org.



Detective Joseph Seals, shown with his family, was a husband and father of five and a long-time member of the Jersey City Police Department. He specialized in removing guns from the street and had been cited for heroism in the past. Photo courtesy Chabad.org.



Moshe Deutsch, left, Ferencz's cousin, was a rabbinical student and active volunteer who helped organize a food drive for thousands every year. He was only 24 years old. Photo courtesy Chabad.org.



Douglas Miguel Rodriguez, shown with his family, moved to the United States from Ecuador. A grocery clerk, he died helping a customer escape through a back door. Photo courtesy Chabad.org.

We pray for a *refuah shlema* for those wounded in the attacks in Jersey City and in Monsey, New York, comfort and strength for the victims' families, and peace in our time. *Am Yisrael chai.*

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JFNH Tributes

Received by January 10, 2020

Campaign

Roye and Elaine Ginsburg in honor of Elaine and Paul Bieber for a speedy recovery

Sedra, Ron and Ashley Michaelson in honor of Tracy Richmond's big birthday. Thank you for everything that you do for the community.

Mike Satzow in honor of Joel Bass

Dorothy Rothstein in honor of 4 great grandchildren Golan, Matan, Liehly and Boaz

Mark and Amy Finklestein in honor of Tracy Richmond's birthday!

Ann and Lou Greenberg in memory of Lou Tupper

Film Festival

To Pat Kalik from friends and family in honor of her retirement

Kushner – Tumen Family Fund for Children

Norm and Andy Kushner to Keith Spiro in memory of his mother Rita Skolnick Spiro

Norm and Andy Kushner to Keith Spiro in memory of his father Raymond Spiro

Preschool

The Kalik Family in honor of Pat's retirement

Israel Past *continued from page 30*

agency founded in 1948, is responsible for discovering and preserving the historical past of the Land of Israel. Passage of the 1978 Antiquities Law strengthened this commitment to historical preservation. Whenever a large construction project takes place in Israel, the site is first surveyed to see if it is of archaeological importance. If it is, research takes place before construction can begin.

Some critics have claimed that these Israeli efforts to “dig up” the past are intended to erase the memory of other cultures that once inhabited the Land of Israel. That claim is ridiculous, however. Israeli research has confirmed that

prehistoric peoples, the Edomites and Nabateans, the Israelites, the Romans, Byzantine Christians, Arab Muslims and Christian Crusaders have all left their imprint on the landscape of today's Israel.

Thanks to Israeli archaeological research, we have a much better understanding of the history of the Middle East. Because the Israeli government has turned many of these sites into national parks, a growing number of international tourists now come to Israel to glimpse the richness of its past.

Helena and Richard England are retired educators who live in Durham. They love to visit relatives and make new friends while in Israel.

See what's happening in the community at

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JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

Amount of Contribution:

\$10 \$18 \$36 Other \$_____

Designated to the following fund:

- Annual Campaign
- Friends of the Reporter
- JFNH Preschool
- NH Jewish Film Festival
- PJ Library
- Senior Programs
- Social Services
- Other: _____



Contribution: in honor in memory of on the occasion of

Name of Tribute Card recipient

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