



JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



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jewishnh.org	

13th Annual (Virtual) New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Schedule

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Committee Member and Screener

While the 13th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival will look very different this year, there is a new level of excitement building up for this major statewide cultural event as it will take place virtually, and thus allow audiences from all over the state to access the best in Jewish-themed entertainment and filmmaking.

Running from May 19th through June 10th, this year's festival includes titles spanning multiple genres, countries, and cinematic styles, that will delight audiences of all generations. Unlike past years, in which our

films were made available in just a few communities, this year's titles will be available to statewide viewers no matter their location. Each film will be offered in a 72 hour availability window through the streaming platform Eventive, a relatively new service currently being used by many organizations, including dozens of Jewish film festivals throughout the country. In late January and early February, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire first used Eventive for its virtual film series on the Black-Jewish

Civil Rights Alliance. Despite the pandemic, the NH Jewish Film Festival remains committed to upholding our reputation for showing excellent, high-quality

films representing Jewish themes from around the globe. Five of our films will include post-film discussions with special guests. Consult the film guide insert in this issue of *The Reporter* for further details.

The Film Festival is supported in part by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, numerous sponsors, and many Friends of the Festival. Without their generosity, we would be unable to make available this amazing cultural program!

Wednesday, May 19th to Sunday, May 23rd: Opening week offers three incredible stories

Our Festival will open on Wednesday, May *Film Schedule* continued on page 21



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CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

Dena Glasgow (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

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

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

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

DURHAM

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

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

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
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 services 8:00 p.m., Shabbat Alive! first Friday of the month 6:30 p.m., online Saturday service 10 am, evening services daily at 7:30 p.m. except Saturday 45 minutes after sunset.

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

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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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.

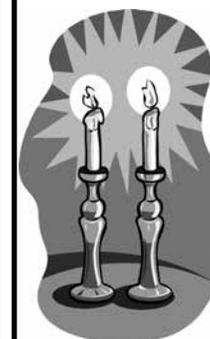
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



April 2	6:56 PM
April 9	7:04 PM
April 16	7:12 PM
April 23	7:20 PM
April 30	7:28 PM

A Time to Reflect

It has been a year that we have been distanced, living, learning, and working from home. A whole year. But now, there is a glimpse of a light at the end of the tunnel, with hope that the vaccine will continue to make a difference in helping us get back to some kind of normal.

I was thinking about the past year and reflecting on what we all accomplished. My son and I were having a discussion one evening while watching the news. He said, "What do you think we would have done 10 years ago if this had happened?" I hadn't thought of that and the more we talked, the more I realized how extremely different this time period would have been. Think about it: how many of us would have been able to really work from home, make connections, host and attend meetings and seminars? How would that have worked? And our schools, how many children had laptops of their own? And even with a laptop would they have been able to connect to the school? I don't think so.

Think about all the changes in our tech that the world has seen over the past de-

Elyse Hyman

Executive Director



cade. Some items we thought were amazing in 2010 aren't even around any longer. The smartphone revolution has changed everything significantly—screens are bigger and brighter, and we can do everything from stream movies to participate in meetings on our phones. 10 years ago, social media was relatively new. Now, it is essential for keeping up to date with friends and family, attending events, and getting information out. Appliances and security in our homes were separate and apart, today it can all be connected through our phones. All this change, in just 10 short years.

Take a moment to think about our schools and our businesses, and the unbelievable pivots that were made for us to manage our lives from our homes. It's

kind of amazing. We were quick to complain about some schools being slow to accommodate, but think about the work, time and energy it took to make those changes so quickly. It wasn't easy, on so many levels, and we have all suffered and endured losses—to say nothing of how incredibly sad it is to have seen over 500,000 individuals succumb to this dreadful virus. That is huge and heart-breaking. This pandemic has been a true eye-opener. It is absolutely amazing that vaccines were researched, developed, and approved in record time, but again, we find ourselves complaining about the process to receive the vaccine. Think about the details and the logistics involved in actually making it happen.

In recent conversations with colleagues and friends, we are reminding each other to be grateful. I, for one, am grateful, but it doesn't mean it has been easy, nor does it mean I don't have a right to be depressed at times. We need to pat ourselves on the back for getting through this, for helping others when we could, for stepping up and volunteering when we could,

for supporting our local restaurants and vendors when we could, and supporting our community when we could. This has been a tough year, all around. And we deserve some credit for making it work, working through it, and almost reaching the finish line.

Recently, a friend offered her driveway to a food truck vendor and invited us to order dinner, as a way to support this young man trying to make a living. While standing on the driveway—all bundled up with our masks on, waiting for our order, laughing and chatting—I realized I hadn't seen many of these folks in person for a year. I picked up my food, looked at one of my friends and nearly screamed "Hey, we both got the first vaccine!" and we quickly went in for the hug. My first "friend" hug in a year. I can't wait until we get back to a time when we can hug our friends and others not in our immediate bubble. In the meantime, take a moment to think about all that we have been through, and all we have accomplished and learned in the past year.

Why I Give to JFNH

By Dr. Ami Kilchevsky

My wife and I joke with each other that decision-making is not one of our strengths. But our decision to give to the Federation has always been an easy one, and our reason for giving is simple, yet important: We want Jewish life in New Hampshire to thrive.



Ami Kilchevsky,
JFNH Board

My family and I moved to New Hampshire almost six years ago and although we are not originally from the Granite State, we are raising three young boys here, and we now call this beautiful state our home. A thriving Jewish community in New Hampshire provides us with resources that support our children's growth and shape their Jewish lives. It connects us with other families through activities such as those sponsored by PJ Library, while the Federation hosted Shlichah program al-

lows us to bring in an Israeli ambassador for two years to educate the NH Jewish community about Israel, and unites us to traditions that are crucial to preserving our culture. It is our hope that our contributions help create and strengthen these opportunities for our children, and for Jewish children across the state.

Growing up, my parents devoted not only money, but also a great deal of time to the Federation. It was their example that showed me what creating a successful Jewish community can provide to a family. Now that I am also a parent, their influence has had an even bigger impact on my actions, and it is a lesson that I also want to pass onto my children. For me, giving to the Federation is a way to help ensure that our Jewish community endures for future generations.



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Statewide Calendar of Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are submitted weeks in advance of publication, and are subject to change, particularly during the pandemic. For information on format changes, re-scheduling, and so on, please contact the event's host.

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.

Thursday, April 8

Yom Hashoah With Holocaust Survivor Kati Preston

7PM - 9PM Zoom

Kati Preston is a New Hampshire Holocaust Survivor and author of the book "Holocaust to Healing: Closing the Circle". Before the pandemic Kati traveled to schools around the state sharing her story, most recently with Governor Sununu in Nashua. Kati will be joining us on zoom to share

her story as a child survivor in Hungary. Time will be made for questions and discussion. To Register please call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 or using the link <https://forms.gle/mbQPC7J1aXFeWjeo6>

Thursday, April 15

Interfaith Peacebuilding Initiatives in Israel – Palestine and the US

7:00PM – 8:00PM Zoom

Please Join our guest Dr. Yehezkel Landau, for a conversation about Israel from an interfaith viewpoint, with references to interreligious peace building initiatives in both Israel/Palestine and here in the U.S. Sponsored by the Israel Affairs Committee in celebration of Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel Independence Day. Register on the Temple Israel website calendar to receive the zoom link. About the speaker: Dr. Yehzkel Landau, a dual Israeli-American citizen, is an interfaith educator, trainer, consultant, and author active in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations and Israeli-Palestinian peace building for over 40 years. While in Israel he was executive director of the oz veShalom-Netivot Shalom religious peace movement in the 1980's, then co-founder and co-director of the Open House Jewish Arab peace center in Ramle in the 1990's.

From 2002 to 2016 he was a professor of the Jewish tradition and interfaith religions in Hartford Seminary in Connecticut and holder of the Abrahamic Partnerships Chair. He is the author of numerous articles and essays, both popular and scholarly, as well as the research report Healing the Holy Land: Interreligious Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine, published by the U.S. Institute of Peace. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Hartford Seminary. www.templeisraelnh.org

Sunday, April 18

PJ Library Israeli Story Walk

10:00AM – 2:00PM Goffstown

Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with your family as you follow the pages of the book Shalom Everybody!

Grover's Adventures in Israel by Tilda Balsley and Ellen Fischer through an open field and stopping to complete activities along the way! This fun and interactive program allows families to learn more about Israel as they enjoy the fresh air together. This is a FREE program but space is limited in order to adhere to social distancing and masks are required for everyone ages 3+. This program is being hosted at a private home in Goffstown and location will be given with your registration. Email allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org to register.

Sunday, April 25

TAY Brotherhood hosts Zoom presentation by Dr. Susannah Heschel

10AM – 12PM Zoom

The TAY Brotherhood will be hosting a zoom by Dr. Susannah Heschel, Director of Dartmouth's Jewish Studies Program.

See what's happening
in the community at
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Statewide Calendar of Events

A month of Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, and Yom Ha'atzmaut

A very meaningful month is ahead of us. A month that, for me as an Israeli, makes it very challenging not to physically be in Israel.

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israel's official Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Day of Independence) are days that bring everyone together, no matter how old you are, where you live, or where your family is from. There is always a question about memorial days, because for the families that lost their loved ones, every day is a Memorial Day. I think that, for me, it's all about unity. These days remind us what we sacrificed as a nation, and give us the chance to stop everything and honor the people who gave their lives for our safety.

To be an Israeli is to stop everything you are doing and stand when you hear the siren that plays one time on Yom HaShoah, and twice on Yom HaZikaron. I remember as a child that my teacher told us in school to close our eyes and really think about the stories we know. To stop everything for a minute, to leave aside whatever it is you are



Avia Sagron

JFNH Shlichah

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL NH SHLICHA



Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE | Israel Engagement and Education Committee

thinking about, and just be there with your mind and heart.

There is that moment when Yom HaZikaron is over, and immediately Yom Ha'atzmaut begin. In one night, you feel such deep sadness, but also incredible happiness. We are celebrating our country, and appreciate the beauty of Israel. An official ceremony is held every year on Mount Herzl, Jerusalem on the evening of Independence Day, with Israeli artist performances, a flag of Israel, forming elaborate structures, every year a dozen Israeli citizens who made a signifi-



"Brother Circle" by Ori Shemesh

cant social contribution in a selected area are invited to light the torches.

"Shlichut" in Hebrew has different meanings. One of them is "an act of great significance, originating in inner faith and not in expectation of personal gain." Another is "anyone who moves information, a package, goods, etc. from place to place". In COVID times, I feel it's a combination of both: I'm trying to think out of the box and create programs that are fun, informative and engaging.

I feel that as a Shlichah, my biggest mission is to share these days with you. So, it's kind of ironic that my thinking out of the box actually got me to create one! For this week full of events, I made a box that

includes everything you need for Israel week. Some of the programs and items you will find in the box will be:

Virtual Taste of Memories: Join us in hearing the story of IDF soldier, Naor Calo Z"L, and bake the lasagna he loved so much to honor his memory.

In the box: Everything you need for to make this recipe at home except the dairy groceries.

Ori Shemesh Photography Exhibit: Join us for a virtual exhibit by the very talented Israeli photographer, Ori Shemesh. Ori will tell us about his experiences as a military photographer in the IDF, his childhood in the Golan Heights, and how it inspires him today. The Exhibit will be open for 5 days!

In the box: A postcard with one of Ori's Photos and QR code for the exhibit.

Israeli Snack Tasting! - Family Yom Ha'atzmaut Fun. We will try different Israeli Snacks together!

In the box: Bamba, Bisley, different Israeli chocolate bars (Enough for 3 people)

More information and to sign up for a box will be coming soon! Stay tuned.

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Schools, Sports, and Jewish Holidays

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

In February, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire wrote to the state Commissioner of the Department of Education, various sports associations (including the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association) and all of the School Administrative Units requesting their cooperation in avoiding scheduling conflicts with significant Jewish holidays. Enclosed with the let-

ter was a four-year calendar (covering the years 2021 to 2024) of Jewish holidays. The letter and calendar are reproduced here.

We hope that schools and athletic associations will keep these important dates in mind as they schedule events for next year. We encourage parents to meet with school officials in advance to impress upon them the importance of these holidays to their children, and to their children's families and communities.

5-YEAR CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS*
2019-2024 / 5780-5784

Holiday	2019-2020 5780	2020-2021 5781	2021-2022 5782	2022-2023 5783	2023-2024 5784
Rosh Hashanah	September 30- October 1	September 19-20	September 7-8	September 26-27	September 16-17
Yom Kippur	October 9	September 28	September 16	October 5	September 25
Sukkot	October 14-20	October 3-9	September 21-27	October 10-16	September 30 – October 6
Shemini Atzeret	October 21	October 10	September 28	October 17	October 7
Simchat Torah	October 22	October 11	September 29	October 18	October 8
Chanukah	December 23-30	December 11-18	November 29 – December 6	December 18-26	December 7-15
Passover	April 9-16	March 28- April 4	April 16-23	April 6 - 13	April 23-30
Shavuot	May 29-30	May 17-18	June 5-6	May 25-27	June 12-13

*Jewish holidays begin at sunset the previous day (e.g. Rosh Hashanah will begin on the evening of September 29, 2019).

Rosh Hashanah – The Jewish New Year; the first of the High Holidays; marking the beginning of 10 days of penitence and spiritual renewal. Anticipate widespread absence.
Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement; the most solemn day in the Jewish year; marked by fasting and prayer. Anticipate widespread absence.
Sukkot – The Feast of Booths; commemorating the 40-year wandering of the Jews on their way to the Promised Land; celebrated as a weeklong festival of thanksgiving for the fall harvest. Limited absence for the first two days.
Shemini Atzeret – An additional festival day that falls at the end of Sukkot. Limited absence.
Simchat Torah – The Rejoicing of the Torah; celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Torah and the start of another yearlong cycle. Limited absence.
Chanukah – The Feast of Lights; an eight-day festival celebrating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem; candles are lit on each of the eight nights of the holiday.
Passover – A festival of freedom celebrating Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage which lasts eight days. Limited absence on the first two and last two days; widespread absence the first two evenings.
Shavuot – Festival of Weeks; commemorates receiving of the Torah by Moses at Mt. Sinai and the revelation of the Ten Commandments. Limited absence.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

February 11, 2021

State of New Hampshire Department of Education
Attn: Frank Edelblut, Commissioner
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Edelblut,

Thank you for working with us in the past and this especially difficult past year. In an effort to assist schools as you begin planning future year's calendars, we are happy to share this "Look Ahead" five-year schedule of important Jewish Holidays.

It is our hope that you will avoid these dates as you plan exams, assemblies, auditions, field trips, sporting events, school dances and graduations for your district.

We deeply appreciate your sensitivity in avoiding conflicts as you schedule events and activities for students, faculty, and any other district staff who would be adversely impacted.

Abstaining from school, work and secular activities is a critical part of the observance of some of the Jewish holidays. This is especially the case for Passover (March 27- April 4, 2021), and the "High Holidays" of Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 6-8), and Yom Kippur (Sept. 16).

Although the Jewish day begins and ends at sunset, many people need to be absent from school or work the entire day on which the holiday begins. As an example, the first night of Passover begins with a seder, a complex ritual meal that involves the re-telling of the exodus through stories and song and the consumption of ritual foods, and many people travel great distances to share this significant event with family members.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration of these important dates and those set out on the enclosed calendar. We hope that you would look to the Jewish Federation as a resource if you have questions when scheduling important events or addressing potential conflicts in your SAU calendar.

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A Glimpse into Jewish Identity in Israel

By Richard England

For several thousand years, Jews have had a strong connection to the Land of Israel. During the past 140 years, Jews whose families have lived in Jerusalem for centuries have been joined by Holocaust survivors from Poland, refugees from Iraq and Ethiopia, and professionals from Russia and the United States. Some of these immigrants to Israel have come for religious reasons. Others came to escape from discrimination and even extermination. Still others came to take part in egalitarian experiments like the kibbutz. This return of Jews from the diaspora has helped to create newer forms of Jewish identity.

If you would like to explore the formation of a distinctive Jewish identity in Israel, please join us for two Zoom-based discussions of "A Glimpse into Israeli Jewish Identity."

The discussions will take place on a pair

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL EVENT SERIES



of Tuesday evenings, April 20 and May 11, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. These events are sponsored by the Spotlight on Israel series of the Federation's Israel Engagement and Education Committee and are free of charge. Several Israeli short stories, memoir passages and biographical sketches will be distributed to participants by email before each session. Feel free to participate in either or both of the sessions. To register for the readings and Zoom link, please email info@jewishnh.org.

If you have questions about "A Glimpse into Israeli Jewish Identity," please contact Helena England (helena.english@gmail.com).



Our March 5, 2021 Hate Crimes Training was very educational. Pictured here are the speakers and organizers: Allyson Guertin, JFNH's Director of Outreach and Engagement (top left); Dina Michael Chaitowitz, JFNH Board of Directors; Raphael Katz, Affirmative Civil Enforcement Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire ("USAO-NH"); Sean Locke, Assistant Attorney General, Director - Civil Rights Unit, New Hampshire Attorney General's Office (middle, left); Seth Aframe, Assistant United States Attorney, Appellate Chief and Civil Rights Coordinator, USAO-NH, and periodic lecturer in First Amendment law at UNH Law School; Kieaira Lucas, Project Assistant with the James Byrd Jr. Center to Stop Hate at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under the Law; and Arusha Gordon, Associate Director at the Byrd Center. Many thanks to our speakers and to those who spent part of their Thursday night with us.

Report on the Work of the Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

The Commission created by HB 1135, now RSA 193-E:2-f - Chapter 29:17, has begun its work in earnest. Its statutory mission is, among other things, to recommend model school district policies for Holocaust and genocide education; recommend to the State Board of Education rules for fulfilling the Holocaust and genocide education requirement; identify best practices for teaching Holocaust and genocide education and existing teaching materials and curriculum; and promote implementation of Holocaust and genocide education. The Commission generally meets monthly. Commission members* have broken into three groups: one that is developing standards and policies for the State Board of Education; one that is developing best practices for schools and teachers; and one that works on implementation of the statute.

Although its first meeting was just in October, the Commission has already proposed a minimum standard to the State Board of Education, which has taken the proposal under advisement and will decide whether or not to make any changes to it. We expect the process – including any revision, required solicitation of comments, and presentation to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules -- to take several months. The Commission's development of proposed policies will follow the standard. The Commission is also working on developing a compendium of resources and best practices for teachers. Our aim is to provide as many resources and training opportunities at no cost to teachers and districts as possible. Ease of use and developmentally appropriate materials are also high priorities. Also, the Commission is busy developing an online site that will provide the public with links to those resources, among other things. The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies has graciously agreed to house and maintain this site, and of course the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Holocaust continued on page 8



לחברינו היקרים בניו המפשייר,
 התקופה האחרונה הביאה עמה לא מעט אתגרים עבור כולנו. נוכל להם רק אם נישאר מאוחדים, חזקים וערבים זה לזה.
 חג הפסח הוא חגם של החירות והפריחה. בשם כל תושבות ותושבי חוף הכרמל, אני מאחל לכולכם ימים מלאים בחופש ובפריחה, לכם ולקהילתכם.
 אסיף איזק
 ראש המועצה האזורית חוף הכרמל

To our dear friends in New Hampshire
 These days are challenging us all, in different ways.
 We can overcome only if we keep together - united, strong and caring for each other.
 Pessach is the holiday of freedom and blossom. In the name of all the residents of Hof HaCarmel regional council, I wish you all days full of freedom and blossom, for you and your community.

Asif Izak
 Head of Council
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Your Federation at Work

Holocaust *continued from page 7*

should itself be considered a resource on Holocaust and genocide issues.

In sum, the Commission is moving along expeditiously. Anyone with questions, concerns, or ideas should feel free to contact JFNH Board member Dina Michael Chaitowitz or any of the individuals listed below.

*The members of the Commission are:

1. Senator Jay Kahn - Chairperson of Commission
2. Kati Preston - Vice Chairperson of Commission; Holocaust survivor
3. Dina Michael Chaitowitz - Clerk of Commission; Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Board of Directors member and JFNH designee
4. Superintendent Brian Balke - Superintendent of Schools for SAU-19; past president of New Hampshire School Administrators Association
5. Marna Ducharme - Middle school teacher who teaches about the Holocaust in her middle school classes
6. Representative Arthur Ellison - member of House Education Committee
7. Ashley Harbel - High school teacher who teaches a year-long elective course on the Holocaust and is on the educator's advisory committee for Echoes & Reflections (a partnership of the Anti-Defamation League, USC Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem that is a premier source for Holocaust educational materials)
8. The Most Reverend Peter Anthony Libasci - Bishop of The Diocese of Manchester
9. Rev. Zachary Harmon - NH Council of Churches designee; reverend for St. Christopher's Church in Hampstead
10. Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett - Jewish Federation of New Hampshire designee; Rabbi for Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua
11. Dr. Yves Pacifique Gakunde - Survivor of Rwandan Genocide; works for the City of Keene on sustainability issues
12. Robert Trestan - Executive Director of ADL's Boston office
13. Professor James Waller - Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College; Department of Education's designee
14. Tom White - Coordinator for Educational Outreach at Keene State College Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies
15. Representative Dan Wolf - previous member of Kearsarge Regional School Board

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We Are Living in History—and We Must Carefully Navigate the Path Ahead

Early this winter, the talk at Temple B'nai Israel (Laconia) was about whether you had an appointment for a COVID vaccination shot. For our eligible members, the answer was mostly yes, and “wasn’t the website frustrating.” By now, most of our seniors have gotten their second shot and the feeling of relief is palpable. The rollout in NH has been impressive, but we’re hardly out of the woods, because the majority of people in the state are still not vaccinated. So, too, are there still many uncertainties—questions about the new virus strains, when exactly the majority of adults will be vaccinated, and perhaps most of all, what precautions we will still need to be taking. Will we be able to really open up? Will we be back in our sanctuaries for the High Holidays?

In essence, we’re living in history, caught up in a transformative event. In the old Reform machzor (High Holiday prayerbook) there is a haunting passage, “one generation comes into the world to be blessed with days of peace and safety; another goes through the valley of the shadow enduring the cruelties of perse-

Rabbi in the House	
	Rabbi Dan Danson
	Temple B'nai Israel, Laconia

cution and war.” One might add famine and disease to that. The passage was written by veterans of the Second World War, Jews who saw European Jewry destroyed. But for most of us, American Jews who grew up after the war, our life in America has been free of such vicissitudes. It’s not that we’ve lived outside of history, but we’ve dwelt in relatively calm times: a golden age of thriving synagogues, great academies, and being able to help Jews around the world. But COVID has been a new kind of challenge for us, shut out of our sanctuaries, unable to together for shiva, and physically cut off from family—uncertain of our safety, or what comes tomorrow.

When we are Jewishly engaged, when we enter the synagogue, celebrate holi-

days at home, or participate in sacred study, we also inhabit history. From the first word of the Torah, through the death of Moses, our parashot (Torah portions) are about transformative moments, times that have uncertain outcomes, ones that will be tragic if they resolve the wrong way. Moments that are challenging and where we see our ancestors face difficult choices.

Living through this pandemic has had powerful echoes of that, with all of us affected in the most immediate of ways. With the arrival of the vaccines, it feels like we have begun our exodus out of the COVID wilderness, but the Torah teaches us that coming out of a societal crisis is no cakewalk. Our Torah portions are filled with cautionary tales about the trials of moving ahead after trauma and disaster. Just months after witnessing the miracles of the Passover and the Exodus, the Israelites stood at Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah, yet fashioned a golden calf. Despite witnessing the most extraordinary of events, they were unable to overcome their fears once Moses ascended the mountain and was gone from sight.

They reverted to Egyptian-style religious practices. Throughout the book of Exodus and Numbers there are constant rebellions and temptations, when the Israelites turn their backs on God and the covenant, and on themselves.

Who knows if our current course has similar risks? Not with respect to our covenant with God, but in terms of realizing the promise that lies before us. Navigating the path ahead, post vaccination, may take a mix of caution and judicious risk taking. It’s the kind of challenge that’s sure to test every synagogue and Jewish organization. Moses guides the Israelites through the golden calf crisis with a mix of patience, compassion, and advocacy, as well as great personal courage. Synagogue leaders will need to draw on the same skill set. Things are looking up, but in the months ahead, we will need to be our best selves; to listen and be patient and compassionate. We’ll need to look forward, while drawing on the hard-earned wisdom and sacrifice of this past year. May we be blessed with wisdom and compassion as begin our journey out of the pandemic.

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PJ Library New Hampshire Brings Their Traditional Hamantaschen Bake to New Hampshire Homes

By Allyson Guertin

When we were unable to hold our most popular program of the year due to COVID, we knew we would have to get creative.

Each year, PJ Library of New Hampshire and Temple Israel in Manchester team up to host a Hamantaschen Bake. Families from across the state join us to roll, stuff and fold their own Haman-

taschen! There are stories, crafts, songs, and snacks. Knowing we would not be able to bring the families to the hamantaschen this year, we decided to bring the hamantaschen to the families! Families from anywhere in the state were able sign up to receive a Hamantaschen Kit complete with dough and fillings as well as a Purim craft and activities. Thirty-two families from around NH signed up to

receive a kit. Those who lived nearby stopped by our office to pick up their kit, and if you lived further away, Avia and I hopped in our cars and set off across the state to make deliveries and ensure everyone was able to participate.

Whether it was from a distance, at the office, or from a window inside a home, it was wonderful to see the smiling faces of families!



Evan and Jonah of Manchester



Makenna of Rochester



Ian of Concord



Zoey from Londonderry



William of Manchester



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Dr. Yehezkel Landau to Speak at Temple Israel Portsmouth for Israel Independence Day

Dr. Yehezkel Landau, an interfaith educator, trainer, consultant, and author, will speak on the topic of "Interfaith Peacebuilding Initiatives in Israel/Palestine and the United States." This event will be held via Zoom at 7:00 PM on April 15, in commemoration of Yom Ha-Atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day.



Dr. Yehezkel Landau

Dr. Landau, a dual Israeli-American citizen, has done extensive work in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations and Israeli-Palestinian peacebuilding for over 40 years. In Israel, he was executive director of the *Oz veShalom-Netivot Shalom* religious peace movement in the 1980's, then co-founder and co-director, with his wife, Dalia, of the Open House Jewish-Arab peace center in Ramle in the 1990's. (For those who have read *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan, Dalia was the most recent owner of the house featured in the book, that became a center

for peace and reconciliation.)

Dr. Landau was a professor of Jewish tradition and interfaith relations at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut for 14 years, and holder of the Abrahamian Partnerships Chair. He is the author of numerous articles and essays, along with a research report, *Healing the Holy Land: Interreligious Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine*, published by the U.S. Institute of Peace. He holds degrees from Harvard University, Harvard Divinity School, and Hartford Seminary. Learn more at www.landau-interfaith.com.

This event is sponsored by Temple Israel's Israel Affairs Committee. To join the Zoom, use the registration link in the Temple Israel Portsmouth calendar (<https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/save-date-for-israel-affairs-committee-speaker.html>), and you will receive a Zoom link in your confirmation email.

Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program: Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff - Programs for April 2021

By Stephen Soreff, MD

Tom White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach, Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, will present "Identifying Contemporary Antisemitism: The QAnon Conspiracy Fraud" after a brief Yom Hashoah remembrance service at Etz Hayim Synagogue on **Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7 PM** via Zoom. White notes that QAnon emerged in 2017 and has gone from being a fringe conspiracy to one embraced by political leaders. What is the QAnon fraud? He will explore this new transmission of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* by examining its antisemitic roots and mainstream appeal. What are the characteristics of conspiratorial thinking? How can people accept and justify these frauds? Why do conspiracy



Tom White

theory frauds threaten democracy? How do they damage and mislead? How do we identify and respond? The evening will conclude with a brief remembrance service.

Later in April, Avia Sagron, the Jewish Federation's NH Schlichta, will talk about the Ethiopian Jewish Biblical story, and show how it is related to Bob Marley. This will occur on **Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7 PM**. She will tell other fascinating tales of Ethiopian Jews. Please, join us for an amazing evening.



Avia Sagron

These are both Zoom events. To get the Zoom link, please, email the Etz Hayim Synagogue's office office@etzhayim.org. More information on both events, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120

Concord Temple Wrestles with Racism

By Pam Schachter

Synagogue annual meetings can be more rote than revelatory. But at Temple Beth Jacob in Concord last year, the rite turned downright provocative. Synagogue member Ivor Freeman of Newbury challenged the community by asking how we were going to respond to the death of George Floyd, who had been killed by police in Minneapolis a few months before. Freeman's question set off the resurrection of TBJ's Social Action Committee and a months-long process of discussion and debate.

Following a large community Zoom in which small groups examined how Jewish values compel us to act against racism, the outlines of a plan emerged. Members saw the need for study to understand the historical roots of racism, for self-reflection on our personal roles, and for communal action against racism in our community.

Two dozen members of TBJ have plunged into a searching examination of their individual conduct and their complicity in structural racism, as a critical step in changing themselves and the

community for the better. Borrowing a model from a synagogue in New Jersey, the Social Action Committee offered small group study and discussion using the *New York Times* bestselling book *Me and White Supremacy*, by Layla Saad, a British writer and social commentator. The Social Action Committee created four small groups of congregants who meet by Zoom at a regular weekly time for 14 weeks. Group members read two chapters each week and discuss their intellectual and emotional reactions to the text. The group format provides an opportunity for deeper exploration, both to challenge ourselves and each other and to advance our work as a community in combating racism. Communal study, a Jewish tradition, allows group members to process their reactions to questions and challenges about their role in white supremacy through a shared Jewish lens. It also offers a bond of support during a period of rising antisemitism that cannot be divorced from the deeply rooted racism we see all around us. Gary Sobleson, a group participant, remarked, "I have been so impressed and energized by the

amount of people that have dedicated themselves for 12 weeks of study and conversations about white supremacy!"

Another mechanism initiated by the committee for studying racism is a film series, with selections designed to complement those of the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. The series kicked off on Martin Luther King Day with a showing by Zoom of Joel Katz's film *Strange Fruit*. The documentary explores the history and legacy of the anti-lynching anthem made popular by Billie Holiday and written by a Jewish schoolteacher, Abel Meeropol, who later adopted the orphaned sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. In the discussion that followed, we learned that two synagogue members had personal ties to the story; one member realized the film included a cherished family photo.

On March 7, the committee screened *13th*, a film by Ava DuVernay that explores the meaning and consequences of the Reconstruction-era 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. *The Atlantic* says that this Peabody-award-winning documentary tells the story of "how the Thirteenth Amendment led to mass in-

carceration in the United States," adding "it's also a gorgeous, evocative, and maddening exploration of words: of their power, their roots, their permanence. It's about those who wield those words and those made to kneel by them." Following the film, a panel discussion was held featuring TBJ member and Asst. U.S. Attorney Seth Aframe and Donna J. Brown, a criminal defense lawyer and chair of the Legal Redress Committee of the Manchester NAACP.

Next up on the committee's agenda is encouraging congregants to sign onto the New Hampshire Youth Movement's "No Racist Granite State" pledge against racism, antisemitism, xenophobia, islamophobia, and other prejudices in response to certain state representatives using social media to spread Neo-Nazi rhetoric and antisemitism.

"Judaism demands that we wrestle, as *Yisrael* means 'God wrestler,'" says Rabbi Robin Nafshi, TBJ's spiritual leader. "The members of Temple Beth Jacob who are participating in hard conversations and digging deeply into their souls, guts, and *kishkes* are engaged in holy and sacred work."

In the Community

BHC Commemorates Yom Hashoah with “Holocaust and Genocide: From Darkness to Light”

By David Goldstone

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation will hold its Annual Holocaust Remembrance Service on Sunday, April 11th at 2:00 PM. This annual program, titled “Holocaust and Genocide: From Darkness to Light,” which is usually presented in the sanctuary of our synagogue, will be accessible to everyone this year as a Zoom presentation.

The program recalls the tragic losses to the Jewish people during the Holocaust, including stories of survivors within the congregation, and North Country community, with poetry and music. The program will remind us of our ongoing struggle to end the genocide and terrorism that continues throughout the world. The service will be led by Dr. Judith Felsen and husband Jack Karp, who are children of Holocaust survivors and includes the following guest artists:

Marjan Kiepora, an acclaimed pianist and author, will play the Mazurka in A Minor, Op. 17, No. 4 by Frederic Chopin



Marjan Kiepora



Marjorie Agosin



Elizabeth Borowsky



Noam Wolf



Boris Traubas

and speak about his famous parents, **Martha Eggerth and Jan Kiepora**, the dream-couple of movies, opera, and operetta, the superstars of the mid-20th century. The Hungarian soprano and the Polish tenor were forced to leave Austria—which they’d made their new home—following its “annexation” by Nazi Germany in 1938. Marjan is also a published author and has written about and extensively performed works by Chopin. He lives with his wife Jane Knox-Kiepora in Littleton, New Hampshire, and New York City.

Michel Adler is a member of the BHC Board, and an avid skier, but as a child of Holocaust survivors, has translated and published his father’s novel *I Am a Refu-*

gee. This memoir portrays the harsh experiences of Camillo Adler and his family, as Austrian refugees in France following the outbreak of WWII. Michel will introduce the work of his famous cousin **Otakar Kraus** (10 December 1909 — 28 July 1980) who was a Czech (later British) operatic baritone and teacher.

Marjorie Agosin is a Chilean-American writer. She has gained notability for her outspokenness for women’s rights in Chile. In the video *Braided Memories*, Marjorie and photographer Samuel Shats pay homage to her great-grandmother, who escaped Nazi-dominated Vienna and made her way to Chile.

BHC’s **Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum** will

join us from Omer, Israel to sing *Ani Ma’amim (I Believe)*. The lyrics, set to a haunting melody, are attributed to Azriel David Fastag, a Modzitzer Hasid. He reportedly composed the tune in a cattle car while being taken to Treblinka.

We will also present a video recording of **Noam Wolf** singing *Rivkele di Shabesdike* (the Sabbath Widow) accompanied by pianist **Elizabeth Borowsky** at the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Service in Hanover NH.

Ms. Borowsky will also accompany Lithuanian violinist, **Borissas Traubas**, in playing the haunting musical theme of *Schindler’s List*.

BHC member Eileen Regen will read from the moving personal poetry of Dr. Felsen and candles will be lit in memory of the six million, as well as personal memories of loved ones and friends.

This service is open to all our members, friends, and readers, of *The Reporter*. Registration is required. Please contact BHC at bhcsynagogue1920@gmail.com to request a registration form.

TAY Brotherhood Program Features a Promising Mission, Right Here in Manchester

On Sunday morning, February 28, those who Zoomed in were treated to an interesting presentation by Anna Stevenson, Membership Support Manager at ARMI, Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute, which is right here in

Manchester’s Mill Yard. Dean Kamen is the Executive Director of this fascinating enterprise, which is on a mission to manufacture human organs.

Anna has been with ARMI since this past September and her role is to work

with a variety of organizations to identify opportunities in their ecosystem. Before her time at ARMI, she worked in Boston for three years within the IT Pharmaceutical industry. Anna had a fascinating video on stem cell development—we unfortunately could not download it for our Zoom session, but it was able to be downloaded to be viewed later online. Dean Kamen has said, “Your next job is to create all the baseline engineering necessary to create the industry that will start, at scale, manufacturing human tis-



Anna Stevenson

sues, and eventually, complete organs, like livers and kidneys and lungs.”

What an amazing concept! To date, the organization has over 150 members, including colleges, universities, medical schools, and companies such as Rockwell Automation. There has been funding from the U.S. Department of Defense. Kamen has told supporters that the Manchester property will become “the birthplace of the next great industrial spurt in the world.” It will be “Carbon Valley for the manufacturing of human organs, what Silicon Valley is to the semiconductor industry.”

Among the present happenings is that Manchester city officials are seeking permission from aldermen to pursue a grant to assist with the development of a “vertiport” in Manchester for high-speed electrical vertical takeoff and landing aircraft. This will enhance interaction with associated programs, such as in Cambridge.

Thank you, Anna, for your ARMI update. We will stay tuned for ongoing developments in this evolving, encouraging, promising – and much needed! – undertaking.



Two dozen attendees—including both in-person and Zoomers—listen to the story of Purim from Persia to Iran at the NH4Israel February 23 meeting at TIM.

Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia celebrated Purim with a Zoom powered “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel Purim Spiel”. Written by Cantor Marnie Camhi of Temple Beth Miriam in Elberon, NJ, the speil was performed by many members of the community, including Rabbi Dan Danson, who played Haman.



A V I R T U A L F I L M F E S T I V A L

13TH ANNUAL
NEW HAMPSHIRE
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FILM FESTIVAL
MAY 19-JUNE 10, 2021



**The Crossing | Double Income, Kids | God of the Piano | Golda | Here We Are
A Lullaby for the Valley | The Passengers | Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack
Shorts Program | A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto
Thou Shalt Not Hate | When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit**

PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance tickets for ALL screenings suggested:

Online at <https://2021nhjff.eventive.org/welcome>

Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM

For information, call 603-627-7679.

 On Facebook, visit JFNH and NH Jewish Film Festival for the latest on the NH Jewish Film Festival.



*Supported in part by a grant from the
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

Welcome to the 2021 Virtual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival!

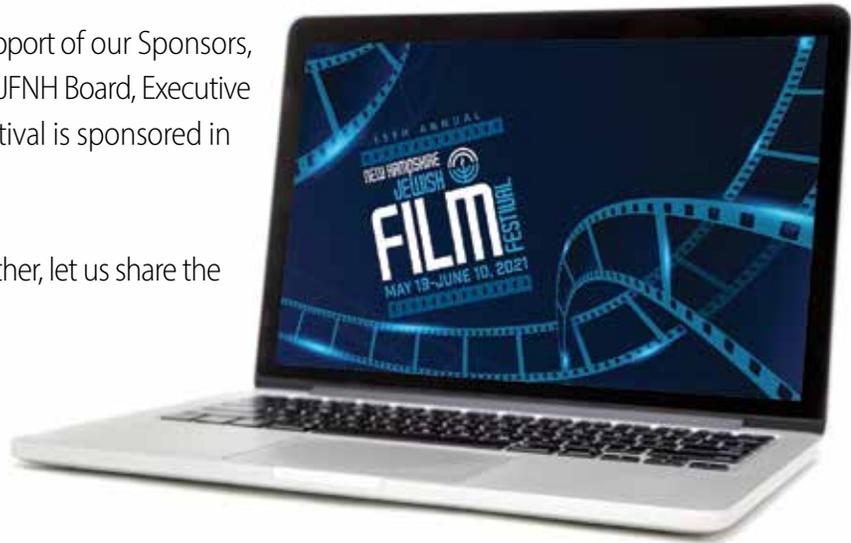
Jewish journeys begin at the 2021 NH Jewish Film Festival! In season 13, we are exceedingly proud to present a premiere lineup of 11 truly outstanding and diverse films throughout the state in a virtual format that will excite, enlighten and provoke you, our audience.

Our Festival would not be possible without the valued support of our Sponsors, Friends of the Festival, Festival Committee members, the JFNH Board, Executive Director Elyse Hyman, and the JFNH staff. This year's Festival is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Council on the Arts.

Join your NH Jewish community at the movies and together, let us share the power of film.

See you at the virtual movies!

Ross Fishbein and Pat Kalik
NH Jewish Film Festival Chairs



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When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Join us for Opening Night
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Caroline Link
Drama, 2020, Germany, Switzerland
119 minutes
German with subtitles

In this gentle, beautifully rendered historical family drama, a German-Jewish girl takes her first steps into adulthood, as world events intrude on her happy, carefree existence. Nine-year-old Anna is too busy with schoolwork and friends to notice Hitler's face glaring from posters plastered all over 1933 Berlin. But when her father suddenly vanishes, and the family is secretly hurried out of Germany, Anna begins to understand life will never be the same. What follows is a courageous adventure full of fear and uncertainty, as Anna and her family navigate unfamiliar lands, and cope with the challenges of being refugees. Oscar-winning filmmaker Caroline Link directs this adaptation of Judith Kerr's semi-autobiographical bestselling children's novel.

Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival, Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival, New York Jewish Film Festival

Film Star Sponsor 

Opening Night Surprise will be announced on our website in April.

After this film becomes available May 19 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



The Crossing

Sunday, May 23, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Johanne Helgeland
Drama, Family, 2020, Norway
90 minutes
Norwegian with subtitles

The Crossing tells the story of the adventurous 10-year-old Gerda and her brother Otto, whose parents are in the Norwegian resistance movement during the Second World War. One day, just before Christmas in 1942, Gerda and Otto's parents are arrested, leaving the siblings on their own. Following the arrest, they discover two Jewish children, Sarah and Daniel, hidden in a secret cupboard in their basement at home. It is now up to Gerda and Otto to finish what their parents started: to help Sarah and Daniel flee from the Nazis across the border to neutral Sweden and reunite them with their parents. *The Crossing* is a film about the confidence, uncompromising loyalty, and great courage you can find in even the youngest of children.

Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2021, Boston Jewish Film Festival 2021

Film Star Sponsor 

After this film becomes available May 23 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



Double Income, Kids

Friday, May 21, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Hendrik Schäfer
Documentary, 2019, Germany, Israel, USA
94 minutes
Hebrew, English, Spanish with subtitles

The film closely follows an Israeli gay couple on their path to parenthood over the course of one year. Both men want to become the fathers of twins with the help of an American surrogate mother. A close look at Israeli society and the mainstream gay baby boom.

Post-film discussion with director Hendrik Schäfer:

Sunday, May 23, 3 PM

Each ticket to *Double Income, Kids* automatically includes a free invitation to the Zoom post-film discussion.

Selection: Hofer Filmtage 2019, Queen Palm International Film Festival 2020, UK Jewish Film 2020, Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival 2020

Film Star Sponsor 

After this film becomes available May 21 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



God of the Piano

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Itay Tal
Drama, 2019, Israel
80 minutes
Hebrew with subtitles

Anat (Naama Preis, winner of the Jerusalem Film Festival award for Best Actress) has never been able to reach her father's exacting musical standards, and now her family's hope of producing a musical prodigy rests on her unborn son. When the baby is born deaf, she cannot accept it and resorts to extreme measures to ensure that her child will be the composer that her father always wanted. But when the boy grows up indifferent to his destiny as a great pianist, Anat will have to stand up to her father and her own actions.

Selection: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2019, BAFICI, B3 Biennale Best Film, Jerusalem Film Festival, Best Actress, Moscow Film Festival, Transatlantyk Film Festival, Miami Jewish Film Festival

After this film becomes available May 25 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



Golda
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Noon
 Admission: \$12/household

Directors Sagi Bornstein, Udi Nir,
 Shani Rozanes
 Documentary, 2019, Israel, Germany
 85 minutes
 Hebrew with subtitles, English

Shortly before her passing, Golda Meir was interviewed for Israeli television. After shooting ended, the cameras kept rolling, recording an intimate talk with the first and only woman to ever rule Israel. As she lit one cigarette after the other, Golda spoke freely, pleading her case for her term as Prime Minister—five turbulent years that secured her place in history, albeit at a high personal cost.

Post-film discussion with director Udi Nir : Sunday, May 30, 3 PM

Each ticket automatically includes a free invitation to the Zoom post-film discussion.

Selection: UK Jewish Film Festival 2019, Denver Jewish Film Festival 2020, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival 2020, Israel Film Festival Los Angeles 2020

Winner: Best Documentary Film, Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival 2020

After this film becomes available May 27 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



Here We Are
Friday, May 28, 2021
Noon
 Admission: \$12/household

Director: Nir Bergman
 Drama, 2020, Israel
 92 minutes
 Hebrew with subtitles

Aharon has devoted his life to raising his son Uri. They live together in a gentle routine, away from the real world. But Uri is autistic, and now as a young adult it might be time for him to live in a specialized home. While on their way to the institution, Aharon decides to run away with his son and hits the road, knowing that Uri is not ready for this separation. Or is it, in fact, his father who is not ready?

Winner: Israeli Ophir Awards for Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Screenplay

Selection: New York Jewish Film Festival 2021, San Diego Jewish Film Festival 2021, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2021, Jewish International Film Festival Australia 2021

After this film becomes available May 28 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack
Sunday, May 30, 2021
Noon
 Admission: \$12/household

Directors: Deborah Shaffer, Rachel Reichman
 Documentary, Biography, 2019, USA
 75 minutes
 English

At 88 years old, Audrey Flack holds a unique place in the history of contemporary art in America. Feminist, rebel, mother, painter, sculptor, and teacher, Audrey's often controversial 40-year career evolved from abstract expressionism in the 1950s to photorealism in the 1970s. *Queen of Hearts* follows Flack as she takes her work in a new direction and reveals her long-term struggles as the mother of a child with autism.

Post-film discussion with director Deborah Schafer and artist Audrey Flack:

Tuesday, June 1, 7 PM. Each ticket to *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack* automatically includes a free invitation to the Zoom post-film discussion.

Selection: Sonoma International Film Festival 2020, DOC NYC 2019, Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival 2020, Cascadia International Women's Film Festival 2020

Winner: Visionary Women Award, Indie Grits 2020

After this film becomes available May 30 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



Thou Shalt Not Hate
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Noon
 Admission: \$12/household

Director: Mauro Mancini
 Drama, 2020, Italy, Poland
 96 minutes
 Italian with subtitles

A leisurely paddle on the Timavo River becomes a life-changing moment for Simone Segre, a highly successful surgeon and son of a Holocaust survivor in Trieste, Italy. Hearing the sound of a car crash, he makes his way to the scene, only to discover that the gravely injured driver to whom he is administering aid has a swastika tattoo on his chest. In the moment he has to decide, Simone chooses to walk away. *Thou Shalt Not Hate* chronicles the consequence of that decision for a man who has made saving lives his life's work.

Winner: Best Actor, Best Italian Film, 2020 Venice Film Festival

After this film becomes available June 2 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



A Lullaby for the Valley
Thursday, June 3, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Ben Shani
 Documentary, 2020, Israel
 75 minutes
 Hebrew with subtitles

Artist Eli Shamir paints the view from his studio balcony — fields stretching to the horizon, ancient oak trees, and a generation of farmers that is disappearing from the vistas of the Jezreel Valley. His large oils are treasured by collectors worldwide. It was director Ben Shani's encounter with one of Shamir's works that spawned the idea of documenting the artist at work. Neither of them had any idea that everything would change as the filming progressed, as an unforeseen danger threatened to rob Shamir of his talent. Filmed over the course of ten years, *A Lullaby for the Valley* focuses on the fascinating figure of Eli Shamir and his paintings. As time passes, like the endless fields of the valley, they are transformed before our very eyes.

Post-film discussion with director Ben Shani: Sunday, June 6, 3 PM

Each ticket to *A Lullaby for the Valley* automatically includes a free invitation to the Zoom post-film discussion.

Selection: Docaviv Israel 2020



After this film becomes available June 3 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Giulio Base
 Drama, 2020, Italy
 100 minutes
 Italian with subtitles

Past and present meet upon the discovery of an old, mysterious photograph that will end up tying together Christian and Jewish students in search of the truth. Trying to unravel the mystery behind the portrait, the boys embark on a journey through a night of horror that cannot be forgotten: the raid of the Roman Ghetto. Retracing these painful events will give them the chance to take a collective stance toward personal, existential, and cultural commitment.

Selection: Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival 2021, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2021, Jewish International Film Festival Australia 2021, Sacramento Jewish Film Festival 2021

After this film becomes available June 9 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



The Passengers
Sunday, June 6, 2021
Noon

Admission: \$12/household

Director: Ryan Porush
 Documentary, 2019, USA, Ethiopia
 72 minutes
 English, Hebrew, Amharic

The Passengers tells the story of two men caught between two—the land of their birth and the land of their faith. They are Ethiopian Jews, members of a community of 9,000 who speak Hebrew, keep kosher, and have Israeli relatives, yet Israel continues to deny their appeals for aliyah, the birthright of Jews around the world to immigrate to the Jewish homeland. These two young men, Demoz and Gezi, embark on a daring journey in their desperate search for a path to their true home—the one they have never seen.

Post-film discussion with director and filmmaker Ryan Porush:

Tuesday, June 8, 7 PM. If you purchase a ticket to *The Passengers*, you will automatically receive an invitation to the Zoom post-film discussion.

Selection: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2020, Cleveland Jewish Film Festival 2019, Gershman Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival 2019, Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival 2019, Seattle Jewish Film Festival 2020

After this film becomes available June 6 at 12 noon ET, you will have 72 hours to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the film.



Closing Event: A Water Cooler Discussion

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7 PM

Admission: Free

Join us in the Red River Theatre Virtual Lobby via Zoom for an open discussion of all the films in this year's NH Jewish Film Festival. Free goody bag with homemade baked goods will be available for pick up in your neighborhood.



All ticket holders may register for this Free Closing Event. A great opportunity to discuss the movies with our community.



Cheeseburger

Available
May 19 – June 10

Admission: Free

Director: Hillary Nussbaum
 Short, 2018, USA
 5 minutes
 English

Three Jewish roommates debate their different views on religion as one contemplates a very big, very not-kosher decision: eating a cheeseburger.

After this film becomes available May 19 at 12 noon ET, you will have until June 10 to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the Short Film Program.



Food Flirts: Pastrami Meets Ramen

Available
May 19 – June 10

Admission: Free

Director: Bruce Seidel
 Documentary Short, 2017, USA
 25 minutes
 English

Meet the Brass Sisters, a.k.a. the Food Flirts, two passionate food explorers of a certain age on a mission to tackle their culinary bucket list. After dreaming about childhood days spent eating pastrami, the Brass sisters decide to finally learn how artisan pastrami is crafted at Mamaleh's, a modern Jewish delicatessen. Meanwhile, producer Bruce sets the ladies up with their very own ramen noodle and broth-making lesson. After savoring this delicious treat for the first time, the sisters decide to mash the two together and to teach us about another Jewish comfort food (noodle kugel)—and the pastrami ramen noodle kugel is born!

After this film becomes available May 19 at 12 noon ET, you will have until June 10 to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the Short Film Program.



How to Swim

Available
May 19 – June 10

Admission: Free

Director: Noa Gusakov
 Black Comedy, 2018, Israel
 15 minutes
 Hebrew with English subtitles

Abigail is heavily pregnant, but something is missing. Terrified about the imminent birth of her child, she kidnaps a comforting partner in crime for one afternoon.

Opening film, Tel Aviv Student Film Festival 2018

Selection: Palm Springs ShortFest 2018, Encounters Film Festival 2018, Hamptons International Film Festival 2018

After this film becomes available May 19 at 12 noon ET, you will have until June 10 to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the Short Film Program.



Egg Cream

Available
May 19 – June 10

Admission: Free

Directors: Nora Claire Miller,
 Peter Miller
 Documentary Short, 2018, USA
 16 minutes
 English

This short film focuses on the enduring meaning of a beloved chocolate soda drink born on the Jewish Lower East Side. The egg cream contains neither eggs nor cream—it was a product of necessity and hardship, but a source of joy and sweetness. Through a tour of egg cream establishments led by a filmmaker and his young daughter, exhaustively researched archival imagery, and even a song by Lou Reed, the film examines the Jewish experience in America and the mythology of a simpler time.

After this film becomes available May 19 at 12 noon ET, you will have until June 10 to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the Short Film Program.



Sushi, Meatballs and Everything

Available
May 19 – June 10

Admission: Free

Director: Liel Gur
 Short, 2018, Israel
 10 minutes
 Hebrew with English subtitles

The road to meatballs is paved with good intentions. A young woman decides to stand up to her loving parents-in-law, once and for all.

Second prize, LongShort Film Festival Tel Aviv 2018

Selection: Pittsburgh Jewish Film Festival 2018, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival 2019, Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival 2019, Denver Jewish Film Festival 2020



After this film becomes available May 19 at 12 noon ET, you will have until June 10 to start watching. Once you begin, you will have 48 hours to finish watching the Short Film Program.

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Supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance tickets for ALL screenings suggested:

Online at <https://2021nhjff.eventive.org/welcome>

Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office,
Monday–Friday, 9 AM–3 PM

For information, call 603-627-7679.

On Facebook, visit JFNH and NH Jewish Film Festival for
the latest on the NH Jewish Film Festival.

GENERAL INFORMATION

INDIVIDUAL FILM TICKETS

\$12/household. The short film program is free to all
ticket holders.

ALL ACCESS FESTIVAL PASS

\$110/household, includes all 11 films, post-film
discussions, and the free short film program.

Save money and treat yourself and your household to
all 11 of this season's terrific films.

Once you've purchased your pass, you still must RSVP
for each of the films on its page in order to receive
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A great gift idea!

FOUR-PACK FILM PASS

\$43/household, includes four films of your choice and
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This 10% discount is a great deal if you plan to view four
of our excellent offerings!

Once you've purchased your pass, you still must RSVP
for each of the films on its page in order to receive
confirmation emails and reminder emails on the day
each film becomes available to view.

A great gift idea!

***Note: Some films have geographical restrictions (please
see individual film pages for details).*

PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING

By your presence, you consent to be photographed,
filmed, and/or otherwise recorded at our Post-Film
Zoom discussions. Your participation constitutes your
consent to such photography and recording and to any
use, in all media, of your appearance, voice, and name
for any purpose whatsoever.

The 2021 Festival at a Glance

All film links are available for
72 hours starting at 12 noon
on the date indicated.

Please Join Us for Opening Night!
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Friday, May 21, 2021
Double Income, Kids

Sunday, May 23, 2021
The Crossing

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 3 PM
Post-film discussion: *Double Income, Kids*
with director Hendrik Schäfer

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
God of the Piano

Thursday, May 27, 2021
Golda

Friday, May 28, 2021
Here We Are

Sunday, May 30, 2021
Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack

Sunday, May 30, 3 PM
Post-film discussion: *Golda*
with director Udi Nir

Tuesday, June 1, 7 PM
Post-film discussion: *Queen of Hearts:*
Audrey Flack with director Deborah
Schafer, artist Audrey Flack

Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Thou Shalt Not Hate

Thursday, June 3, 2021
A Lullaby for the Valley

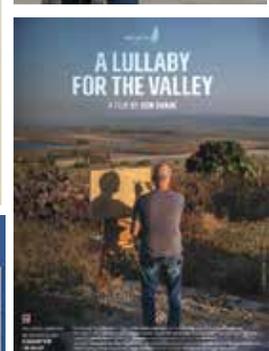
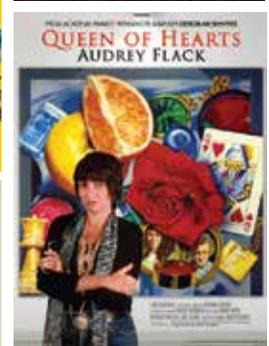
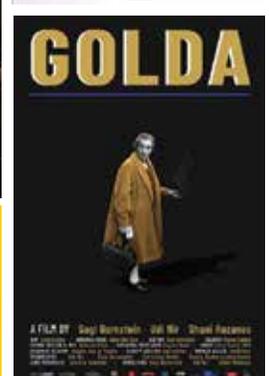
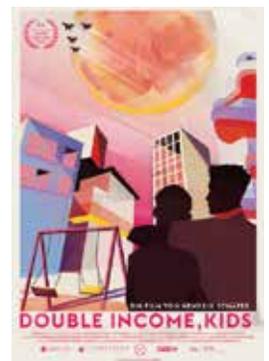
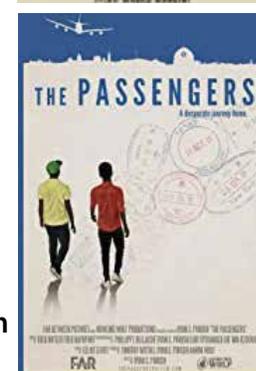
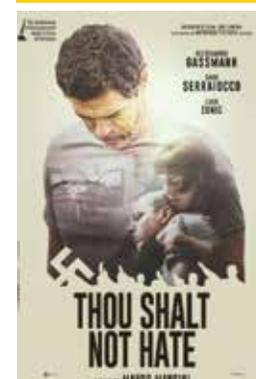
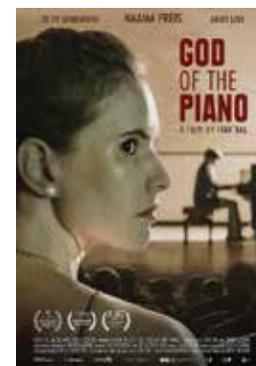
Sunday, June 6, 2021
The Passengers

Sunday, June 6, 2021, 3 PM
Post-film discussion: *A Lullaby for the*
Valley with director Ben Shani

Tuesday, June 8, 7 PM
Post-film discussion: *The Passengers*
with director and filmmaker
Ryan Porush

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7 PM
Closing Event: A Water Cooler Discussion
at the Red River Theatre Virtual Lobby
Open discussion of all the films in the
NH Jewish Film Festival



Film Schedule *continued from page 1*

19th with the 2020 drama, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*. Based on Judith Kerr's best-selling semi-autobiographical novel of the same name, this film tells the story of nine-year-old Anna, whose life starts to shift dramatically one day when her father goes missing. A journey that begins in Germany and spans other European countries where Anna and her family don't know the customs or language, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* will delight viewers of all generations for its timeless and moving portrayal of being forced to leave one's home and start anew elsewhere. Directed by Caroline Link, whose 2001 film *Nowhere in Africa* won Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars that year, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* will be available until Saturday, May 22nd. This film is in German with English subtitles. Stay tuned for an opening night surprise which will be announced on our website in April.

The next film in our opening week is *Double Income, Kids*, which will become available on Friday, May 21st and feature a post-film discussion with special guest Hendrik Schäfer on Sunday, May 23rd at 3pm. A 2019 documentary from Israel, *Double Income, Kids* traces a young Israeli couple in the gay community, over the course of a year, as they prepare to become fathers to twins via a surrogate mother in America. A deep look at the baby boom among LGBTQ+ couples, this film will be available until Monday, May 24th.

The Crossing, a 2020 Norwegian drama, will be the last film in our opening week, available from Sunday, May 23rd to Wednesday, May 26th. The story of Gerda and Otto, two young children whose parents are involved in the Resistance Movement in Norway during World War II, *The Crossing* centers on Christmas Eve, 1942 as a seminal moment for this family. When Gerda and Otto's parents are arrested, they are left on their own alongside two Jewish children, Sarah and Daniel, who have been kept in hiding in their basement. Gerda and Otto take on the monumental task of helping Sarah and Daniel flee through Sweden to reunite them with their family. A deeply touching piece that focuses on themes of loyalty, courage, and standing up for what is right, *The Crossing* is directed by Johanne Helgeland and is in Norwegian with English subtitles.

Tuesday, May 25th to Tuesday, June 1st: The second week of our Festival includes two dramas, two documentaries, and two discussions

The second week begins with *God of the Piano*, an Israeli drama about Anat, a woman who has never been able to live up to her father's musical talents and expectations of her. As she prepares to give birth to a son, she hopes that her child will be the musical prodigy that her father has always wanted in the family. When her baby is born deaf, Anat's goals and perspectives change drastically and she must learn to stand up to her father. *God of the Piano*, in Hebrew with English subtitles, stars Naama Preis, who won the Jerusalem Film Festival's award for Best Actress. It will be available for a 72 hour period beginning on Tuesday, May 25th and continuing through the 28th.

Available from Thursday the 27th to Sunday the 30th, our second film in this week's line-up is the 2019 Israeli documentary *Golda*, which explores the life of Israel's first and only female Prime Minister, Golda Meir. Interviewed not long before her passing, the piece focuses on Meir's case for her success as Prime Minister. Winner of the 2020 Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival's Best Documentary Film Award, *Golda* will include a post-film discussion with director Udi Nir on Sunday, May 30th at 3pm. The film, in Hebrew with English subtitles, focuses intently on Meir's five years in office.

Here We Are, a 2020 Israeli drama, is the next film in our second week's offerings and will be available from Friday, May 28th through Monday, May 31st. A father-and-son story about Aharon and Uri, this film focuses on a journey that takes a devoted dad and his adolescent son on the road, as Aharon considers the implications of placing his son in a specialized home. While traveling, Aharon begins to question his decision, wondering if his son is even ready for the transition. The winner of four Israeli Ophir Awards, including Best Director for Nir Bergman and Best Lead Actor for Shavi Avivi, *Here We Are* asks the difficult question—who is more ready for the separation; parent or child? This Hebrew film also features English subtitles.

The fourth film of our second week is *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack*, a docu-

mentary that follows the career of its eponymous protagonist, an artist with a variety of talents, as she nears her 90th birthday. Her career involved everything from abstract expressionism to photorealism, and the film tracks Flack's constant innovation alongside her own personal struggle of having raised an autistic child. Still constantly searching for new art, this film follows the extraordinary life of a revolutionary woman who was ahead of her time and continues to explore and create. It will be available from Sunday, May 30th through Wednesday, June 2nd, with a post-film discussion on Tuesday, June 1st at 7pm with director Deborah Schafer and the artist herself, Audrey Flack.

Wednesday, June 2nd to Thursday, June 10th: The final week features four critically acclaimed films with two post-film discussions and a final open forum

Thou Shalt Not Hate will open our final week of the Festival, bringing audiences to Italy. The film opens on a successful surgeon named Simone Segre, who is tasked with saving the life of a man with a swastika tattoo. Segre, the son of an Italian Holocaust survivor, is tested on the spot as he debates internally whether to help this victim of a car accident. Calling into question many common themes, including what we, as human beings, owe to one another, *Thou Shalt Not Hate* was bestowed with the Best Italian Film Award at the 2020 Venice Film Festival and will be available beginning Wednesday, June 2nd until Saturday the 5th. The film is in Italian featuring English subtitles.

Available beginning Thursday, June 3rd, Israeli documentary *A Lullaby for the Valley* focuses on Eli Shamir whose oil paintings are celebrated worldwide by art collectors. Filmed by director Ben Shani over the course of ten years, the film traces Shamir as he deals with an unexpected medical challenge that nearly robs him of his creative talent. Inspired by one of Shamir's works, Shani documents the artist at work, focusing on transformation at the core. Available until Sunday, June 6th, the film will close with a 3pm post-film discussion with director Ben Shani that day.

Following that film, *The Passengers* will immediately become available from the 6th until Wednesday, June 9th, and will also feature a post-film discussion on Tuesday the 8th at 7pm with special guest Ryan Porush. An Ethiopian documentary, *The Passengers* traces the story of two young men caught between their homeland and their faith. Among the small group of 9,000 Ethiopian Jews, Demoz and Gazi embark on a journey to return to Israel, a country that continues to deny

them appeals for Aliyah, the birthright of Jews around the world. A deeply compelling piece that also takes the men to the United States, the film focuses on a variety of relevant and provocative worldly issues that face so many people today. The film's story is told in a variety of languages, with English subtitles.



The Passengers

While the Festival formally ends on Thursday, June 10th, the final film, *A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto*, will begin to be available for streaming on the 9th and may be screened until June 12th. Taking us to Italy, this film centers on a photograph whose mystery encourages a group of students of multiple faiths to embark on a journey to discover the past. Seeking the truth above all else, the students retrace events in the Roman Ghetto during World War II as they seek to understand the significance of the photograph.

Join us for our closing event in the Red River Theatre Virtual Lobby via Zoom for an open discussion of all the films in this year's NH Jewish Film Festival, on Thursday, June 10th. A goody bag with homemade baked goods will be available for pick up in your neighborhood. More details to follow.

Despite the inability to attend film screenings in movie theaters this past year, film festivals like ours remind us of the unique shared experiences of viewing films together. Even though we cannot be together to enjoy them in person, we are thrilled to offer this robust virtual series! We invite you to come celebrate with us, whether that involves attending just one movie or all 11!

To assist you in planning your virtual attendance, see our "Schedule at a Glance" on the back page of this issue of *The Reporter* and our film guide insert. Our box office is open! Purchase Festival tickets early for all screenings. For ticket information and movie trailers, visit www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org. We encourage you to extend the invitation to friends and family members, as well! If you're wondering how you can donate to our Film Festival, we would be honored to welcome donations of any amount and to include you as a Friend of the Festival. You can donate online at www.jewishnh.org or by sending in your donation with the Friends of the Festival form found in this issue of *The Reporter*.

We look forward to "seeing" you at the movies in these challenging times and keeping the spirit of our wonderful program alive and well. Cheers!



Jewish Federation
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Movie Review: The Keeper

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Committee Member

After watching the critically acclaimed 2018 film *The Keeper*, it is easy to see why it was selected for the 2020 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, before we shifted to a virtual series with fewer film titles. Now available to rent on Amazon, *The Keeper* tells the true story of German POW Bert Trautmann (1923-2013), who rose to fame as a highly celebrated footballer for England following World War II.

At the core of this film's story is the message of forgiveness. As much as the piece focuses heavily on Trautmann's successful career in football as well as the ups and downs of his life after World War II, one cannot help but consider many other themes as the film unfolds.

The Keeper opens on Trautmann being taken as a POW in England as the war is about to end. While forced to engage in hard labor, Trautmann's athleticism is put on full display. A local grocer and football coach named Jack Friar, a man full of wit and determination, takes notice of Trautmann and enlists him to play with his local league.

What follows is a superb mix of themes, emotions, and plot points. Trautmann faces a lot of hate initially from the English footballers when they see he is a German with past ties to Hitler's regime. This immediately calls into question whether or not they will be able to look past his actions against their country, something that continues to traumatize Trautmann. The team begins to grow fond of Trautmann as they see that he harbors guilt from his past,

changing the team's dynamic for the better.

Even still, themes of forgiveness and atoning for past wrongdoings continue to be present, especially when Trautmann later signs with the Manchester City League. Manchester, a community with a large Jewish population, has a hard time separating Trautmann's innate football ability from his past actions in the war, though key moments of forgiveness that permeate the film's second half help greatly in bettering his image as a true gentleman who simply followed orders during the war.

There is truly something in this film for everyone. The serious nature of the subject of post-World War II trauma and fallout from the Nazi party is indeed at the center of the film, but so are other elements, including romance and some humor, particularly from Jack Friar. It is hard not to be drawn into the lives of these wonderful characters, all who represent what so many people likely went through in the post-World War II era.

The performances anchor the movie beautifully. David Kross, who plays Trautmann, gives a rather quiet performance that is both inspiring and heart-breaking. A character who harbors great regret and guilt, hoping to atone for his past, Trautmann is fascinating to watch on the screen.

Character actor John Henshaw is also strong as Jack Friar, delivering a memo-



rable performance that spans the range of emotions that you feel as you watch this piece. Freya Mavor, who plays Friar's daughter Margaret is also great, balancing her own emotions and changing feelings throughout the film, which ultimately spans over a decade.

It is also hard to forget some of the characters we meet early on, particularly Sergeant Smythe, played by Harry Melling, who many of you will recognize from the recent award-winning Netflix miniseries on chess, *The Queen's Gambit*. Melling achieves his own balance of real and superficial characteristics in portraying Smythe, someone who never really leaves Trautmann's mind and factors in significantly to how he reconciles his past.

Overall, the film is a great portrayal of the post-World War II era and some of

the fallout that came as a result of what Germany did to England. It portrays an already well-known era while showing us a place in the world that may be a little less familiar. Moreover, it is an extremely well-produced period piece that captures the 1940s and 1950s very well, particularly through its powerful use of music and costuming.

The film is available to rent on Amazon for \$4.99, along with a variety of other titles from the distributor Menemsha Films. Just type "Menemsha" into your search on Amazon and you will find a wide selection of some of the best Jewish-themed films for you to enjoy.

In the meantime, stay tuned for more information on the 2021 NH Jewish Film Festival in this month's edition of *The Reporter*, as well as other recommendations on my biweekly blog, "Close-Up with Camenker," sponsored by Red River Theatres in Concord at <https://www.redrivertheatres.org/about/rrt-movie-columns/close-up-with-camenker/>.

Happy viewing and "see" you at the virtual movies!

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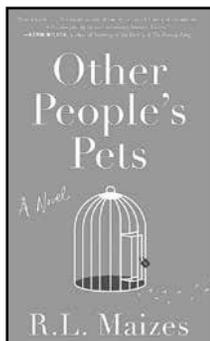
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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Two Books by R.L. Maizes

R.L. Maizes has written an extraordinary plot for her slim novel, *Other People's Pets*. We all have parents, and some of us also have raised children. The novel explores the feelings a child has for their parents, and how those relationships shape our lives. Close or distant, loving or abusive, the interactions between parents and children are influential in regard to the adults we become. This novel explores how far a child will go to connect with a parent and how much the child will risk for the parent they love.



La La grew up with her father, after her mother abandoned them. Her father, a locksmith by trade—to cover a more sinister career—raised La La and taught her the tricks of the trade. It was an unusual childhood. She had no friends or social life outside her home.

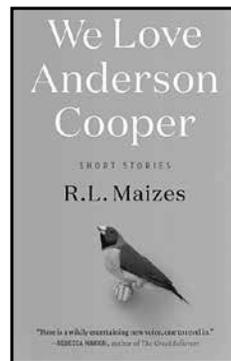
Now an adult on the verge of having it all, a degree in veterinary medicine, a fiancé and a job, it all is on the brink of collapse when her father gets into trouble. La La must decide if she should risk all her independence and autonomy to help her father, or stay the course and move on with her life. This is the moment every parent awaits: is the fissure too large to repair.

For La La, helping her father means giving up on finishing her degree, and trying to raise enough money to bail him out. La La tests the family she has created, the support group around her, to see if it is stronger than the family she was born into.

There is also La La's connection to animals. She is an animal empath, able to feel what an animal is feeling. "She

felt the aching belly of the dog who ate a sock and the broken leg of the cat that tumbled from a window, and a rabbit with a respiratory infection made her wheeze." La La cannot help helping the animals she encounters. Her pet dogs are a comfort to her as she struggles with how to balance the past and not destroy her future.

Also by R.L. Maizes is the book of short stories, *We Love Anderson Cooper*. How many times do we feel we do not fit in? This is a collection of stories about outsiders. In the title story, a young boy wants to announce his sexual identity to his parents, and does not know how, so he uses his Bar Mitzvah speech to explain. In a story entitled "Tattoo", a painter with no tattoos finds a job inking people in a tattoo parlor, and is sought after for his



artwork. These stories are about the irony of life.

Both books are beautifully written, and disturbing at times, with incredible messages and insights. There is so much to think about here—and both will still be with you long after you put them down. The ideas and concepts will stay with you and keep you thinking and rethinking about them as you move through your day.

R.L. Maizes was born and raised in Queens, New York. She now resides in Boulder, Colorado. Her stories have aired on National Public Radio and have been published in many literary magazines. Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Award.

A Book about COVID — for Kids

For over a year, we've all been dealing with the fallout of COVID-19. Families with kids never know—will school be open? In person, or at home? Hybrid? What about a COVID scare? Every day is a new school "adventure," and parents and kids have had to adapt, with parents often working less diligently at their jobs because kids need their full attention. As one parent mentioned, regarding a COVID scare at the preschool of their kids, "COVID is the gift that keeps on giving."

That's why Kathy Brodsky decided to write a little rhyming story about a turtle,

named Talula.

Talula Turtle is sad because of COVID-19. She can't see friends unless they're wearing masks. In addition, school is now closed, so she feels pretty isolated. Talula and her mom then come up with a plan to still see friends, and they look forward to the future, to a time when they can be with others, in person, without masks ... and then finally throw their masks into the trash!

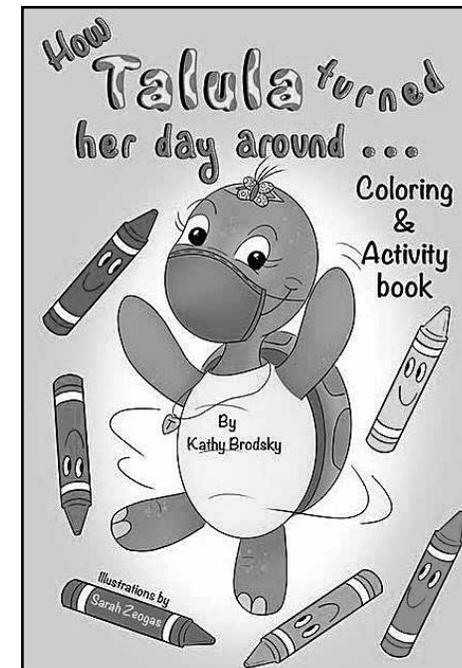
It is a book in rhyme, with discussion—and questions about life—that follow the story. There are also some



Kathy Brodsky

fun activities ("funtivities") in the book, as well as in the coloring/activity book. The paperback and coloring/activity book are available separately or bundled together.

Kathy Brodsky is a clinical social worker, poet, and author. She writes books that are timely, visually exciting, educational, and fun! Teachers often use her books to promote social awareness in their students. Her stories and discussion questions engage and help readers see how the challenges of the characters are similar to those in their own lives. *How Talula Turned Her Day Around* is Brod-



sky's sixteenth book, including one for adults. For more information, please visit www.kathybrodsky.com.

Kathy Brodsky has been a Manchester resident for over fifty years, and she has been on the NH Jewish Film Festival Committee for the last six years. Pat Kalik is a wonderful leader, and Brodsky loves films, so it's a great fit. In addition, Brodsky's sons Jeff and Greg went through Hebrew school in Manchester.

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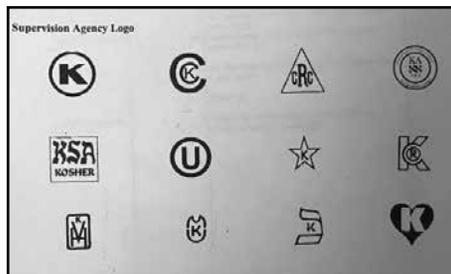
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Jewish Journeys

Keeping Kosher: It's All in The Details

In Jonesboro, Arkansas, the cultural and economic center of Northeast Arkansas—and home to Post Cereal—Matt Nolan wakes up early. He heads to his workday, in his role of quality control at Post, a company that produces more than 140 brands of cereal that are available in every grocery store across the United States. On this cloudy Wednesday, Matt will be joined at Post by Rabbi Moshe Rubin, from Little Rock, Arkansas. Together they will walk around the entire production facility and check the kosher status of every single ingredient that is used in any kosher-certified Post product. They will match every product's formula to the ingredients they see, making sure nothing is overlooked in the process of production.

The term kosher, or kashrut, is familiar to most. The Hebrew word kosher means “fit,” as in fit for consumption for a Jew. Some may even recognize the tiny symbols on thousands of kosher products in the grocery store. Sometimes it will be an OU or an OK, sometimes they are more elaborate designs. No matter what, that tiny symbol is known as a “Hechsher”. And Matt and Rabbi Rubin, formally filling the role of Mashgiach, are a part of the story



behind that Hechsher. There are thousands of quality control personnel in thousands of factories in thousands of cities across the world, working alongside a Mashgiach, the Hebrew word for overseer. The Mashgiach must be well versed in all laws of kashrut, and will visit the factory frequently, either weekly or monthly. Every kosher product must bear some sort of kosher symbol from a trustworthy agency. Each symbol represents a different agency that helps factories and food businesses obtain their kosher certification. There are



four leading agencies (OU, OK, Kof-K, and Star-K), but smaller agencies crop up each year. It is important to look into the background of an unrecognized agency, to ensure that they are keeping the factories to a high standard.

What may be surprising to many is that kosher food is not blessed by a Rabbi. The Mashgiach has no need to bless any of the food they are checking. They are there to make sure that the factory is operating in compliance with kosher dietary laws. What are those laws? Eating Kosher is more than avoiding Sunday morning bacon and that hot, fresh cheeseburger. Food is broken down into three general categories – meat, dairy and pareve. For dairy items to be kosher, they must come from a kosher animal and not be touched by any meat derivatives like rennet or gelatin. The process must be supervised as well, from start to finish, to make sure it is produced, processed and packaged on kosher equipment. Meat and poultry also must come from a kosher animal, but it also must have been slaughtered using the intricate laws that ensure the least amount of pain and discomfort for the animal. The laws of this process are detailed, and the role of a butcher in a Jewish community is held in high regard, for that reason. Pareve foods are neither meat or dairy, like fish, eggs, rice, vegetables, fruit etc. These items can be eaten with either meat or dairy – just not at the same time. Fish must have fins and scales, and fruits and vegetables must be checked for insects before being eaten, and that is largely on the responsibility of the consumer. Any packaged goods, from frozen french fries to canned beans on the shelf, requires a kosher symbol to know that it is good for kosher consumption.

Unlike other dietary recommendations, keeping kosher is not necessarily a moral or health-conscious decision. Although there may be some health benefits that come along with keeping kosher, there are no nutrition requirements for food to be considered kosher and there are plenty of kosher treats to indulge in. Keeping kosher is one of the commandments that is not necessarily understood, but is ob-



served simply because it is mandated by the Torah. It is seen as spiritual upkeep for the soul, and as a result, deepens the harmony between body and soul. For the estimated millions of Jewish people who keep kosher, the role of a Mashgiach is invaluable. They will inspect each ingredient to make sure that there are no questionable items being used. They will also often observe the process from raw ingredients to final product to make sure that at no point does any trace of non-kosher food get in the mix. With a growing number of kosher products being prepared worldwide, the role of Mashgiach has grown in demand. It is often filled by rabbis in local communities, allowing factories in even the most obscure locations to obtain certification.

“It is an interesting field of work, as you have the opportunity to learn about the food production industry, and you get to meet so many wonderful people,” says Rabbi Levi Krinsky, who operates as a Mashgiach in half a dozen local New Hampshire businesses across the state, “It is a personal thrill to work with some of these companies from the time they were in their early stages of their infancy, and to see the metamorphosis of their growth over the years.”

This work is different for Rabbi Krinsky than a lot of his other community outreach in New Hampshire. When he completes his duties, the Kosher symbol is stamped on the product. From maple syrup to multivitamins, from frozen pizza to allergy-friendly baked goods, the food is then distributed across the state – and oftentimes, the country. Knowing that so many people are enjoying the kosher products he supervised is deeply gratifying. It's truly a win-win situation for both the company and the consumer.

For more information on the laws of kosher, reach out to rabbilevikrinsky@gmail.com



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An Exchange Between AZM and the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken

Hadassah is a member of the American Zionist Movement (AZM)*, an umbrella organization comprised of 32 national Zionist organizations. Richard Heideman, President of AZM, wrote a congratulatory letter to the Honorable Antony Blinken, the new U.S. Secretary of State. Mr. Heideman stated that AZM stands ready to assist in every way possible, and especially regarding matters related to the United States relationship with the State of Israel. He went on to say, that Honorable Blinken's personal story of the "connection of his family to the Jewish people and the lessons of the Holocaust is indeed deeply moving. In that context, you may be interested in knowing that, over the past three years, in cooperation with the International March of the Living, AZM hosted delegations that enabled 100 Ambassadors to the United Nations from 66 countries to have important Holocaust educational experiences in Poland. These diplomats then

also traveled onward to Israel, in order to understand the vibrancy of Israel's democracy and civil society.

The important ties between America and Israel have been marked by a strong and enduring friendship since the founding of the State of Israel. As you know from your own extensive experience, support for Zionism has been bipartisan and transcends political divisions. We are confident this will continue under your leadership at the State Department, as well as from The White House during the Biden-Harris administration, and to Capitol Hill in the new 117th Congress.

AZM also looks forward to continuing to work together with the State Department Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism as well as with the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues. We trust you will feel free to call upon us, as AZM pledges full cooperation and assistance in ensuring meaningful dialogue with the Department of State

from across the spectrum of the American Jewish Zionist community designed to strengthen the unique and special US-Israel bond and common commitment to democracy, freedom and cherished shared values."

In Mr. Blinken's response letter, he stated that he looks forward to "working with AZM and other organizations committed to Israel's security and to strengthening all aspects of the U.S.-Israel partnership, Holocaust remembrance, and countering antisemitism here at home and around the world.

The United States and Israel are bound by historic and cultural ties as well as our shared commitment to democracy, free trade, national security, and cultural exchange. The United States will continue to be a strong partner in fighting efforts to delegitimize Israel, and we will work equally tirelessly to counter attempts to isolate Israel in the international community as we also work to advance a two-

state solution where a Jewish and democratic Israel can live side by side in peace, prosperity, security, and freedom with a viable Palestinian state.

As the stepson of a Holocaust survivor, I wholeheartedly believe that we must remain vigilant in speaking out against bigotry, intolerance, and those who seek to undermine democracy. The Biden Administration enthusiastically embraces the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism, including its examples. We are eager to work with allies and partners to counter Holocaust distortion and combat antisemitism and other forms of intolerance abroad while we strengthen our efforts at home, including redoubling our efforts to counter violent extremism."

*The AZM "works across a broad ideological, political and religious spectrum linking the American Jewish community in support of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people." (from AZM website)

For a Tree Has Hope

By Sharon Gelbach

"What is the main defining characteristic of the COVID-19 era?" asks well-known public activist Rabbi Shlomo Raanan. "The coronavirus brought about separation and disconnect," he replies. "It separates between countries, divides communities and splits families. It's about being lonely and alone. My goal is to foster connection. Every Jew has an intrinsic connection to Israel. Let's help them develop that connection and make it grow."

Rabbi Raanan's organization, Ayelet Hashachar, has recently launched a unique initiative to foster connection with Diaspora Jewry: a beautiful promenade in Kiryat Shmona to commemorate the Jewish COVID victims from around the world. But what makes this half-mile long walkway unique are the more than 100 olive trees lining the path. Each tree will represent a different Jewish community from across the globe, serving as a vehicle to commemorate members who passed away from the coronavirus. Visitors to the site can learn about the communities and members who succumbed to COVID by simply standing next to the tree and getting the story on a dedicated app via a QR code. Each community will have its own minisite, featuring eulogies, historical anecdotes, and any extra information that the community wishes to include,



for a bona fide living memorial.

"Throughout the years, Diaspora Jewry has always been there for Israel," says Rabbi Raanan, explaining what inspired him to reach out to Diaspora communities and provide this free service. "We felt that the time had come for us, here in Israel, to show them our solidarity and support during this very challenging time."

The significance of the location of the commemorative promenade is not limited to the fresh air and the stunning views of Mount Hermon that Kiryat Shmona affords. Israel's northernmost city is no stranger to bereavement — its very name commemorates eight people, including hero Joseph Trumpeldor, who

were killed while defending the area. More recently, the proximity of Kiryat Shmona to the Lebanese border has made it a frequent target for terror and rocket attacks.

Kiryat Shmona is a symbol of Jewish determination and tenacity. Off the beaten track, it needs to invest twice the effort to make itself relevant to the center of the country. Despite the hardships associated with being a border city, Mayor Avihay Shtern, has been making great strides to promote development and attract residents. The growing food tech industry and the establishment of large academic institutions are examples of those efforts.

"I am proud and gratified to have this opportunity to reach out to Diaspora communities and commemorate their COVID victims," says Shtern. "There are many memorials, but I've yet to see one honoring those who succumbed to the pandemic — even though we're almost a year in, and it's taken such a heavy toll globally."

Shtern notes that the kilometer-long walkway, to be named "The Path of Life," will serve as "a living history lesson" for local residents as well as the many visitors and tourists who flock to the Upper Galilee. "I think it's important for us to remember, and for the children of the future to know, what happened during this period. The coronavirus will soon disappear, but we must never forget those who were lost to the disease."

A grand opening ceremony for the promenade is scheduled to take place on March 4, with the participation of the mayor, Rabbi Raanan, senior public figures, as well as Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac (Buji) Herzog.

Each Tree, a Unique Story

Rabbi Raanan sees special significance in planting trees as commemoration. "There is a beautiful verse in the book of Job: 'For a tree has hope; if it is cut it will again renew itself and its bough will not cease.' Trees signify revival, particu-

Tree continued on page 28

In Response to Antisemitism on the TV Program ‘Nurses’

By Paul Bieber

It was just wrong. No two ways about it. We all know what right is—there are hundreds of definitions. So, how do we define wrong? No one was physically hurt, yet we know it was wrong, because it hurt us emotionally.

Let’s set the scene. NBC television had a show called *Nurses*. In an episode that played in February, there was a scene where an orthodox Jew was involved in an accident. He needed a bone graft in his shin from a deceased donor. The man’s father was there, as well, and the father was cast and clothed as an orthodox Jew. The nurse came in to describe what the procedure would be. Both the injured man and his father became upset and objected to the operation. “A dead goyim leg,” the father asks, “from anyone? From an Arab woman?” The nurse, frustrated with the duo, pushed back against their Jewish beliefs.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center released

this statement denouncing the scene: “The writers of this scene check all boxes of ignorance and pernicious negative stereotypes, right down to the name of the patient. NBC has insulted and demonized religious Jews and Judaism.” This is quite a statement for the Wiesenthal Center, located in Los Angeles, the heart of the US television entertainment industry.

NBC finally commented, stating that: “This episode will no longer run on NBC and is being pulled from all of the network’s digital platforms. NBC did not have creative input on *Nurses* as it purchased the Canadian series in full from an external studio. The show originally premiered on Canadian TV in January 2020.”

This might be a lame excuse. Certainly, their lawyers, their ethics department and their entertainment honchos saw each show, and didn’t stop this travesty against our religion.

Because this affront was created with “humor” in mind, some people would

just laugh this off and say it is no big deal. I completely disagree. When I want a specific type of humor, I read a certain book or download a movie. This is my private world. NBC, on the other hand, has a greater responsibility to the viewing audience in the United States. This bad attempt at humor was aimed at us, and it was offensive.

I don’t know the exact figures, but a reasonable guess is that two or three million homes watched this on their TV screens. Some viewers laughed, some viewers took mild offense, and some small portion of our fellow Americans thought this was true, because it was shown on their beloved NBC channel. This is the part that hurts the most. I doubt (but I didn’t ask) that NBC would give our National Federation a 30-minute time slot to refute this offensive portrayal that was shown to America.

We must continually be aware of these upsetting premises, so we can teach our children what is right and wrong and so

we can keep these images and thoughts out of our homes, schools and lives.

A couple of weeks ago, on *Saturday Night Live*, there was another portrayal that could be considered antisemitic. Having been a SNL fan since Chevy Chase led the troupe, though, I expect this style of humor. Their writers don’t pick on any specific group: they make fun of everybody, and that is part of the delight of the show. I don’t reprimand NBC for airing this SNL skit, as it is not in their primetime viewing audience, and just about anyone who watches this show does so for the satire—and yes, the political and social jokes.

NBC has not apologized for the *Nurses* segment, other than to say that have pulled it off the air. NBC counts the eyeballs of the people who watch their shows, so they can sell advertising. I urge our readers to contact your local NBC affiliate and tell them to be more sensitive to what they are showing our families during primetime.

Tree continued from page 27

larly olive trees,” he says. “They are a perfect metaphor for the Jewish People. Even when it looks lifeless, the olive tree still retains vitality deep inside. Olive trees are also very adaptive; they survive tough periods and can live for thousands of years. It’s certainly appropriate that the olive tree is the symbol of the State of Israel.”

Currently, the COVID victim commemoration project has aroused great interest worldwide. Rabbi Raanan welcomes community leaders and members who wish to have their community represented by a tree on the promenade.



Rabbi Raanan’s staff of web developers will prepare a dedicated minister for each community, complete with relevant text and visual material free of charge. “The coronavirus separated people from their loved ones, often forcing victims to die alone. This memorial accomplishes the opposite, bringing communities together and uniting people.”

Rabbi Raanan has plans galore to connect Diaspora Jewry with the Land of Israel. Parallel to the commemora-

tion project in Kiryat Shmona, he will offer interested communities the opportunity to plant not just one tree but an entire olive orchard. “There are vast tracts of land across Israel that are neglected, and illegal squatters take advantage of the situation. Communities can plant their own orchards in areas of national importance - the Galilee, the Negev, the Jordan Valley,” he explains.

The Katz family from the Los Angeles area, donors and close friends of

Rabbi Raanan (supporters of this tireless visionary invariably become friends), is enthusiastic about the tree-planting project in Israel’s north. “Today, after the coronavirus lockdowns have upended traditional schooling, I think we need to think of creative ways to engage our children. This project, which is literally a living museum, has tremendous potential to teach and inculcate important values, and I look forward to seeing it becoming operational in the very near future.”

Rabbi Raanan is overflowing with ideas to build bridges between Jews of different backgrounds, thereby fostering unity. His landmark Chavrutah program was established over two decades ago with the aim of encouraging dialogue between secular and religious Israelis. The program now features close to 20,000 people studying in partnerships, in Israel and abroad.

Ayelet Hashachar has a plethora of projects that all share a singular aim: to heal the divisiveness that plagues Israeli society by eliminating mistrust between sectors, thereby breaking stereotypes and encouraging mutual respect. For more information about how to have your community featured in the Path of Life COVID victim commemoration project, please contact Email: pathoflife@ayelethashachar.org or Tel: +97252-617-6222

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JScreen Launches National Cancer Genetic Screening Program

By Jason Edelstein

JScreen, a national public health initiative based out of Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Human Genetics, today announced a new program that will offer at-home testing for more than 60 cancer susceptibility genes associated with hereditary risks for breast, ovarian, prostate, colorectal, skin and many other cancers.

"Making cancer genetic testing accessible is key," said Jane Lowe Meisel, MD, Associate Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Emory University School of Medicine, and medical director for JScreen's cancer program. "This type of testing is important because it alerts people to their risks before they get cancer. They can then take action to help prevent cancer altogether or to detect it at an early, treatable stage."

Unlike direct to consumer companies, JScreen's cancer program offers highly accurate testing that uses state-of-the-

art genetic sequencing technology. The robust cancer testing panel includes genes that are actionable, meaning there is something that can be done to help prevent cancer if a person tests positive. Importantly, licensed genetic counselors provide information via phone or secure video conferencing to ensure that people understand their results.

Until now, JScreen's focus has been on reproductive carrier screening for diseases like Tay-Sachs that occur more commonly in the Jewish population, as well as diseases such as cystic fibrosis that are common in the general population. JScreen has tested thousands of participants and given high-risk couples essential information about options to help them have healthy children.

JScreen heard from members of Jewish communities across the U.S. that they were interested in genetic testing to assess personal cancer risk. Their concerns stemmed from the fact that Ashkenazi Jewish men and women face a 1 in 40 risk of carrying mutations in the

BRCA1 and *BRCA2* genes; this is **more than 10 times the risk in the general population**. Ashkenazi Jews are at increased risk for carrying these mutations even if they do not have a personal or close family history of BRCA-related cancers.

To meet this need, JScreen and Emory's Winship Cancer Institute launched the Atlanta PEACH BRCA pilot study in July of 2019 to assess interest in testing for the BRCA genes. Through this study, JScreen offered at-home BRCA testing to eligible Ashkenazi Jews age 25 and older who did not have personal or close family histories of related cancers, but were at risk based on their ancestry. The study enrolled more than 500 eligible participants in less than 6 months. The results of this study confirmed interest in at-home cancer genetic testing for BRCA and other cancer susceptibility genes in this community, and helped inform best practices for the national launch of JScreen's cancer genetic screening initiative.

"I never even thought to get screened

until I learned about JScreen's study in Atlanta last year," says Karen Smerling, age 62, of Atlanta. "After I underwent screening, I found out I was BRCA2 positive. I chose to have a bilateral mastectomy before cancer could possibly come my way. JScreen did indeed save my life and can do so for others who take the first steps toward genetic testing."

"Knowledge is power. With an understanding and awareness of their cancer risks and available options, individuals can work with their health-care providers on next steps," said Karen Arnovitz Grinzaid, MS, CGC, Assistant Professor of Human Genetics at Emory University School of Medicine, and JScreen's Executive Director. "Launching our new cancer program and providing convenient and affordable access to cancer genetic testing will help save lives. We are thrilled to bring this important resource to the Jewish community."

Please visit JScreen.org for more information.

New Initiative Connects Seniors and Other Vulnerable Populations with Tech-Savvy Volunteers to Help Navigate Complicated Vaccine Appointment Systems: Successful Pilot Program Now

By Jason Edelstein

Replicated Nationwide

(NEW YORK) — The Vaccine Appointment Network's project template helps communities connect tech-savvy volunteers with seniors and other vulnerable populations to help them get appointments for a COVID-19 vaccine. Powered by Repair the World, the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center in Washington DC (EDCJCC), and Hillel at the George Washington University (GW Hillel), the Network's first training session included hundreds of participants from organizations around the country. Organizations can access the Network's toolkit to start building a local program to match volunteers to vaccine-eligible community members locally.

"We're building a network of organizations and young people who are committed to helping the most vulnerable get this vaccination," said Jordan Fruchtman, Senior Director of the Jewish Service Alliance at Repair the World, which mobilizes Jews and their communities to take action to pursue a just world, igniting a lifelong commitment to service.

"The model is proven to work, and by providing an easy-to-use project template for communities to adapt the program locally, we can impact thousands of lives."

EDCJCC and GW Hillel launched the model in Washington, D.C. by connecting their community's population of seniors with student volunteers, respectively.

"Young people want to make a difference and help at risk older adults to better navigate the complex vaccine system and secure appointments," says Reuben Rotman, President/CEO of NJHSA, which is sharing the Vaccine Appointment Network's Toolkit with its Network. "We're excited to bring this much needed program model to front line Jewish human service agencies and their clients."

By putting out a call to their population eligible for the vaccine, EDCJCC recruited 200 seniors for the program in one week. A similar call from GW Hillel for volunteers resulted in 100 sign ups—just in the first week. They've now matched 200 seniors with volunteers.

"The COVID-19 vaccine registration process is tedious, frustrating, and emotional for many, but especially for our country's most vulnerable," says volunteer

Sarah Boxer of George Washington University's Class of 2022. "After a year of immense trauma and suffering, older adults should not need to navigate ten different websites and compete with younger, faster typers for a potentially life-saving vaccine. The Vaccine Sign-Up Support project found a way to build companionship and community out of an exhausting process. It feels incredible to be part of the GW Hillel community knowing that we are willing to take meaningful action to help when a need arises."

Background

The COVID-19 vaccine roll out in the United States is in desperate need of volunteers. Eligible community members across the country, particularly seniors over 65, are struggling to navigate the complex online systems needed to schedule an appointment to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Young adults make ideal volunteers for this effort, with native internet skills and a desire to support their communities.

Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC (EDCJCC) and Hillel at the George Washington Univer-

sity (GW Hillel) pioneered a successful approach to this problem by connecting EDCJCC's population of seniors with GW Hillel's population of student volunteers. Repair the World loved this model - and we wanted to bring a similar strategy to as many communities as possible. Recognizing that a hyper-localized vaccine roll-out required a local approach, Repair the World set out to replicate EDCJCC and GW Hillel's materials to create a templated vaccine sign-up support program toolkit for any local community to adapt to their needs.

According to Jewish tradition, someone who saves a life is credited as if they have saved an entire world. By supporting vulnerable community members in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, we have a chance to live out the Jewish value of *piku'ach nefesh* (saving a soul) in a direct and meaningful way.

The Vaccine Appointment Network is a project template for a community-based program matching tech-savvy volunteers with eligible community members (focusing on seniors ages 65+) for support navigating the COVID-19 vaccine appointment process.



JFNH Tributes

Received by March 10, 2021

Friends of the Reporter

From Isaac Schiff in honor of Jan Schiff

Simchas

New! B'nai mitzvah, engagement, wedding or new baby in the family? Share your happiness with the community with a notice in the Reporter's new *Simchas* section. Your \$36 payment will support JFNH's nonprofit mission. Submit a short notice and photo to thereporter@jewishnh.org or JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unite #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

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.

Help Wanted!

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

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

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

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JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

Amount of Contribution:

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

Designated to the following fund:

- Annual Campaign
- Friends of the Reporter
- 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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PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance tickets for ALL screenings suggested:
 Online at <https://2021nhjff.eventive.org/welcome>
 Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org
 By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office
 Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM
 For information, call 603-627-7679.
 On Facebook, visit JFNH and NH Jewish Film Festival
 for the latest on the NH Jewish Film Festival.



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2021 Festival at a Glance

May 19 - June 10

All film links are available for 72 hours
 starting at 12 noon on the date indicated.

Please Join Us for Opening Night!
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Friday, May 21, 2021
Double Income, Kids

Sunday, May 23, 2021
The Crossing

Sunday, May 23, 2021, 3 PM
 Post-film discussion: *Double Income, Kids*
 with director Hendrik Schäfer

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
God of the Piano

Thursday, May 27, 2021
Golda

Friday, May 28, 2021
Here We Are

Sunday, May 30, 2021
Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack

Sunday, May 30, 3 PM
 Post-film discussion: *Golda*
 with director Udi Nir

Tuesday, June 1, 7 PM
 Post-film discussion: *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack*
 with director Deborah Schafer, artist Audrey Flack

Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Thou Shalt Not Hate

Thursday, June 3, 2021
A Lullaby for the Valley

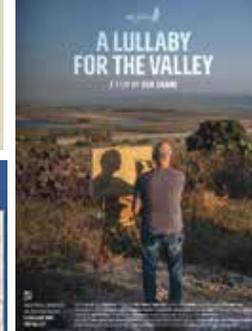
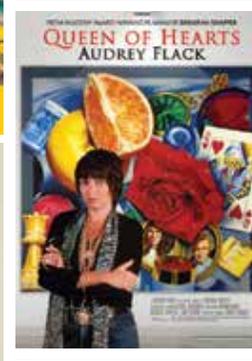
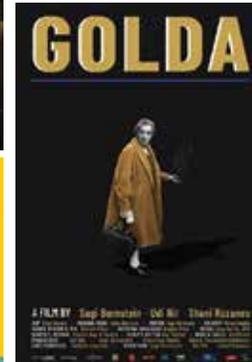
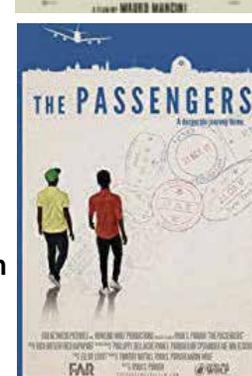
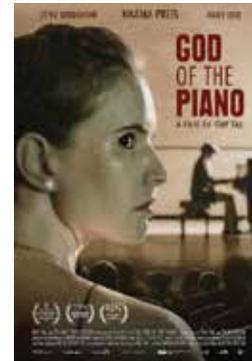
Sunday, June 6, 2021
The Passengers

Sunday, June 6, 2021, 3 PM
 Post-film discussion: *A Lullaby for the Valley*
 with director Ben Shani

Tuesday, June 8, 7 PM
 Post-film discussion: *The Passengers*
 with director and filmmaker Ryan Porush

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
A Starry Sky Above the Roman Ghetto

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7 PM
Closing Event: A Water Cooler Discussion
at the Red River Theatre Virtual Lobby
 Open discussion of all the films in the
 NH Jewish Film Festival



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