

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 43, Number 2

November 2022

Cheshvan-Kislev 5783



FALL & GIVING

Meeting of The Board of Directors

By Dina Michael Chaitowitz

On October 2, 2022, the Board of Directors held a day-long retreat to discuss the Federation's mission: Promoting a vibrant Jewish community and Jewish continuity in New Hampshire and elsewhere. It was a very productive meeting, organized and managed expertly by the Federation's Director, Allyson Guertin.

David Goldstone and Tracy Richmond—two members of the Board's Executive Committee—received Shem Tov awards, presented by the Federation for their dedication and commitment to strengthening the New Hampshire Jewish community. David received his award in 2021 but this was our first opportunity to present it to him as a group and in per-



son. Mazel tov, David and Tracy!

The images on the awards were painted

by the talented Avia Sagron, who was our

Shlichah from 2019 to 2021.



What's Inside

Federation Voices	3
Calendar	4
Your Federation at Work	5
From the Bimah	6
In The Community	7
Arts & Entertainment	14
Book Review	14
Film Review	19
Cookbook Review	20
Opinion	20
Kids' Corner Coloring Page	21
Jewish Journeys	22
Israel News and Events	24
Tributes	26
Business & Professional Services	27

Attend the Opening of the The Museum of New Hampshire Jewish History on Nov. 15, 2022

By Stephen Soreff, M.D.

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:00pm will mark the opening ceremony of the The Museum of New Hampshire Jewish History. It is located within the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's office at 273 South River Road, Bedford. To attend this event in person, you must register for it on the JFNH website. There will be light refreshments.

The museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and display the Jewish history of our state. The museum tells the long overdue story



USS Bronstein DE 189

of the Jews in New Hampshire, all in one place. It was funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The first exhibit of The Museum of New Hampshire Jewish History will be the life and times of Doctor Benjamin Bronstein: He was a Jewish

Manchester physician who died when his destroyer was torpedoed by a Nazi submarine in 1942. The Navy commissioned a destroy escort for him called the U.S.S Bronstein. There is Bronstein Park in Manchester honoring him.

With the recognition of Dr. Bronstein, and our launch being so close to Veteran's Day, the museum will also take time to honor all the New Hampshire Jewish veterans, past and present. At this time, we are compiling a list of those veterans, who will be acknowledged in the opening ceremony. For more information and to become involved in The Museum of New Hampshire Jewish History, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD at (603) 895-6120 or email soreffs15@aol.com.



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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

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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
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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
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org
office@keenesynagogue.org
Services: Regular Friday night services at
7 PM
Weekly Shabbat Torah study at 9:30AM.
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd
Saturday of each month at 9:30AM.
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the
4th Saturday of each month at 10:30AM.
All services are in-person and online.
Check the website for schedule changes
and Zoom links."

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Jan Katz
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

66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org
Services: Fridays at 7 PM
Saturdays at 10 AM
Morning Minyans - 7:00am every
Wednesday. At this time, we are offering
in-person Friday and Saturday Shabbat
services on alternating weeks. Masks are
required.

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
Conservative
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbijon@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services (generally):
Every Friday at 8:00 pm
Every Saturday at 10:00 am
Evening minyan Sunday-Thursday 7:30
pm and at the end of Shabbat
Second Friday each month Shabbat Alive!
6:30 pm
Meditation every other Saturday 9:00 am
All services on Zoom, most at the Temple
(check website)

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan Marlana 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
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Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
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The objectives of The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of New Hampshire by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

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

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

Opinions presented in the paper do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation. Photos submitted by individuals and organizations are published with their permission.

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut please consult your rabbi.

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

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)

November 4 5:16 PM
November 11 4:08 PM
November 18 4:02 PM
November 25 3:57 PM



Talking About Tzedakah

How do you raise thoughtful, appreciative, generous children? At this time of year, I find myself at a bit of a loss.

There are little things we do as a family to teach our children about giving - paying for the car behind us at Dunkin Donuts, slipping gently used books into Little Free Libraries, supporting programs like PJ Library and other organizations that help children get access to books. At the beginning of Covid our neighborhood shined with acts of kindness - "fairy-ing" neighbors and friends by anonymously dropping off bags of baked goods and coloring books or other activities, bringing bagels or donuts to first responders and teachers, all ways of saying "I see you, I appreciate you, I'm thankful for what you do." It's not always easy to talk about giving with children. I think part of why these conversations are so hard is because it's frightening for children to imagine going without. To think about other kids being sick, living in unsafe homes, or who don't have enough to eat, or warm beds to sleep in. Talking about it makes children feel anxious and powerless and scared, or just disconnected. Yesterday I watched the Shaboom YouTube video "Get with the Giving - Gabi and Rafi Talk About Tzedakah" with my five-year-old son. The video does an excellent job of explaining the goal of Tzedakah (charity), and the difference between helping someone you might not even know by giving things they might need or want - not just getting rid of your old stuff, particularly broken toys and old, expired, or moldy food.

In my family there are two rituals of

Dinah Berch

JFNH
Program
Coordinator



Tzedakah we return to, one weekly and one annually. First, we try to give Tzedakah on Friday nights, placing quarters in our PJ Library Tzedakah box. The kids take turns putting in their coins, and then taking the top off the box to see how full it is. They discuss where they want us to send the money when the box is full. We've talked about how there are causes for everything - cleaning up the ocean, taking care of fish and sharks, feeding the hungry, giving warm coats to children who might not have them, helping to heat homes, even bringing music and art into hospitals. The charities that currently resonate most with my eight-year-old daughter are women's and girls' shelters, children's homes, and foster care organizations. (She's been reading Anne of Green Gables and recently acted in a theater production of "Annie Jr." - both stories about orphans.)

Our second ritual was started by my grandparents when my mother and her siblings were little. Every year, for Chanukah, each child chooses a charity for their parents to donate to. My parents tell my grandmother where they would like their Chanukah donation to go; My siblings and I tell my parents; and now my children are encouraged to tell us. It's a nice way to make sure the giving is not

just financial, or for a tax break, but furthering a cause important to each individual in the family. I went through a phase where I tried to find the weirdest most niche overlooked causes - hospital clowns, monkey helpers, paraplegic dogs, etc. Now I strive to support at least one local organization and one global organization each year.

I've found a few specific PJ Library books that are helping me to have conversations about Tzedakah, giving, and appreciation with my children: *The Best Sukkot Pumpkin Ever* by Laya Steinberg talks about soup kitchens and feeding the hungry; *Avi the Ambulance Goes to School* by Claudia Carlson shows a little ambulance learning all about helping others; *Mitzvah Pizza* by Sarah Lynn Scheerger, a real story about a Pizzeria that had a "pizza fund" for anyone who came into the restaurant hungry. I'm hopeful that this year my children will be more mindful of those in need, more ap-

preciative of what they have and eager to find more ways to donate or help in whatever ways they can.

Please join us on November 5th at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for a special "Hakarat Hatov" (recognizing the good) Mitzvah Pizza event. We need your help to create a "kindness wall" with notes and pictures of ideas for Tzedakah and good deeds we can try to do in our communities. I encourage you to bring canned goods and maybe some leftover (uneaten, fully wrapped) Halloween candy to donate.

Make sure your favorite (or second favorite) stuffed animal friend comes with you! At the end of the event, we will decorate shoebox beds for you to tuck your friends in and say goodnight. Then it's time to turn over the JFNH office to the stuffies, and follow their fun on social media!

Thank you for your support and for reading - I appreciate you!

1 5 T H A N N U A L

NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 16-26, 2023

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Presented by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire | www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

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Drop off your gently used PJ Library and PJ Our Way books at the JFNH office in Bedford or Temple Israel in Portsmouth or contact Dinah to make arrangements!

Questions? Contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

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 March 16-26, 2023

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Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH

JFNH offers its Film Festival Sponsors a wide array of benefits to this multi-access event:

- The opportunity to connect with the statewide Jewish community and general public.
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- Introduce your business to the NH statewide Jewish community during the largest Jewish cultural event of the year.
- Reach an established and significant demographic of over 3,200 homes and a statewide filmgoing audience.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this highly anticipated cultural event.

For details, e-mail filmfest@jewishnh.org
 or go to our website www.nhfilmfestival.com
 or www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com/sponsor



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Statewide Calendar of Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are submitted weeks in advance of publication, and are subject to change. For information on format changes, rescheduling, 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.

Saturday, November 12

An Evening on Broadway

7:00PM – 10:00PM Temple Beth Jacob, Concord
 Cost \$18/pp

Temple Beth Jacob presents an Evening on Broadway. A musical fundraiser featuring Mark Selesnick on piano and Alan Burgess, vocals... A selection of early Broadway with a splash of Jazz. Contact office@tbjconcord.org or call 603-228-8581.

Saturday, November 19

Temple Israel Shabbat Service and Shem Tov Award

10:00AM -12:30PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
 Shabbat service and celebration for Jeff Klein, Shem Tov Award recipient. <http://www.templeisraelmht.org>

Sunday, November 20

Betenu Adult Education

1:30PM – 3:00PM, Congregation Betenu, Amherst and via Zoom

Adult education program and discussion group to be held live and on Zoom. Led by Rabbinical Intern Rav Naomi Gurt Lind. This will be a hybrid event. If you wish to attend via Zoom, please contact Betenu for the link. office@betenu.org

Saturday, November 5

Shabbatone Service and Breakfast

10:00AM – 12:15PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
 Call for more information 603-622-6171

Sunday, November 6

Sunday Funday

9:30AM – 11:30AM, Temple Israel, Manchester
 Join us for "Grown Up and Me" Time to learn songs and Jewish traditions. Open to children ages 3-6 and their caregiver. Both temple members and nonmembers are welcome! No cost to attend. Contact Liz Sommers familyeducator@outlook.com



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PJ Library Family of the Month: The Buck/Heitger Family

By Dinah Berch

The wonderful thing about PJ Library is that it welcomes all types of families looking for Jewish experiences. There is no mold or criteria a family must fit into to benefit from the books or attend a program, they just have to share one common goal — raising Jewish children.



Each month we will be highlighting families from across New Hampshire showing how PJ Library and even the smallest experiences and traditions ensure that the history and love of Judaism is passed on to our next generation. Interested in your family being featured? Contact Dinah Berch, Dinah.berch@jewishnh.org.

Meet the Buck/Heitger Family, our PJ Library – New Hampshire Family of the Month

Tell us a little bit about your family:

We are Jen, Anton, Madelynne (almost



9) and Lylah (6.5). We have two beloved mutts, Penny (a 5-year-old pit bull/lab mix) and Panda (a 4-year-old border collie/Australian shepherd mix). We all love spending time with friends and family, and being outside in our great state of New Hampshire, and beyond! Some of our favorite things to do together are hike, explore, fish, boogie board at the beach, play board games, cook, bake, and watch movies.

How long have you been a PJ Library family and how did you learn about the program?

We first heard about PJ Library when Maddie was a preschooler at the Early



Learning Center at Temple Israel Portsmouth, almost six years ago. I believe it was our good friends the Lefk family (who later ended up introducing Jen and Anton!) who initially informed us about this amazing program. We signed Maddie up immediately and then added Lylah to the program when she was born in 2016.

Tell us about your experiences with PJ Library and how this program (books and events) has impacted your family:

We've had a wonderful experience with PJ Library over the years! The books have provided us with entertaining stories, great lessons, yummy recipes, and a way for all of us to gain more knowledge about Jewish holidays together. The PJ Library events have allowed us to feel connected to other Jewish families and the community in a manner and environment that works well for our family.

As PJ parents, what do you value most about your involvement with PJ Library? Why?

Being an interfaith, blended family, we love how PJ Library books and events help teach us all more about Judaism, values, and holiday customs in a fun, interactive manner. We also really enjoy meeting local Jewish families at the events.

What are your children's favorite PJ books?

There are so many! We've really enjoyed: *Apple Days*, *Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah*, *The Little, Little House*, *Maddie the Mitzvah Clown*, *Maddie's Fridge*, *Bone Button Borscht*, *Goodnight Laila Toy*, *Sammy Spider's First Purim*, *PJ Library Family* continued on page 6

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The Days Are Shorter and the Work Is Great

We are living in dark times. Much is expected of us. Are we up to the challenge?

With a month or so to go before the winter solstice, the days in New Hampshire are getting shorter and shorter. Between the first day of November and the last, the amount of daylight will decrease by one hour and then by an additional quarter hour by the time of the solstice. So much darkness has an adverse effect on people's mental health, sleep patterns, and overall productivity. Yet, the world around us does not slow down as days grow shorter and nights grow longer. In the workplace, we are expected to still be at the top of our game. Family obligations do not take a vacation. Sometimes, even greater demands might fall upon us. It's a safe bet that by December 21st, we will be pining away for the fifteen-hour-plus day of June 21st.

Would that the darkness around us



were only a matter of astronomy! Deep political and social divisions at home and global humanitarian crises due to war, corruption, and climate change have cast a pall over humanity that is not easily escaped. Indeed, at this time of year and at this moment in history, the words of a great rabbi resonate more strongly than ever:

"The day is short, the work is great, and the workers are full of sloth; yet the reward for their work is great, and the Master of the House is stressing out (Mishnah Avot 2:15)."

While the sage, Rabbi Tarfon, was ad-

ressing the Jewish community in the aftermath of one of the darkest periods of Jewish history – the destruction of the Second Temple – he could well have been speaking to us. There is an urgency to this moment that is very different, but no less palpable, from in the era of Jewish revolts against Rome and the seminal years of both Rabbinic Judaism and Christianity. American democracy and human rights are at risk, though the extent and nature of that risk depends on which side of the abyss you stand. At the time of this writing, the war in Ukraine rages on, and there's no telling when or if Putin will resort to using tactical nuclear weapons. In addition, people who lost loved ones, property, and keepsakes in Hurricane Ian are among millions of people on our planet reeling from storms, floods, wildfires, and drought that are growing increasingly severe and catastrophic. For many of us, it feels like the clock is ticking, our days growing increasingly shorter.

With all of life's challenges nowadays, it seems that we human beings are failing at our job. We are not doing what is required to care for God's creation. We might imagine along with Rabbi Tarfon that the Creator – the Master of the House – is growing anxious and impatient. From God's vantage point, we must

look lazy or hopeless or confused or exhausted or some combination of these. Whatever natural tendencies we have as human beings toward these various conditions are exacerbated by the literal and figurative darkness we are experiencing. But the work must be done, nonetheless.

Now, Rabbi Tarfon was surely speaking about matters of Torah learning and religious observance, and the "reward" of which he spoke might await us in "the world to come." Still, let's allow ourselves to hear him exhorting humanity to muster the resolve, the hope, the clarity, the strength, and, yes, the faith to get back to business and right the course we are on. Let's allow ourselves permission to believe that we have it in our power to create a world that is safe and secure, full of compassion and peace – a world filled with light even when darkness falls, as it surely will at the most inopportune times.

The job ahead of us is daunting, to be sure, but we can do it. Now is the time to discern what unique role we can each play in getting that job done, pleasing the Boss of Bosses, and ultimately reaping the rewards. After all, as Rabbi Tarfon also said:

"It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it (Mishnah Avot 2:16)."

PJ Library Mitzvah Pizza & Stuffy Sleepover

November 5, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM

\$5/person | Register by Nov. 2nd

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
273 South River Road, Unit #5
Bedford, NH 03110

RSVP



It's a Mitzvah Pizza Party
at the JFNH office!

Enjoy Havdallah followed by a pizza dinner and a story. Bring canned goods and Halloween candy to donate. Make sure your favorite (or second favorite) stuffed animal friend comes with you! After you leave it's time to turn over the JFNH office to the stuffies - and follow their fun on social media!



Dinah Berch | 603-627-7679 ext 1002 | dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

PJ Library Family

continued from page 5

and *Yitzi the Trusty Tractor*.

What has been your child's favorite PJ Library program and why?

Some of our more recent favorites have been the Passover Story Walk at Livingston Park, and the "A is for Apple, B is for Bubbie" Rosh Hashanah event at Carter Hill Orchard.

What do you wish most people knew about PJ Library – New Hampshire?

There's a lot more to it than simply receiving Jewish books in the mail!

Tell us about your favorite Jewish family tradition or a special memory you have?

One of our favorite family traditions is making challah French toast. A special memory for us was teaching Anton's family about Hanukkah and celebrating the holiday together with them in Ohio.

The SHEPLER FINANCIAL GROUP

Investment Management

(603) 624-1900

harry@sheplergroup.com

Bedford, NH 03110

Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates 30 Years

Saturday, November 12, 2022
at 7:00 PM

Please join us in celebration of this milestone, with food from Amphora, Cash bar, DJ, Dancing and Silent Auction. Visit www.etzhayim.org/30thAnniversary to purchase tickets.

Etz Hayim Synagogue initially evolved out of a Torah Study Group taught during the winter of 1991-1992 by Rabbi Bruce Diamond. As interest in establishing a local synagogue grew, Rabbi Diamond began to conduct Shabbat evening services at the West Side Community Center in Derry, the first being held in April. By June of that year, a working group of twelve households drafted by-laws, then applied for (and later received) a charter from the state of New Hampshire. In September 1992, Etz Hayim held its first High Holy Day services at Derry's Masonic Temple. As there was a demonstrated need for more permanent quarters, the Odd Fellows Hall located at 18 Oak Street in Derry, was rented during the fall of 1992 and offerings were expanded to include a midweek youth education program and monthly Sunday Camp.

By June 1993, Etz Hayim had attracted nearly fifty member households and elected officers as well as a board of directors. Once again, the synagogue had outgrown its quarters. A warm relationship had developed between Etz Hayim and Derry's Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, having co-sponsored a Thanksgiving Service the previous year. An agreement was soon reached for the synagogue to share a home in the church beginning in the autumn of 1993. Ever since, Etz Hayim has held its worship services, educational programs, and other events at the church whenever possible.

As Etz Hayim continued to grow, the search for land and a building of our own was an ongoing process. This became more of a reality when one of our members donated a three-acre parcel to us in December 1999. Unfortunately, we later found that erecting a structure on this property was going to be quite cost prohibitive due to the configuration of the parcel along with the discovery of

ledge. A decision was made to sell the land and look elsewhere. At that time the Church of the Transfiguration made a stunning offer to subdivide a portion of its lot for Etz Hayim to purchase and build a home of its own. In 2008, the land was purchased and the establishment of our "interfaith campus" was underway. Our official groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 6, 2008.

Etz Hayim achieved its dream of owning its own home and has grown and thrived as the center of Jewish life in the greater Derry region. As an independent Reform egalitarian synagogue, Etz Hayim is committed to be open to all seekers, to provide services for Shabbat and holidays, to educate both children and adults, and to work to repair the world (*Tikkun Olam*).

Congregation Betenu Student Recognized by Senator Hassan as Granite Stater of the Month

Evan Crotty of Wilton, a Bar Mitzvah Student at Congregation Betenu in Amherst, was recognized by Senator Maggie Hassan as August's Granite Stater of the Month.

Evan's love of nature as well as his involvement in his school's performing arts programs inspired him to create a Bar Mitzvah program that would benefit both causes. He set out to walk all 68 miles of Wilton's roadsides with a goal of picking up 200 bags of trash. Evan's hope is that when others see him cleaning trash and litter, they will also be inspired to care for the natural places around them.

Evan is a percussionist in his school



Evan Crotty

band and has participated in the drama program. In conjunction with his project, he has set up a Go Fund Me Page to raise money for the performing arts programs at his school. Money raised will go directly to these programs at Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Middle School. He will continue to raise funds until his Bar

Mitzvah at Congregation Betenu on June 3rd. If you would like to help Evan reach his goal, money can be donated at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/evan-crotty-cleans-wilton?>

To quote Maggie Hassen, "Evan represents the very best of our Granite State spirit, taking the initiative to make a difference!"

A gift from the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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

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

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Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club Presentation: The Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter

"The Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter" will be the topic discussed by Michael Reinke, Executive Director of Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc. on Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 9:30 AM, live via Zoom, presented by the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club.



Michael Reinke graduated from Athol (MA) High School and went on to continue his education by first earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & African American Studies, continued by a Master of Divinity in Church History, Ethics and Education and Government from the Union Theological Seminary, followed by an M.B.A. in Organizational Leadership from Western Washington University. Since Michael joined the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter as Ex-

ecutive Director six years ago, the organization has raised \$9.5 million for a new facility to provide emergency shelter and permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, started an effort to end childhood hunger in Nashua and has increased their annual giving by 120%

in four years. Now, as the Soup Kitchen enters its 42nd year, it is about to open a new \$8.5 million shelter that will more than double their capacity and enable a wide range of on-site services to assist clients in securing stable housing.

Please join us for what promises to be an inside look at the many ways in which the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter helps support the Greater Nashua Community and discover the many ways that individuals and families can

contribute to the ongoing success of this great organization.

Michael's presentation will be followed by an open question and answer session.

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Michael's presentation which will start off with "Schmooze Time" from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM. This special presentation is open to the public but advance registration is required. Please register in advance by emailing breakfastsvp@sn-hjmc.org to confirm your registration.

About The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club:

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club was founded in 1982 and conducts monthly Zoom meetings dur-

ing the pandemic. The Club's mission is based on building a brotherhood of like-minded men who wish to share their commitment and values to those in the greater Southern New Hampshire Jewish community. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is a non-profit organization serving Jewish men and husbands of Jewish women from all of southern NH's Jewish communities regardless of synagogue membership for over thirty years. If you or someone you know would like to join our Men's Club please contact our President, Paul Moverman, via email: president@sn-hjmc.org or visit our website at <http://www.snhjmc.org>. Membership Dues have been temporarily waived due to the COVID pandemic.

THE 4 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

A RABIN MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Nov 6th, 2-3:30PM
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
Bedford



Twenty-seven years ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, causing a rift in Israeli society still felt today.

Join JFNH Shaliach, Ra'anana de Haas, for an interactive workshop on the "New Israeli Tribes".



Register by scanning QR code or email Ra'anana at shaliach@jewishnh.org.



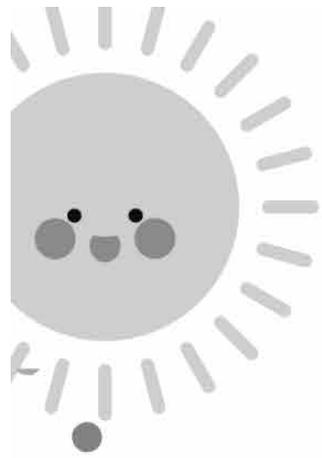


Etz Hayim Distributes High Holy Day Gift Bags

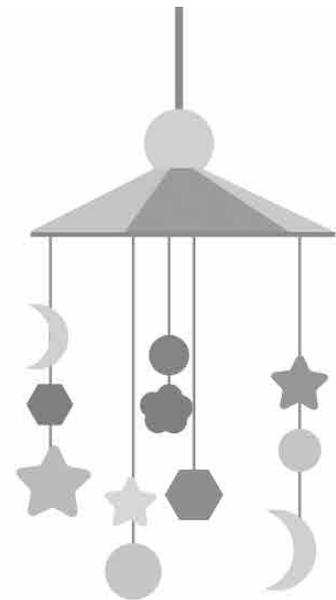
To celebrate the sweetness of the new year, the Etz Hayim Synagogue Membership Committee and Sisterhood teamed up to assemble and distribute gift bags to its members just in time for Rosh Hashanah. The gesture was their way of saying thank you and L'Shana Tova to its members for their support and commitment throughout the fractured and dark days of Covid. Many thanks to our organizing team and packers – middle photo: L-R Leslie Kirshman, Laurie Medrek, Lisa Rothenberg, Deb Silverstein (missing, Steve Soreff). Also, we are so grateful to our delivery crew, including Leslie, Laurie,

Lisa, Deb plus Martha Tomanelli, Beth Hudson, Amy Dattner-Levy and Andrea Meyer. The experience was enhanced by connecting and visiting with our members who were thrilled to answer their doorbells to see a friendly, familiar face.

The gift bags included apples from the orchard of the Martin family, Bonne Maman honey, dried fruits and nuts, a mini round challah, a yahrzeit candle and a High Holy Day service schedule. The beautiful note cards were created by Amy Silverstein Galinko - Deb Silverstein's daughter (<https://www.agalsart.com/>). L'Shana Tova to All!



Play With Me at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



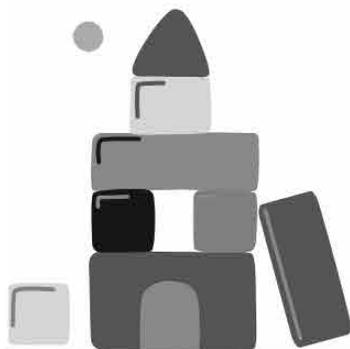
Meet other families with young children and grow our community! Be a part of our monthly playgroup! Open to families with children 0-5.

Monthly on the third Thursday each month ~ 10AM



JFNH Office,
273 South River Road, Unit #5,
Bedford, NH

Contact Dinah at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org
or 603-627-7679 with questions.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: Practicing Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam in the Lakes Region

Giving is a concept that is very deep-seated in Jewish tradition, especially in the lives of American Jews. At Temple



B'nai Israel, the practice of tzedakah and tikkun olam resonate strongly amongst the members. When asked about the deeper meaning of these concepts, Rabbi Jan Katz of TBI provided the following explanation: "Giving in Judaism is partnered with receiving, especially with regards to the giving of the Torah. We must receive the gifts that are given to us, as a reminder that if we are blessed with those gifts, we must pass on the blessing to others, especially those in need. Also, what good are gifts if we do not use them for good, for nourishment, for bettering the world (tikkun olam), for strengthening us physically and spiritually so that we have the wherewithal to enact meaningful mitzvot and acts of loving kindness."

Rabbi Katz also provided this explanation of tzedakah from the website myjewishlearning.com: "Tzedakah is often described as charitable giving. The Hebrew word tzedakah actually means justice or fairness. This implies that giving of one's self to another, whether with money, time, or kindness, is less about going above and beyond and more about acting in a righteous way than that is really just expected of us."

The members of Temple B'nai Israel are given the opportunity not only to "be" Jewish, but to "do" Jewish through the work and dedication of the Social

Action and We Care committees. The Social Action committee regularly makes homemade nutritious meals for the Laconia Salvation Army lunch program. The committee plans a menu, shops, cooks, and delivers the food that will be served in the Salvation Army "friendly kitchen" which offers daily nutritious meals for the food insecure living in Laconia and the surrounding areas. In addition to the Salvation Army lunch program, TBI supports the lunch program at Isaiah 61 Café, another local organization that offers a daily meal for the disenfranchised in Laconia.

The Social Action committee also supports the Laconia St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry by organizing collections of foods and personal products several times a year. This past Yom Kippur members and friends of TBI responded overwhelmingly, bringing grocery sacks filled with everything from shampoo and deodorant to toothpaste and shaving cream as well as non-perishable foods. The call for filling the shelves was also answered during the summer when patrons of the Jewish Food Festival were given the opportunity to bring a donation of non-perishable foods when they came to TBI to pick up their food orders. The NH Jewish Food Festival is a major fundraiser for TBI and it is also an avenue to bring awareness to the ongoing need to provide sustenance for those who are hungry.

Temple B'nai Israel's *We Care* Concerts are legendary in the Lakes Region. In 2013 after holding a concert that was a successful fundraiser for the temple,



Rhoda Goodman and Lois Kessin, co-chairs of the Social Action Committee with the Yom Kippur donations from the members and friends of TBI for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

several members turned it around as a program to help other nonprofit agencies in the Lakes Region and the We Care Concert series was born. The We Care program provides each beneficiary with a ready-made fundraiser that includes the talent, the venue, logistics, ticket sales, and marketing while providing a spectacular night of entertainment for the community. The net proceeds from each concert are donated back to the selected beneficiary for that event. To date, We Care has raised over \$135,000 for eleven different non-profits, including organizations that support veterans, home-

lessness, victims of domestic abuse, community support programs for children, seniors, and the underprivileged population, as well as visiting nurse and hospice services. We Care will celebrate 10 years of lending a helping hand to Lakes Region non-profits in 2023. Temple B'nai Israel is a small but vibrant congregation that is the heart of Jewish life in the Lakes Region. The members are dedicated volunteers who know how important it is to be engaged and committed to the greater good of the community, thereby fulfilling the mitzvot of tzedakah and tikkun olam.

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Temple Adath Yeshurun celebrates Tashlich at Manchester's Dorrs Pond. Photo by David Rosenzweig.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SUPER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

10AM - 4PM

Volunteers will be making calls to our Jewish community asking for support to our Annual Campaign.

Your generous support helps Jewish Federation to provide:

- Programming including Film Festival, Momentum, PJ Library, *Shlichut*, and more
- Social services to those in need around our state
- Grants to send youth to Jewish overnight camp and Israel
- Allocations to Hebrew Schools across the state
- Response to antisemitism
- Local, national and international giving

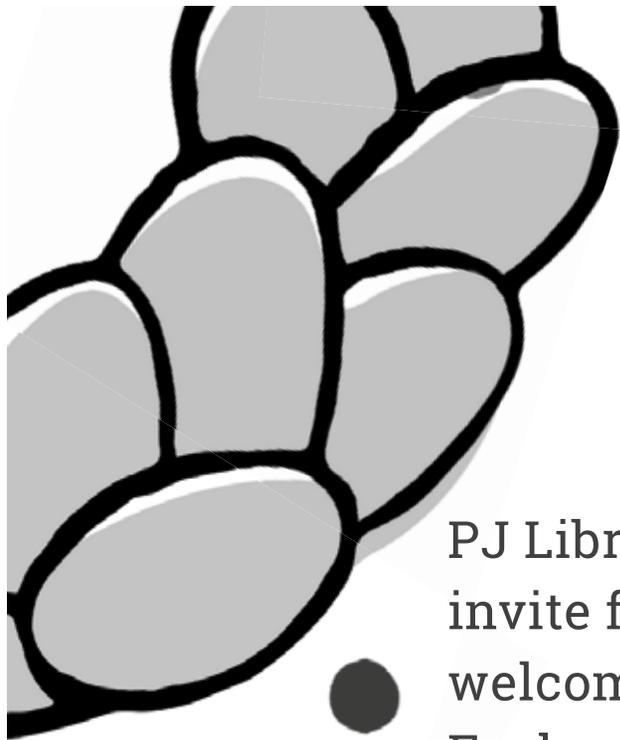
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TOT SHABBAT HOP!

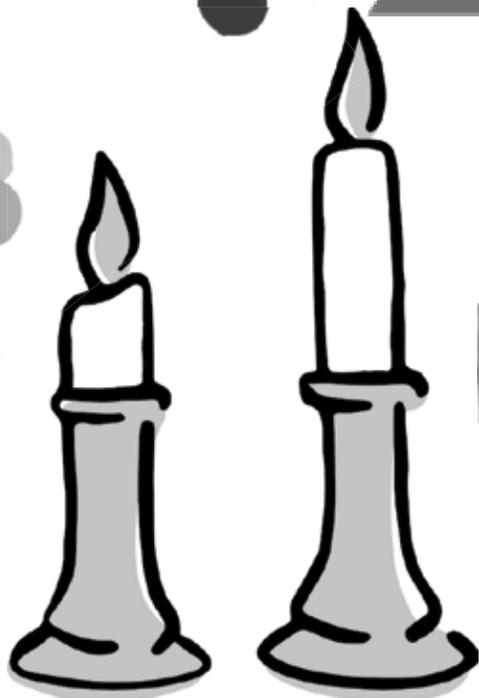
PJ Library's jBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 (siblings welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Each month at a different location!

Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush



Saturday, November 12th
10AM
Outside of Temple Beth Jacob,
Concord

Space is Limited
Registration Required



The Science of Sukkot at Beth Abraham

On a beautiful fall day in October, which happened to also be Sukkot eve, members and friends of Temple Beth Abraham joined together to experience a science fair connected to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. Sukkot is a harvest holiday, and as one it leads itself naturally to think about elements such as sunlight, water and the earth – and from this idea, the concept of the Science of Sukkot event was born.

Thanks to the generosity of our recent “Scientists in Synagogues” grant from Sinai and Synapses, we were able to hold a truly innovative and different Sukkot event this year. Participants spanned all ages, from infants to grandparents, from a wide geographical area and Jewish backgrounds. Upon arriving, guests were greeted by a friendly welcome team offering an overview of the various activities offered, a name tag to create for oneself, and a smile. Guests then had a variety of activities to choose from, all relating to science and nature to explore at their own time and pace. A very popular table was the Five Senses of Sukkot, led by Rina Zampieron, complete with a Lulav and Etrog set which one could hold, touch and smell. An arrangement of glass spice jars, masked with tape were available to smell and guess what the ingredient in them might be. Is it cinnamon? Clove? Garlic? Two different types of honey were available to taste to see if a difference in flavor could be determined. A listening test was available by shaking a covered jar and guessing what was in it. Last but not least, a blindfold was available to touch an object and guess what it is before removing the blindfold to see if the guess was correct!

At another table, guests had the opportunity to experiment with energy created by the power of water. Our member and expert scientist Kelly Garnick explained about the power of water as participants continued to experiment. Meanwhile, a solar energy station led by our member Eitan Zeira, who has worked in the solar energy industry, featured two types of solar panels, which using sunlight and artificial lights demonstrated the creation of electricity. It is amazing to learn that TBA's own solar panels on our roof are truly making our world a better place by using solar energy to power our building thus saving on fossil fuels. At this same event, the Merrimack Valley Beekeepers Asso-



ciation brought a station complete with live bees and much knowledge about beekeeping as a farming practice, and about the science of the beehive, how it works, how bees make honey and various bee behaviors.

In the Sukkah, Rabbi Jon invited participants to take part in a discussion on the interconnectedness of science and Judaism, an opportunity to think about seven modern Jewish scientific *Ushpizin* (traditional Sukkot guests). Jeff Zampieron and Dave Ferreira built garden beds for future planting of vegetables and fruit that will be donated to a local food shelter. In addition to these science activities, a craft table was offered with an opportunity to make Sukkah decorations out of recycled and natural materials, as well as bird feeders to hang in the back yards.

As the sun set, we put away the activities, said blessings in the Sukkah to welcome the festival, and enjoyed dinner together courtesy of Becky Green and her many volunteers. Participants' feedback was positive! One member stated that her son had so much fun running around and participating with the many hands-on activities. His favorite one was the color matching activity. Another stated that “I think it was a great event with exciting and positive energy.” Others said that the science exhibitions were interesting, varied, and clever. They felt that having the community come together with so many families with children was very uplifting.

Each season of the year we plan a different science focus, with opportunities to explore for all ages. We are grateful to Sinai and Synapses for the grant support and for all their resources to deepen our connection to Judaism through science.



THE MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH HISTORY
PRESENTS:

MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH HISTORY: OPENING CEREMONY

TUESDAY, NOV. 15, 2022, 6:00PM
JEWISH FEDERATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
273 SOUTH RIVER ROAD, BEDFORD
AND ZOOM

The museum will open with its first exhibit: the life and times of Doctor Benjamin Bronstein. The museum will also honor New Hampshire Jewish veterans past and presently serving.

The museum's mission is to collect, preserve and display the Jewish history of our state. The museum tells the long overdue story of the Jews in New Hampshire all in one place. The museum is funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. For more information contact Steve Soreff at soreffs15@aol.com.



Register online or
call the office at
(603) 627-7679

Museum of
New Hampshire
Jewish History



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



Capitol Center for the Arts

BANK OF NEW HAMPSHIRE STAGE
CHUBB THEATRE

Gladys Knight

Sophie B. Hawkins



November 18
8pm

November 27
4pm

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Bank of New Hampshire Stage | 16 S. Main St, Concord, NH
Chubb Theatre | 44 S. Main St, Concord, NH

Book Review *Reviewed by Merle Carrus*

Atomic Anna
by Rachel Barenbaum

Atomic Anna is the newest novel written by Rachel Barenbaum, who also wrote *A Bend in the Stars*. In this novel we follow the lives of three women who travel through time to try and change the course of history and prevent the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster.

Anna Berkov is a Russian Jewish physicist and a key scientist in the building of Chernobyl. When the nuclear reactor melts down in 1986, a stray energy burst thrusts her forward in time to land on a mountaintop at the cosmic ray research station on Mount Aragats. This is where she and her husband built their research laboratory. She meets her estranged daughter there, and she tries to time travel back to change not only the course of the Chernobyl meltdown, but to alter the course of her daughter's life for a different outcome.

Manya is Anna's daughter, who she relinquishes to friends traveling to the United States, in hopes of giving her a better future. Now in America, in the 1960s, she becomes Molly, an aspiring artist creating a comic book, *Atomic Anna*. Between the family secrets and a past her parents will not share with her she finds comfort with Victor. When Molly gives birth to her own daughter, Raisa, she cannot take care of her, and



Raisa is raised by her grandparents. Raisa finds her specialty is mathematics. She finds a wonderful young man who supports her in her search to figure out how to time travel. She studies her comic book drawings of *Atomic Anna* and is visited by a strange old woman who pops in and out of her life.

This is a story of love, relationships, and commitment. The plot examines the age-old ethical dilemma — if you could go back and change the past, would it be a good idea, and should you? Another topic this book makes readers think about is relationships, that is, when a person feels trapped in a relationship either with a spouse or with their child: what is most important in your life, your family or your career? Altogether, *Atomic Anna* offers a powerful, intriguing storyline that really makes the reader think.

Rachel is a prolific writer and reviewer whose work has appeared in publications such as *Harper's Bazaar*, *The Daily Beast*, *LA Review of Books*, *LitHub* and more. She is a scholar in residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute at Brandeis University and a graduate of Grub-Street's Novel Incubator. In her former life she was a hedge fund manager and a spin instructor. She is a graduate of Harvard. She lives in Brookline, MA.

Surviving Evil: A Documentary at Manchester Community Players — Wednesday, November 9

Manchester Community Theatre Players (MCTP) will present the short film documentary *Surviving Evil: The Holocaust through the story of Stephan H. Lewy* on Wednesday, November 9th at the MCTP Theatre at North End Montessori School 698 Beech St. Manchester, NH.

Stephen Lewy was born in 1925 in Berlin and experienced the anti-Jewish sentiment as Hitler rose to power. *Surviving Evil* chronicles Stephan's escape from the Nazis, his time in hiding in France, his escape to the United States after the occupation of France, and his eventually becoming an American citizen as fighting in the 3rd Army under Patton, liberating the largest concentration camp, Buchenwald.

Surviving Evil was written by Tom Anastasi and Alan D. Kaplan and directed by Alan D. Kaplan. It was originally written as a stage play that, through a grant from the Sidore Foundation, toured mostly schools, colleges, and or-



Surviving Evil
continued on page 16

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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Saturday, November 19th
10 to 11AM

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WorldAcademyNH.com

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World Academy
To each, a world of opportunity.

Surviving Evil

continued from page 15

ganizations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, but also had a perfor-

mance in New York City in 2011. It premiered to a sold-out audience at the Palace Theater in 2003 and has been seen by over 10,000 people with over 20 different productions.

Surviving Evil has been seen by many Jewish organizations, but it is also intended for non-Jewish audiences who may be learning about the Holocaust for the first time. A theme of the film is that

Holocausts do not happen by accident, but because societies allow them to happen over a long period of time. Last fall, Anastasi and Kaplan decided to make *Surviving Evil* into a film to preserve Stephan's story for history. Stephan, who was then 95 years-old, and Steve Short (a Windham, NH resident), narrate the film, which features photos from Stephan's family album as well as stock footage brought to life through voiceovers. "It's a moving and powerful story. And to have Stephan in his own words tell what it was like to rescue the prisoners at Buchenwald truly gripping," said Anastasi. Short adds "Having known Stephan for 35+ years, it was humbling to have voiced his words in this project".

November 9th was chosen to broadcast the film (which was awarded the Grand Prize in Hollywood's prestigious Golden State Film Festival on March 26, 2021) as part of the Kristallnacht observance, which many believe was the start of the Holocaust. Parents should know there are brief disturbing images of the Buchenwald camp that were taken on the day of its liberation.

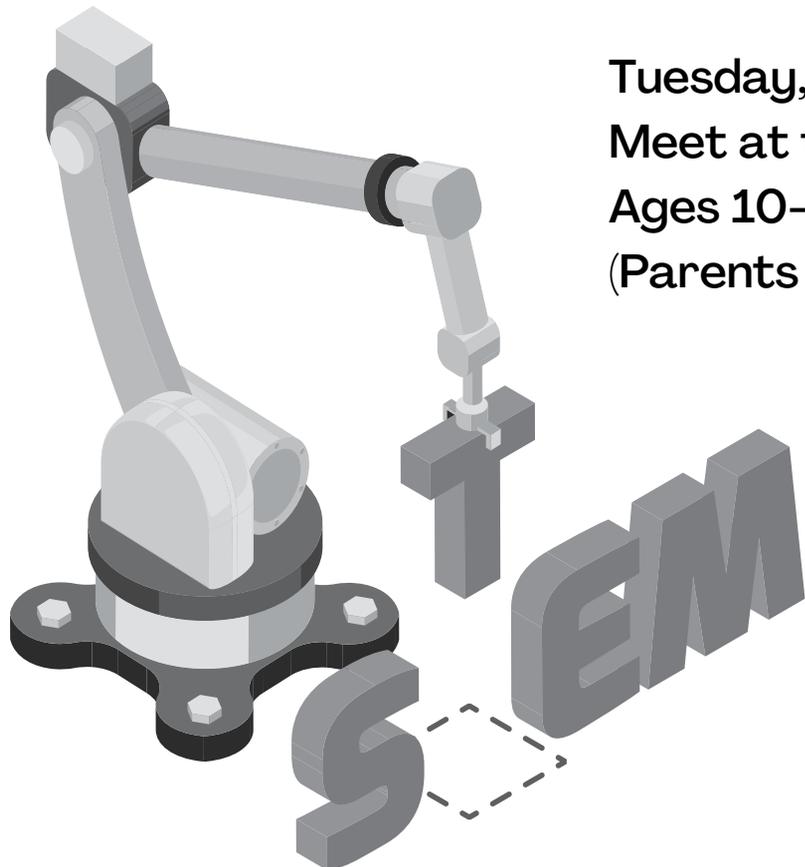
Stephan, a NH resident for decades, passed away 11/9/21 at the age of 96, exactly 83 years from the Night of Broken Glass. The film, sponsored in part by JFNH and Temple Adath Yeshurun, begins at 7:30 PM, runs for 40 minutes, and includes a Q&A afterward. There is no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. For questions, email info@manchestercommunitytheatre.com.

DEKA

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire | Israel Engagement and Education Committee
SPOTLIGHT
 ON ISRAEL

See the Tech of Tomorrow. Meet Dean Kamen.

Join JFNH for this special tour of DEKA Research and Development Corp!



Tuesday, Nov. 8th, 2-3:30PM
 Meet at the DEKA parking lot.
 Ages 10-13
 (Parents welcome)

Scan for info &
 registration:



For any questions reach out to Ra'anana - shaliach@jewishnh.org

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 in the community
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2022 FREE VIRTUAL ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATIONAL FILM SERIES

 Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE | Israel Engagement and Education Committee

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL FILM SERIES

Supported by the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



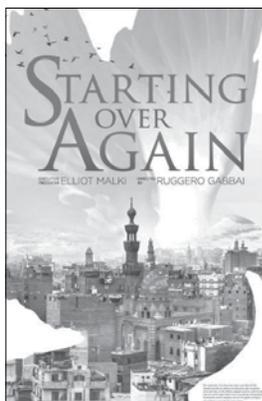
Register today for the FREE Israel Film Series

In advance online at <https://bit.ly/IEEfilms2022>

By phone (603) 627-7679 through the Jewish Federation Office, Monday-Thursday, 9 AM- 3 PM

Information: Call (603) 627-7679 or visit www.jewishnh.org.

On Facebook, visit Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.



Executive Producer: Elliott Malki
Director: Ruggero Gabbai
Documentary, 2015, Italy
64 minutes
English

Starting Over Again Streaming Thursday, October 13-22, 2022 on Eventive

Join us at JFNH for an in person screening, October 20, 1pm
Post film zoom discussion on Sunday, October 23, 1pm
with Director Gabbai and Producer Malki.

Starting Over Again is a 2015 documentary about the exodus of the Jews of Egypt between 1948 and 1956. The story is told by 20 witnesses who narrate their own experience. The film covers personal emotional memories, through interviews, historical events and footage. Filming took place across the globe in Europe, USA and Israel. The documentary was officially selected at the Jerusalem Film Festival of 2015 and has and continues to play in Film Festivals worldwide. **Go to JFNH facebook for link to movie trailer.**



Director/Producer: Toby Perl Freilich
Documentary, 2010, Israel/USA
80 minutes
English/ Hebrew with English subtitles

Inventing our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment Streaming Sunday, November 13-20, 2022 on Eventive

Join us at JFNH for an in person screening, on November 17, 1pm
Post film zoom discussion on Sunday, November 20, 3 pm with Stanford University Professor, Ran Abramitzky, author of The Mystery of the Kibbutz.

This film examines the 100-year history of Israel's kibbutz movement as a modern generation struggles to ensure its survival amidst painful reforms and a new capitalist reality. We meet 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation members from kibbutzim like Degania, the flagship commune established in 1909; Hulda, once near collapse and recently privatized; and Sasa, the first to be settled entirely by Americans and today Israel's wealthiest kibbutz and Tamuz, an urban kibbutz founded in 1987 and located in Beit Shemesh. **Go to JFNH facebook for link to movie trailer.**

Film series is FREE.

Suggested donation of \$18 or more supports JFNH Israel Committee programs. Donate Now at <https://jewishnh.org/ways-to-give/donate-online-new>

Please register early! Advance registration provides for registered attendees to receive by email both Eventive film links/passwords and Zoom links for the Speaker programs. Films will be available to stream on the dates so noted.

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL EVENT SERIES

 Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE | Israel Engagement and Education Committee

Save the Date: Sunday, December 4, 2022 A Taste of Israel Community Event December 4, 2022, 2-4 pm at JFNH, Bedford

Join us for a Social Event with a taste of Israeli foods and more.

Mark your calendar, save the date and watch for Event registration details coming soon!

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

presents:

A Taste of Israel

Liftoach Shulchan
(Open Table)

// Dec 4, 2022



Come together to schmooze while enjoying delicious foods of Israel. Hear from Momentum moms and recent recipients of JFNH Israel Experience grants.

Save the Date

December 4, 2022
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
273 South River Road, Unit #5
Bedford, NH 03820

More Info Coming Soon!

Contact Us

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info@jewishnh.org
www.jewishnh.org

Sponsored by:



Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF Committee Member

'Have a Little Faith' and TV Documentary Series 'The Last Movie Stars'

One of my earlier film columns was a review of the made-for-television movie version of Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*, an acclaimed novel that recently celebrated 25 years. As a big admirer of Albom's works who saw him speak in Concord at the Capitol Center in 2019, I have been an avid follower of his other novels, particularly his works of non-fiction. After reading his 2009 novel *Have a Little Faith* recently, I came across the made-for-TV movie on Amazon. Starring Bradley Whitford, Martin Landau, and Laurence Fishburne, three acclaimed actors who are always good in their roles, the adaptation is heartwarming like the book, albeit a bit lacking in small areas.

The premise of the story is that Mitch is asked to deliver the eulogy of his childhood rabbi after returning home to New Jersey for the High Holidays. Though Rabbi Albert Lewis' death is not imminent, he begins to question life a bit more closely as he turns 82 and embarks on another year. In a similar fashion to Mitch's conversations with his college professor Morrie Schwartz, Mitch and the "Reb," as he comes to call him, embark on a series of deep and philosophical talks that encompass many aspects of life.

Unlike Mitch and Morrie's time, the situation at hand in the book/film is not limited. Instead, Mitch and the Reb spend eight years discussing life as Mitch's visits from his new home of Detroit back to his childhood home of New Jersey grow more frequent.

Whitford's portrayal of Mitch is intriguing in the sense that he gives off vibes of selfishness at the start of the film. This is not unlike Hank Azaria's portrayal of Mitch in the *Tuesdays with Morrie* film adaptation, but in reading the novel, I would say Mitch himself gives off the vibe that he is not as married to his work as he once was. Nonetheless, what we see unfold from Whitford is a transformation based on the Reb's insightful commentary and deep adoration of Mitch, who grows to be a part of his family. Martin Landau steals the show as the Reb, embodying exactly what one imagines Rabbi Lewis to be. He is funny, a deep thinker, and full of wit that makes you totally fall in love



with him. He plays off Whitford perfectly and the special relationship that develops between Mitch and the Reb is captured nicely as it is in the book. Unfortunately, I do feel that it lacks in some of the "in between" years on film as the beginning and end of the relationship is what the movie ultimately highlights more.

As Mitch, who describes himself as non-religious, returns to his childhood synagogue and Jewish traditions, which he notes were a central part of his upbringing, another story of a completely different kind is juxtaposed. That is where Laurence Fishburne comes in. Playing the role of Henry Covington, a Detroit-based pastor of a church that is in ruins as his own life once was, Fishburne also balances himself alongside Whitford and focuses intently on the relationship that Mitch and Henry developed, too. Trying to reconcile his faith and its call to give to others, Mitch meets Henry by surprise and becomes interested in his story, his love of God, and how he can help his own community of Detroit, embodying the idea that charity can begin at home. As Mitch and Henry, two men from completely different walks of life, bond, Mitch begins to lend a helping hand to the church, helping to rebuild it and ultimately defining the philanthropic efforts that he continues today.

The story of *Have a Little Faith* reminds us that while we are all different, our shared human experience can bring us together. The novel and film both end with the line, "I am in love with hope" from Mitch. I cannot help but agree with him in that hope is a guiding force



and light for so many people in their daily lives and often comes when we need it most.

On another note, I also recently watched the HBO Max documentary series *The Last Movie Stars*, which chronicles the lives, relationship, and career of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. As a fan of both stars, I was intrigued by the series and learned a lot of details along the way. One of the episodes highlighted Newman's Judaism quite a bit, connecting it to his portrayal of Ari Ben Canaan in the 1960 film *Exodus*. Born to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother, something I can relate to, Newman did not belong to any particular religion, but did self-identify as Jewish throughout his life, often donning a Star of David.

The series had a lot of potential, but in my personal opinion, it fell flat in a lot of ways. Rather than focusing on the backstories of Newman and Woodward with their films and the like as a side piece, producer Ethan Hawke, a big fan of the duo, tracked their life through their films, making for a complicated execution. Instead of learning a lot about the two as people, I felt the six-part se-

ries jumped around significantly and was pieced together oddly through small vignettes. It would have been more beneficial to highlight subjects that were returned to over time as opposed to dropping them here and there without development. Newman's upbringing, religious identity, and challenges with his son Scott, who died at age 28 from drug abuse, were all subjects that did not go as deep as I had hoped they would.

Do not let my mixed feelings discourage you from watching, especially if you are a fan of either of the two stars. It's still quite impressive to see their story unfold through such extensive archival footage, interviews, and pictures.

I hope to next review Ken Burns' new series about the United States and the Holocaust, which premiered on PBS in September. Though I have recorded it, I have to mentally prepare myself as I know the material will be on the heavier side. While you may wait to do the same in watching Burns' series, don't hesitate to check out either of these two titles. While not completely lighthearted, there are underlying feelings of hope and happiness embedded in each.

1 5 T H A N N U A L

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Cookbook Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Prep + Rally

Prep + Rally is both a cookbook and a meal planner. Created by Dini Klein, this book gives the busy home chef an easy way to prepare and cook meals for the week.

The book is divided into a variety of meal plans to fit every palette and food preference. There are menu plans for “Spiced and Stewed”, “No Way It’s Veg,” and “Winter Cozies” among others. Each section starts with a shopping list, the prep recipes, and then instructions on how to use those ingredients and prepped recipes in four different meals. You can use the book as a weekly meal plan, or you can pick and choose individual recipes that strike your fancy.

Dini Klein is a food host, recipe developer, and former private chef. She has created food videos featured on Roku, Ama-

zon, and Apple TV. She has recipes published in a variety of cookbooks, *Starbuck’s Coffee*, *Dawn to Dusk* and *The Pediatrician’s Guide to Feeding Babies and Toddlers*. She and her family live in Los Angeles.

Recipe from *Prep + Rally* by Dini Klein:

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Squash-Lentil Soup SERVES 6 TO 8

2 tablespoons light olive oil
1 onion, finely diced
4 cups frozen cubed butternut squash (24 ounces)
¾ cup dried red lentils

1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
1 sprig rosemary, minced (about 1 teaspoon)
4 cups vegetable stock (32 ounces)
Kosher salt and pepper

1. In a large stockpot, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook until translucent. Add the squash, lentils, tomatoes, lemon zest and juice, rosemary, and stock. Season with salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to maintain a simmer, cover, and cook for 30 to 40 minutes. Season with additional salt and pepper as needed.
2. If desired, blend with an immersion blender until you’ve reached the desired consistency. Let cool, and store.



HOT TIPS

- Feel free to use fresh butternut squash. I just love the convenience of frozen.
- If the soup gets too thick, add a splash of water or more stock to thin it out.

Opinion

For the Sake of Heaven: How Judaism teaches us to disagree constructively

By Cantor Marc Stober, Education Director, Temple Israel, Manchester

Some religions define themselves as a group of people who all believe the same thing. Judaism is also a group of people, but we certainly don’t all believe the same thing. In fact, Jewish tradition encourages us to hold different beliefs, even about such a central part of Judaism as the Torah. It says in Midrash Psalms 12 that for each statement in the Torah, there are 49 valid arguments both for and against it. To use lingo from when I worked as a

software developer, disagreement is “a feature, not a bug.”

So, how do we hold together a community of people who disagree? This is one of the most important issues of our time, and not only within our Jewish institutions. How do we work together on important issues as a congregation, a local community, or even as whole country, when we can’t agree? Rabbinic literature has an answer called mahloket l’sheim shamayim —disagreement for the sake of Heaven. In more modern terminology, we might call this “con-

structive disagreement.”

The elements of a constructive disagreement in Jewish traditions ranges from the abstract, to attitudes we about ourselves and the other, to concrete precedents such as how to set up the chairs around the table. Judaism encourages us to dialogue with those we disagree with and to learn their perspective, while also leaving a lot of space to “agree to disagree.” In the Torah, the reconciliation of the Jacob with his brother Esau is a perfect example of respect between people who have different perspectives. On the other hand, the story of Korach challenging Moses’ authority is the ultimate example of a disagreement that is not for the sake of Heaven.

The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, an educational center that has years of experience bringing together different types of Jews, has been teaching about this topic with a curriculum called

Mahloket Matters. I was able to learn from their teachers about it, first in Jerusalem a few years ago and more recently online. I believe it’s one of the most important lessons Judaism has for us in today’s world.

This fall, I’ll be teaching it to my community in a series of adult learning sessions open to Temple Israel members and nonmembers, at no charge thanks to the support of Temple Israel and Pardes. The sessions will be on four Thursdays at 7pm: November 10 and 17, and December 1 and 8. While you’ll get the most out of attending all sessions, you do also have the option participate in only some of them. RSVP at templeisraelmht.org to receive the link to the online sessions or contact me at school@templeisraelmht.org for more information. While supplies last, those who RSVP will receive a printed booklet of material to follow along in the course.



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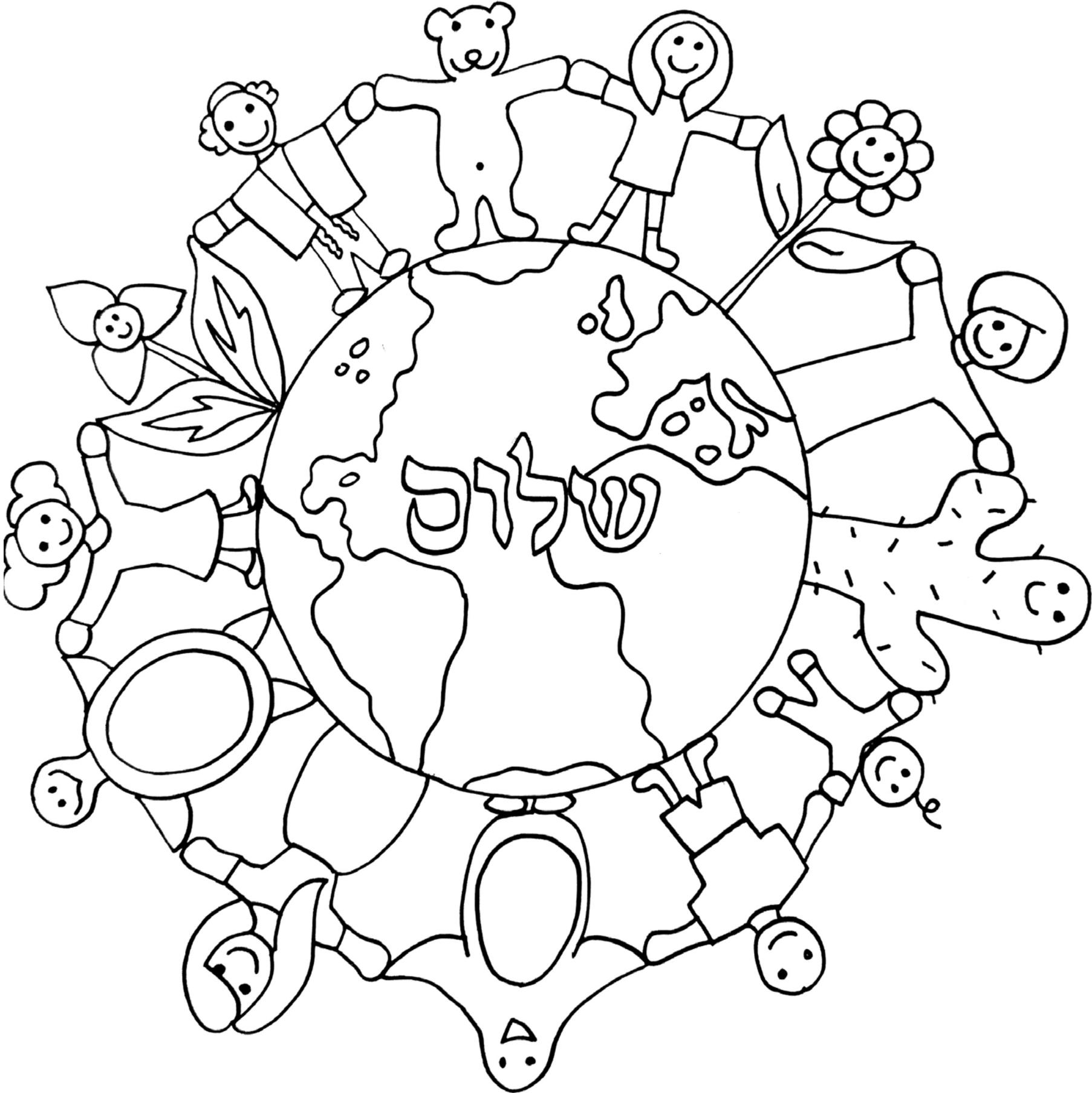
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Jewish Journeys

Report from Israel: Life-Changing Experiences

By Samuel Corey

It is one thing to be told about an experience. I have listened to my family tell me about their time in Israel many times, not thinking much of it except that one day, I would go there, too. Life is what you make of it. Events and circumstances that you find “boring” or “uninteresting” are that way because you feel so and don’t want to change that opinion. Having fun in those moments, though, makes those “boring” memories into times you will cherish forever. I say that because not everything you do will be what you chose—you have to do what you’re told, sometimes, even though you may not be up for it. You can choose to sit there and disassociate yourself from your surroundings, or you could join in and be a part of the experience, making for a more pleasant time than it would be waiting for time to go by. I feel this is a huge lesson I have learned throughout my years of summer camps.

Now, to talk about Israel, it is nothing like I have ever experienced before. On the last day of the trip, all the members of the trip, Dor L’ Dor, wrote reflections on their time there. I believe the numbers were on a scale from 1-10, with the first question being—how much did you know about Israel before arriving in the country? The next question: Did you learn anything while being here? Then, third, did you feel more connected to Judaism? Lastly, do you think your Judaism has changed in any way? During the trip we had gone all around the country, visiting museums, shuks, synagogues, churches, mosques, malls, beaches and rivers, national parks, and historic landmarks. We did this while staying in hotels and kibbutzes or anywhere that we could bring yoga mats to sleep on. This included sleeping in the Negev Desert which was a truly surreal 3 days.

I have gone to Camp Tevya, an overnight seven-week Jewish camp, for 5 years. There are no phones or anything and feels very nice to be disconnected for a while. With no technology in the Negev, it made me feel nostalgic about my years at camp, while being completely different, since I was in a foreign country with my best friends, and new friends, in a desert.

I talked about making the most out of situations earlier, because in the Negev, we stayed under a tent in the heat for five hours after a long hike all morning with



nothing but the water that was by that time, most likely, empty. Most people in that situation would be bored by the unknowingness lurking around them, and nothing to occupy them but the people around them. But me? I was happy to be bored. I was never going to be in that situation ever again in my life and I wanted to remember the contentment and care-free thoughts I had at the time. I had no stress and no problems in my mind, just the peaceful desert with its beautiful cliffs and bright sun. In the nighttime, sleeping on a yoga mat and looking up at the stars surrounded by your closet peers... it’s a moment like that which, looking back, is irreplaceable.

We did so much in Israel. We had army day and learned about Jewish history. We got to talk to and build connections with our Israel counselors, tour guides, medics, and fellow kids on the program. In the end, though, the memories of the Negev will always stick out to me the most.

How Sabbath Candles Saved my Family in the Holocaust

By Ruth Chevion

My grandmother Miriam believed that lighting the Sabbath candles would save her family.

Here's what happened: Grandmother Miriam and Chava, the youngest of her three children, were hiding in an upstairs apartment in Krakow, having escaped from the Tarnow ghetto. At this time in 1943, Grandfather Elchanan was hiding in Russia. The two sons, Pelek, and Alex, were out and about passing as Poles — Alex running black market gasoline while helping his father, Pelek serving in the Polish resistance army while hovering over his mother and sister.

Nobody could dissuade Grandmother from lighting her candles on Friday nights. Pelek and Chava begged her, remonstrated with her, pointing out the danger of the candles being seen by neighbors, to no avail. But she agreed to two compromises. One, she would light the candles as early as possible, meaning an hour and a quarter before sunset, so

that they would be less visible through a window, and two, she would light them in the bathroom.

One Friday night, their landlady walked in unannounced. The bathroom door had been left ajar. "What's going on here?" said the landlady to Chava. "You are burning candles here like Jews," she said.

Chava replied calmly, "Haha, yes. The lightbulb burned out, so we lit some candles." To which the landlady replied, "For that purpose you need only one candle, not five."

As soon as the landlady was gone, Chava ran to get her older brother Pelek. Luckily, she found him easily that particular night, as he was just returning to his apartment from a trip to Warsaw. Within hours, Pelek moved them out of their apartment. He had prepared for this contingency by lining up a hideout for them in Warsaw with a Polish woman who hid Jews for money. Chava and Grandmother layered themselves with as many of their clothes as possible, stashed some



Ruth Chava

food in their purses, and left the lights in the apartment burning.

They never had a comfortable place again after that. They had to pay high prices for bad conditions. They struggled to make money. Pelek had to find other

places for them as their hideouts failed for one reason or another. They endured hunger and fear, but Grandmother and Chava did survive, as did Grandfather, Alex, and Pelek.

Did grandmother's Sabbath candles save the family?

We only know the events that occurred, not those that didn't, but I am in awe of the way my grandmother modeled optimism and leadership for her children. In the most dire of circumstances, rather than let go of her spiritual center, she let it shine. I see it as an act of resistance. And it turned out that resistance, even though risky, was necessary to survival.

Now retired from teaching law, Ruth Chevion lives in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. She and her life partner Alan Scribner, along with their son, moved to the granite state from the Big Apple in 1977. Both Ruth's parents survived the Holocaust in Poland by escaping from ghettos and evading recapture. Ruth was born in Wroclaw, Poland in 1946.

My Cousins from Poland and Survival in the Forest

By Joseph D. Steinfield

Chaim and Ruchele Feldman, brother and sister, were born a long time ago in Derechin, a small village which was then in Poland, now Western Belarus. Their mother's maiden name was Bernstein, and their uncle, Isaac Bernstein, left Derechin for America sometime before 1900. He became a successful businessman in Lowell, Massachusetts. My grandmother, Lillian Firestone was born in Derechin in 1888 and left for America around 1904. Her mother was a Bernstein, Isaac Bernstein was her uncle, and Chaim and Ruchele Feldman were her cousins.

In 1938, Isaac Bernstein, by then a widower, returned to Derechin to visit his sisters and other relatives. As he was preparing to leave, his sister said "Take Ruchele," referring to her teenage daughter (or perhaps granddaughter). He did so, getting his niece (or grandniece) out of Poland just in time, while the rest of the large Feldman family remained behind.

Chaim and his wife Lisa, with their sons Martin and Stephen, moved from Derechin to a city named Novogrudok,

which the Germans occupied in 1941. The Jews who were not killed immediately were forced into the ghetto, from which most were taken away to their deaths. But a small number, including Chaim Feldman and his family, escaped from the ghetto into the Bialowieza Forest, one of the last primeval forests in Europe. And in 1947, homeless, tired, and poor, they arrived in America.

Martin and Stephen lived that first year in Claremont with my Firestone grandparents, while Chaim and Lisa got settled in New York, where Chaim reunited with his sister, Ruchele. By then she had become my Cousin Romaine.

The Forest

I recently read a book review of *Into the Forest: A Holocaust Story of Survival, Triumph, and Love*, by Rebecca Frankel. It tells the story of Morris and Miriam Rabinowitz and their two daughters, Rochel and Tania, who also survived the Holocaust hiding in the forest. My first thought was, "I must read this book. It will help me understand what it was like for my Feldman cousins during those years hiding in the forest."

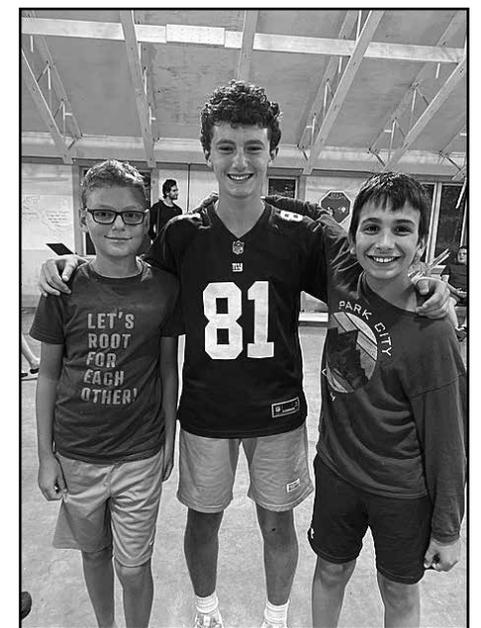
My Cousin continued on page 24

Isaac Jaffa, Age 10:

Over the summer I went for two weeks to Camp Young Judaea for sleep away camp. Before leaving I was nervous but also excited at the same time. I liked more things at camp than I disliked. Some of my favorites were water skiing and canoeing, except when the canoe almost tipped over! Some things I will probably remember forever are chanting at meal times and the funny pranks that were pulled. One of the pranks was flipping beds! Trying new things at camp was fun but it did take me

three days to adjust to camp life!

Thank you to the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire for helping with my camp experience. I had a great time and I recommend every kid try it at least once!



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Hadassah Leads with Excellence

By Michele Bank

Newsweek Magazine has selected the Cardiology and Oncology (Sherett Institute) Divisions of Hadassah Medical Center for their list of the best hospitals in the world specializing in various medical fields for 2022. The magazine publishes a selection of 250 hospitals from around the world with the best departments in cardiology, oncology, and other fields based on 40,000 recommendations from multiple medical professionals.

Hadassah Hospital's oncology unit is the only such unit in Israel that was eligible to make the list. *Newsweek* also selected Hadassah Medical Center for the list of the world's smartest hospitals for 2023.

"The hospitals that appear on the list of the 'smartest' in the world are the ones that make the most correct and efficient

use of the most advanced technologies," *Newsweek* wrote. "The world's best smart hospitals rank medical centers in 28 countries, leading in their use of artificial intelligence, digital imaging telemedicine, robotics and electronic functions. Hadassah makes the list alongside many leading hospitals like the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins in the United States.

Hadassah Director General Prof. Yoram Weiss stated, "Hadassah has earned its name in Israel and around the world as a leading center of excellence, where first-class experts in the fields of medicine and science work, providing professional and humane medical care, leading in research and smart technological developments and training the next generation of physicians in Israel." He also said, "The achievements that the magazine has chosen to honor are a huge

source of pride and a spotlight directed at only a small part of what happens here every day by Hadassah staff in all departments, for the future of medicine."

Director of the Hadassah Division of Oncology Prof. Aharon Popovtzer said. "This choice made by leading physicians and patients expresses the recognition of our Institute's academic and clinical excellence. "The Sharet Institute of Oncology excels in innovative treatments in all areas of oncology and radiation, in groundbreaking research and at the same time maintains empathic treatment and attitude toward our patients. This selection is a certificate of honor for all our divisions, including medical, nursing, radiation and supporting teams. We thank all the disciplines in the hospital who work with us in complete harmony."

Director of the Hadassah Division of

Cardiology Prof. Ofer Amir stated,

"We are proud to be included in *Newsweek's* distinguished list, along with the world's leading cardiac departments. It is undoubtedly a certificate of honor for the medical teams, the nursing staff and all the supporters of the fight - in the cardiac division and in other hospital divisions that are tangential to us, every day, in patient treatment and saving lives."

These achievements are made possible by Hadassah members who proudly support the Hadassah Medical Organization. The hospital is not government funded and relies on the contributions of its supporters. To donate, go to Hadassah.org. When you donate to Hadassah you help to save lives and help build bridges to peace.

For additional information about Hadassah, contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

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A Family Event sponsored by Temple B'nai Israel in partnership with PJ Library New Hampshire

Temple B'nai Israel
210 Court Street, Laconia
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10:00 AM

RSVP



<https://bit.ly/HakaratHatov> or scan QR code to register



Dinah Berch | 603-627-7679 ext 1002 | dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

My Cousin

continued from page 23

So, I went straight to Audible.com and purchased the book. In mid-September, driving from Keene to New York City to see my granddaughter, I began listening to the book. In an early chapter, I heard the name "Chaim Feldman." A few chapters later, I heard the names of towns from which people fled, and Derechin was one of them. By that point, I was paying attention—but driving into New York is a white-knuckle experience, so I stopped listening to the book and concentrated on the GPS woman's voice, which got me to my granddaughter's new address in Brooklyn.

Two days later, once that same voice guided me out of the city to Route 95 north, I went back to *Into the Forest*. The first words I heard were, "In a reunion that would define their forest circumstances, Morris Rabinowitz discovered that Chaim Feldman, the friend from Novogrudok, was also in the woods with his family, his wife Leah and their two young sons, Motel and Samuel."

Yes, Leah was the person I later knew as Chaim's wife Lisa, Motel ("Motie") was my Cousin Martin (to whom my recent book *Time for Everything* is dedicated), and Samuel was my Cousin Stevie. The two families spent more than

two years together, hiding in the forest both above and below ground.

The word "harrowing" does not begin to describe what the two families went through. Here, from the book, is just a sample: "The Nazis got so close to the Rabinowitz-Feldman clan that they could hear the sound of boots on top of the leaf-laden bunker roof, and voices speaking German."

How remarkable. I bought the book to get a sense of what it must have been like for my cousins, and it turns out that the book tells what it was *actually like*. My astonishment was matched by Rebecca Frankel's who, when I contacted her, told me, "I've been looking for the Feldmans!" After their daughters were grown, Morris and Miriam Rabinowitz moved from Hartford to Canaan, New Hampshire, where he was in the lumber business. How fitting for someone who lived, and survived, in the forest. The Rabinowitz daughters, whose names became Ruth and Toby, are now in their 80s and live in Connecticut and Massachusetts. I hope to meet them soon and hear their memories of those long-ago days when they and my Feldman cousins survived together.

Joseph D. Steinfield lives in Keene and Jaffrey. He can be reached at joe@joesteinfeld.com. Copyright 2022.

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November/December 2022 Calendar

November 17th: Movie Day! "Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment"

2010 documentary film examines the 100 year history of Israel's kibbutz movement, one of the world's longest running and most successful experiments in pure communism.

Presented by the Israeli Education and Engagement Committee.

1PM JFNH Community Room - 273 S. River Rd #5, Bedford

No Cost | Popcorn will be provided | Registration required by November 15th

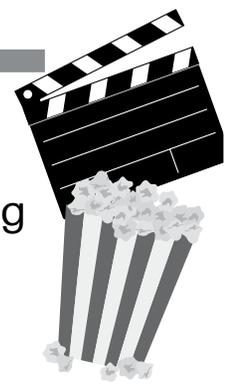


December 1st: Movie Day! "Keeping the Faith"

Two friends, a priest and a rabbi, fall in love with the same woman they knew in their youth, but the religious position of both men denies them romance. Starring Edward Norton, Ben Stiller and Jenna Elfman. (2000)

1PM JFNH Community Room - 273 S. River Rd #5, Bedford

No Cost | Popcorn will be provided | Registration required by November 29th



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JFNH Tributes

Received by October 10, 2022

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In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Amichai Kilchevsky and their three sons Golan, Matan, and Ze'ev from Dorothy Rothstein

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 To Jane Silberberg and Joel Match - Mazel Tov on your marriage

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, Unit #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.

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The Reporter publishes obituaries for any member of the community, past or present, for a \$36 fee. Please send obituaries and one photo, if desired, as a separate jpg attachment to thereporter@jewishnh.org or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unit #5, Bedford, NH 03110.

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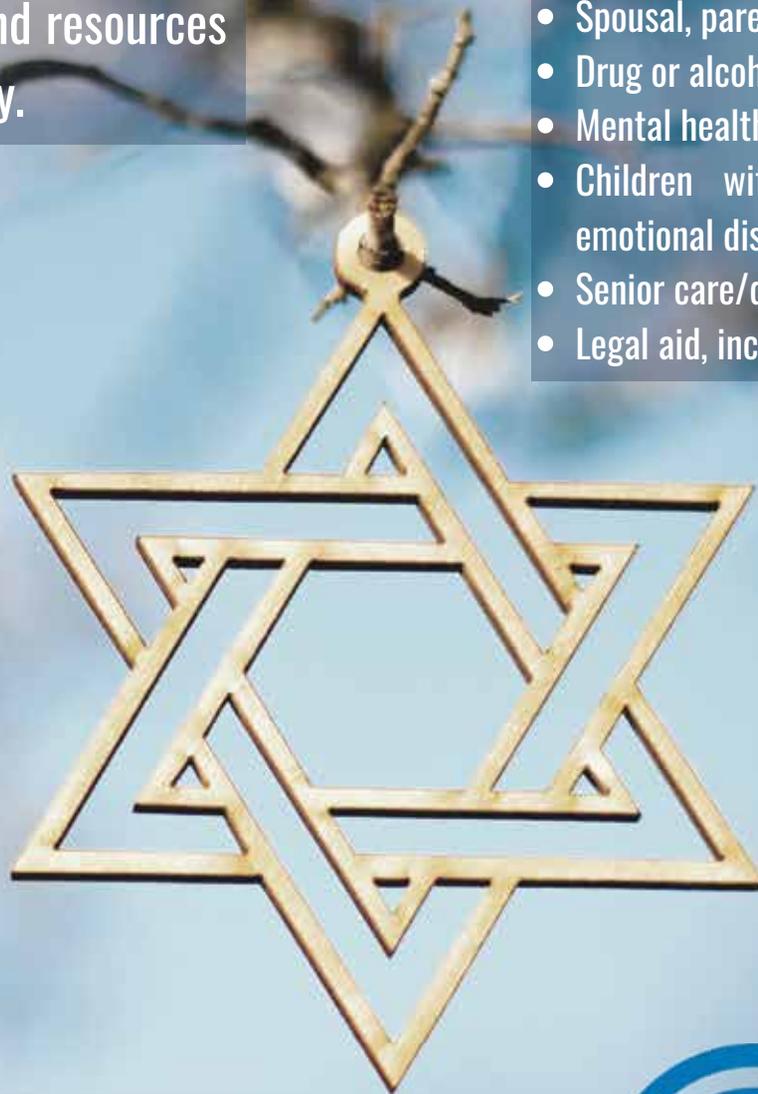
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Don't know whom to turn to? JFNH can help.

JFNH's consulting social worker can provide support, referral, follow-up services, and resources to you and your family.

- Food and shelter
- Unemployment
- Medical and drug costs
- Spousal, parental, or child abuse
- Drug or alcohol addiction
- Mental health
- Children with learning, physical, and/or emotional disabilities
- Senior care/dementia
- Legal aid, incarceration, police matters



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All calls and assistance are confidential.



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