

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

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 Jewish Federation of
 New Hampshire

Volume 44, Number 7

April 2024

Adar II – Nissan 5784



PASSOVER



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Embracing Passover Amidst Challenges

Allyson Guertin

**JFNH
 Director**



I am filled with a sense of both celebration and reflection as we approach the holiday of Passover. Passover is not only a time for us to come together with loved ones to commemorate our ancestors' liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt, but it is also a moment for us to reaffirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and solidarity as a community.

As we prepare to gather around our Seder tables, our hearts remain heavy with concern for Israel. Even as we joyously celebrate our freedom, we cannot forget those who are still held captive. We must continue to work towards their safe return. Their plight serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges facing the Jewish people, both in Israel and around the world.

We are witnessing a troubling rise in anti-semitic incidents both globally and locally. This resurgence of hatred serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges we face as a people. These incidents force us to remember that there are still challenges facing


our people still today. The themes of Passover – freedom, redemption, and solidarity – resonate deeply with us as we navigate these uncertain times. Let us stand together with our shared history of perseverance and triumph.

As we embark on the holiday of Passover, let us do so with hope, courage, and determination. In the spirit of Passover, let us reaffirm our bonds of community and solidarity, drawing strength from our shared history and heritage. Together, we can overcome the challenges that lie ahead and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and meaningful Passover.

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 Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
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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
Weekly services from July through Simchat Torah with Zoom services and Torah study from November to June. Please check our website for service times and event information.

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, Sat 9:30 AM
followed by Torah Study
Family Service Fridays 6:30 PM (2nd Fri of Month)
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar
for optional Zoom link.

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
info@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
office@taynh.org
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 MANCHESTER

Rabbi Marc Philippe
66 Salmon Street, Manchester
Conservative Affiliated UCJ
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org

Shabbat Services: Please visit our website or call our office for service times and dates.
Morning Minyans: Wednesdays 7:00am.
No rsvp required.
Torah Study: Wednesdays 6:30pm on ZOOM. Email the office for signup info.

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 Monday-Thursday at 7:30 pm
All services are in-person and on Zoom (check our website for schedule changes and Zoom links)

NEWINGTON

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki
2299 Woodbury Avenue, Newington
Orthodox, Chabad
603-584-4111
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com
www.JewishSeacoast.com

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, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 9:30 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed M-F preschool.

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Volume 44, Number 7

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info@jewishnh.org

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

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

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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.

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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 5	6:59 PM
April 12	7:08 PM
April 19	7:16 PM
April 26	7:24 PM

An update from the Strategic Plan Committee

By Amy Lester, JFNH Strategic Plan Chair

It's been a busy few months for our entire committee and our outside consultant. Hopefully many of you reading this were able to participate in a focus group. There were six in total, with over 60 participants from across the entire state. The information shared during these sessions will now be synthesized by our consultant in preparation to be shared with our committee in the coming weeks. We are still on target to have the completed plan in place by this summer.

I think it will come as no surprise to most of you that we are hearing one

theme over and over again. The Jewish community in New Hampshire is longing for deep connections with each other. Even in our focus groups we saw individuals that had never met before sharing contact information to plan connections on their own. Our committee is also building bridges with other statewide organizations to learn and share data. We know that can help JFNH as we fulfill our goals of reaching every Jewish person in New Hampshire, no matter where they reside.

Lastly, please be on the lookout for a community survey that will be hitting your inboxes very soon. We are hoping for a HUGE response.



Your Federation at Work

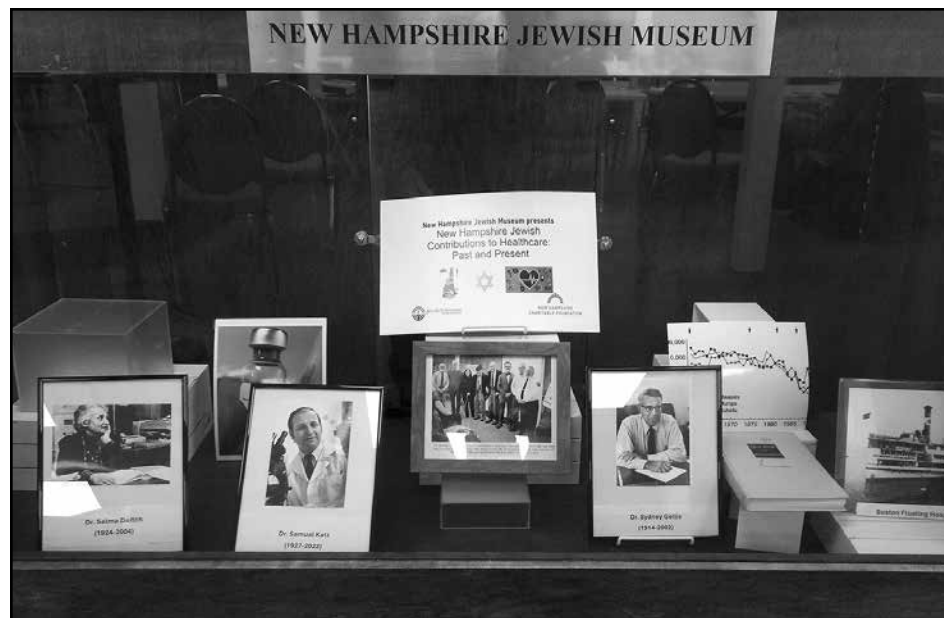
The New Hampshire Jewish Museum Opens its NH Jewish Contributions to Healthcare Exhibit

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, the New Hampshire Jewish Museum (NHJM) opened its exhibit *NH Jewish Contributions to Healthcare, Past, and Present* at the Jewish Federation of NH, located at 273 South River Road in Bedford. The event began when the NHJM's head, Dr. Stephen Soreff, thanked the Jewish Federation of NH and the NH Charitable Foundation. He read the Oath of Maimonides and recited a condensed version "The physician should not treat the disease, but rather the patient who is suffering from it." He then introduced the two parts of the program.

The first told the stories of three amazing people who made advances in healthcare entitled Historical New Hampshire Jewish Contributors. The first spotlight was on Sydney Gellis, MD, presented by Sol Rockenmacher, MD, which included Gellis' leadership of Boston Floating Hospital at the Children at Tufts Medical Center. Next was Samuel Katz, MD, presented by Michael Miller, MD whose work was the development of the measles vaccine. Completing the three was a spotlight on Selma Deitch, MD presented by Sol Rockenmacher, MD. Deitch created the child health program in



The speakers at the opening ceremony of *NH Jewish Contributions to Healthcare, Past, and Present*, left to right: Alan Green, MD, Lou Fink, MD, Stacie Perlman, MD, Stephen Soreff, MD, Sol Rockenmacher, MD, Adam Androlia, MD, Michael Miller, MD, and Captain Steven Marshall, EMTI.



Manchester. Impressively, by a show of hands, many of the audience had personally known Selma.

The second part featured today's New Hampshire Jewish medical contributors. The following topics were highlighted: Robotic Surgery by Stacie Perlman, MD, Community Team-based Homecare by Captain Steven Marshall, EMTI, Innovations in Cardiology by Lou Fink, MD, Adventures of a Physician-mohel, by

Alan Green, MD, Cellular Sonogram Treatment presented by Adam Androlia, MD and Emergency Communication by Michael Miller, MD. The large audience appreciated the information and enjoyed light refreshments. Dr. Soreff closed the program by asking folks for ideas for the next NHJM exhibit.

The Museum is available by appointment at the Jewish Federation of NH, 273 South River Road, Bedford.

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.

Thursday, April 4

Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Chapter Meeting

1:00PM – 3:00PM 1400 Front Street, Manchester Chapter Meeting, discussion of Jewish Amulets Contact Michele Bank mkbrn916@aol.com

New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Opening Reception

5:15PM – 6:30PM The Spotlight Room of the Palace, Manchester Cost \$18 p/p

Join us at the Spotlight Room for our Opening Night Wine and Hors D'oeuvres Reception to celebrate the start of our 16th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival followed by the screening of

Remembering Gene Wilder at the Rex Theatre. (Separate tickets required for each event.) Please register at <https://2024nhjff.eventive.org/schedule/65b6da772283ff00d0161c33>

NH Jewish Film Festival Opening Night Film "Remembering Gene Wilder"

7:00PM – 9:00PM The Rex Theatre, Manchester Cost \$12.00 p/p
Gene Wilder, the prolific actor and screenwriter, is known all over the world for his endearing roles in classic films such as The Producers, Young Frankenstein, Blazing Saddles, Silver Streak, The Frisco Kid and Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. With rare, never-before-seen home videos and memorable scenes from our favorite Gene Wilder films, the documentary reveals intimate insights detailing his life and career. Guest appearances include Mel Brooks, Alan Alda, Carol Kane, and Harry Connick Jr. Please register at <https://2024nhjff.eventive.org/schedule/65b6e54c0956af002cc58074>

Friday, April 5

Temple Israel Shabbes Tisch Potluck Supper

6:30PM – 8:30PM Temple Israel, Portsmouth Please bring a dish to share at Temple Israel Portsmouth's family-friendly community potluck Shabbat dinner in the Social Hall. (No sanctuary service or Zoom component.) Potluck note: dishes brought into the temple must

be vegetarian, dairy, or pareve. For more information please review Appendix 2 of the Kashrut Policy, available by contacting the temple office. templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org

Saturday, April 6 (8PM) and Sunday, April 7 (7:30PM)

Temple Beth Jacob's Annual Purimshpiel "The Megillah According to Hamilton"

Temple Beth Jacob, Concord Cost \$25 p/p
Join us for TBJ's 27th annual Purimshpiel, The Megillah According to Hamilton. The Shul Where It Happens! An original script created by TBJ's own Cantor Shira Nafshi! Tickets are \$25 for front of house or \$20 for the rear. Tickets go quickly, contact the TBJ office at office@tbjconcord.org or 603-228-8581.

For a little over a quarter century, the TBJ Purimshpiel Players have been delighting audiences with their zany and musical retelling of this ancient story. Over the years, the TBJ Purimshpiel has become a most anticipated event not only among the Jewish community, but to the greater Concord community as well, selling out (or nearly selling out) the house each year. Whether you choose to attend the Saturday or Sunday performance, this year's rendition will make you want to laugh, cry, and sing along to the rewritten songs from the popular Broadway hit, Hamilton. This fun and entertaining evening will include free snacks and an open bar. Come celebrate Purim on "Broadway"!!!

Sunday, April 7

Temple Beth Abraham: "A Child's View of the Holocaust" Dance Performance

12:00PM – 2:00PM Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua
A touring group of highly trained New England Dance Ensemble (NEDE.org) members ranging in age from 6-18 present a 40-minute production of "A Child's View of the Holocaust" in the Temple Beth Abraham Social Hall.

A light lunch at noon will precede the performance. Artistic Director Barbara Mullen choreographed the original drama ballet in 1990. The production recognizes the atrocities that occurred towards Jews at the hands of the Nazi party in Germany between 1939 and 1945. Nothing can erase the tragedy of a systematic attempt to exterminate a race, but showing respect for the survivors and regard for the human spirit imparts valuable lessons. Holocaust Survivor Paul Oppenheimer believes memories of Auschwitz and the Holocaust belong in the schools, noting, "It should not be taught as a history lesson but as a lesson in history; it should never happen again."

While illuminating historical events, the production may also be applied to contemporary issues including bullying and prejudice. In 2011, "A Child's View of the Holocaust" was awarded the prestigious Charles A. Hildebrandt Award from the Cohen Center of Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Keene State College. This event is free and open to the public, although donations are welcome. Suggested donation of \$18 per person or \$36 per family. Learn more and register here: <https://thanashua.shulcloud.com/event/a-childs-view-of-the-holocaust-dance-performance1.html>

Monday, April 8

Antisemitism & Anti-Zionism Worldwide

7:00PM – 8:00PM, Zoom
Ido Aharoni will explain how Anti-Zionism became the new antisemitism and will discuss the rise of Jew-hatred in the age of information overload. The recording will be available to everyone who registers for the program. For more information, contact Sharon Wyner at 978-565-4450 or email swyner@lappinfoundation.org. The program is free, and everyone is welcome. Please register at <https://lappinfoundation.tfaforms.net/78>

Thursday, April 11

Etz Hayim Hosts Innovations in Israeli Education by Dr. Ronna HasBrouck

7:00PM – 8:00PM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry Innovations in Israeli Education by Dr. Ronna HasBrouck, SAU 107 Superintendent. In March 2023, she was part of the delegation of the American Association of School Administrators, (AASA) – American Israel Friendship League (AIFL) trip to Israel. Among others, she met with the mayor of Bethlehem and Tel Aviv. She will share some of the unique facets of Israeli education. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged to allow us to continue with these and other programs. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. Please visit www.etz.hayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For mor information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120

Saturday, April 13

Tot Shabbat Hop – Derry

10:00AM – 11:00AM Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry PJ Library's jBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 (siblings welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Enjoy stories, singing, and blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush. Registration requested.

Sunday, April 14

Shavua Tov Storytime 2023-2024

8:30AM – 9:00AM Zoom
A program designed for families with children ages 2-5
Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30AM to 9:00AM. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive please reach out to Alane at alane.sabel@jewishnh.org. Zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program.

Friday, April 19

Tot Shabbat with Rabba Kaya

5:30PM – 6:15PM Temple Israel, Portsmouth Temple Israel Portsmouth's kid-friendly musical Shabbat experience is led monthly by Rabba Kaya. Geared for children age 5 and under; all are welcome. Please register via the temple website calendar.

Saturday, April 20

Upper Valley Pesach Tot Shabbat

10:30AM – 11:30AM Kilton Library, Lebanon, NH Upper Valley Tot Shabbat, Pesach theme, at Kilton Library 80 Main Street, West Lebanon, NH. Contact Melissa Herman 603-646-0460, school@uvjc.org



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!

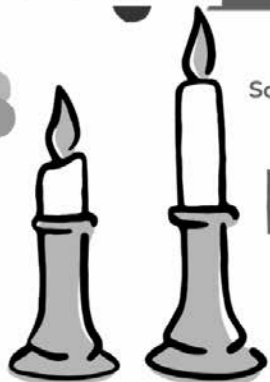
Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush



Saturday, April 13th, 2024
10AM
Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry

Registration Required

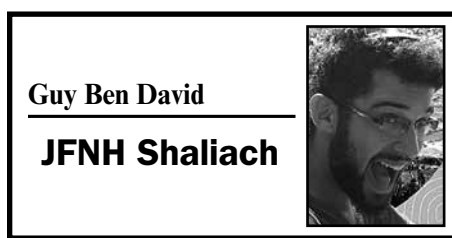
Scan QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/yWpfNAYcRo4uLprN6>



Passover in Israel

I was never really a big fan of Passover. All the food restrictions... it's not for me. I don't usually eat bread, but when Passover comes there's nothing that I want more than a plain loaf of bread. Also, the cleaning – my mom would clean part after part of the house since she's taking Passover to the extreme, and through every day that passes by, more and more parts are being forbidden to eat in. It's closing in on you, until the day of the Seder.

This night in Israel is so special. Everything shuts down completely. People go to their families to celebrate together, everybody takes part in the reading of the Haggadah - the shy kids and even my father, who never participates in anything. Then we eat and sing songs and it's really a big family party. During Chol HaMoed, everyone in Israel takes a break from work and goes hiking and camping because the weather is just perfect for it. Even though you're stuck in traffic with the rest of Am Israel, there's something in the air – something new, something fresh. Like a new beginning. As you may know, the original Jewish calendar would start on Passover, and I really feel that



Guy Ben David

JFNH Shaliach

**SPOTLIGHT
ON ISRAEL**



way. It feels like experiencing two Rosh Hashanahs. We're moving from Avdut to Herut (From Slavery to Freedom) the Slavery of cleaning – to the Freedom of hiking in our wonderful land. The day after the holiday looks completely different than the day before. Everything is fresh and busy days will come upon us right after (but that's for the next Dvar).

So, who am I kidding? I love Passover! May we all experience our personal freedom – and especially our hostages in Gaza.

Am Israel Chai and Happy Passover!

JFNH Film Project to Combat Antisemitism: Will You Help?

Dear community members, as part of our ongoing efforts to combat antisemitism, JFNH's Antisemitism and Diversity Committee hopes to create a short film recounting firsthand experiences of community members that can be shared in conversation with town and city officials, educators, legislators, the media, and others.

The film will be used to educate the public about rising antisemitism in our state – in schools and in our communities generally – to foster understanding, to build partnerships, and to advocate for solutions.

We invite your participation in this important project. What happened to you matters greatly. Real-word experiences related by real people (rather than actors) engage the listener on a personal level and have the potential to create deep un-

derstanding and change. If you or your child experienced an antisemitic incident – whether it was an overtly hostile or discriminatory act, or a microaggression – and you are willing to share that experience, please contact Dina Michael Chaitowitz at dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com. Of course, please reach out if you have any questions or want more information about the project. Rest assured, all stories will be treated with the utmost respect and sensitivity and will not be shared without your permission.

We are also looking for an accomplished (amateur or professional) videographer, or someone with experience splicing together video footage and adding text. If you are interested in helping to make the film, please contact Dina Michael Chaitowitz at dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com,

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

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Bedford, NH 03110
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Your Federation at Work

JFNH Shaliach Purim Party



The JFNH Shaliach threw a great Purim Party. Great food, great costumes, great company, and lots of laughs!



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.

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

**SIGN
UP**

Ages 6 mos. through 8
pjlibrary.org

Ages 9 through 11
pjourway.org

Harold Grinspoon 
FOUNDATION



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

jewishnh.org

Momentum Moms



The JFNH 2023 Momentum moms at a Tu B'Shevat seder.

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Passover Greetings 2024

Wishing you and yours a very happy Passover
- *The Jolton Family*

Wishing all a very Happy Passover
- *Marc Rubenson*

Chag Sameach Pesach!
- *Regen Family*

Chag Pesach Sameach Let freedom, peace and justice prevail
- *The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation*

Chag Pesach Sameach
- *from Rabbi Robin Nafshi, Cantor Shira Nafshi and the entire Temple Beth Jacob Community*

Chag Sameach from the Guertin Family
- *David, Allyson, and Max*

Chag Kasher V'Sameach!
- *Rabbi Seth and Deana Linfield*

May you find liberation and health as we all go forth!
- *Soreff Nation*

Good Yon Tov greetings for a meaningful and joyous Passover
from Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community

Happy, Healthy and Peaceful "Passover" to my JFNH Family
- *Frankie Shapiro and Ellen Covici*

A special Happy Passover Greeting to you and your beloved family
- *Fondly Renee Brenner*

Best wishes for a healthy and peaceful Passover
- *The Kalik Family*

Happy Passover
- *The Richmond Family*

We wish all of our friends and family a Happy and Healthy Passover
- *Ed Schoen and Gail Ellis*

Have a Zissen Pesach!
- *Liliane Sznycer and Abner Taub*

Chag Sameach to you and yours
- *Michele and Michael Bank*

May your Passover celebration be filled with happiness, love and joy
- *Ken and Bertha Litvack*



New Hampshire Passover Seder Listings

Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester

603-669-5650
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 6:00 PM
For more information: djwarshaw@gmail.com, office@taynh.org

Congregation Ahavas Achim, Keene

603-352-6747
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 6:30 PM
Additional Services: Shabbat Festival Service, including Yizkor: 4/27 at 9:30
For more information: www.keenesynagogue.org. Please register for our 2nd Night Passover Seder. The seder is on Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30pm. Members of CAA will be given preference if registrations exceed our seating capacity. Our tradition of sitting at a seder table together as a community on the second night of Passover continues this year! Rabbi Dan will lead us in a creative, interactive celebration of the Festival of Our Freedom. This seder will include the ceremonial foods we are familiar with but will not include a full meal. Please register to attend and let us know if you would like to volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up. The cost for CAA members is \$10/per person, over the age of 13. The cost for guests is \$18/per person. Please register either with Daniella at office@keenesynagogue.org or (603)352-6747 or by visiting the registration page link on our website homepage or at <https://forms.gle/neUqj3LZQFAPPafC6>

Temple Israel, Manchester

603-622-6171
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 6:00PM
Additional Services: Pesach V Service: 4/27 at 9:45PM
For more information: www.templeisraelmht.org. RSVP required for the April 23 seder.

Temple Beth Jacob, Concord

(603) 228-8581
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 5:45PM
For more information: www.tbjconcord.org. This Seder will be a community potluck meat/parve meal, \$18 per person, please pre-register. EVERYONE is welcome, please join us!

Temple Israel, Portsmouth

603-436-5301
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 6:00PM
Additional Services: Passover service with Yizkor: 4/29 at 10:00
For more information: <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/community-passover-seder-2024.html>

Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua

603-883-8184
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 6:00PM
Additional Services:
- 4/22 8:30 am - Morning Service for Siyyum Bechorot
- 4/23 10:00 am - Morning Service for the First Day of Pesach
- 4/24 10:00 am - Morning Service for the Second Day of Pesach
- 4/26 8:00 pm - Evening Service for Shabbat Chol Ha-Mo'ed Pesach
- 4/27 10:00 am - Morning Service for Shabbat Chol Ha-Mo'ed Pesach
- 4/28 7:30 pm - Evening Service for the Seventh Day of Pesach
- 4/29 10:00 am - Morning Service for the Seventh Day of Pesach
- 4/29 8:30 pm - Evening Service for the Eighth Day of Pesach
- 4/30 10:00 am - Morning Service for Eighth Day of Pesach with Yizkor Memorial Prayers
- 4/30 8:00 pm - Afternoon Yizkor Memorial Prayers
- 4/30 8:30 pm - Evening Service and Havdalah to Conclude Pesach
For more information: <https://www.tbanashua.org/pesach-passover-2024-5784/>. All services as well as the Second Night Passover Community Seder will be in-person and on Zoom

Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Manchester

603-647-0204
Seder Night 1: 7:30PM
Seder Night 2: n/a
For more information: Chabadofnh.com/seder.

Kol Ha'Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community, Hanover

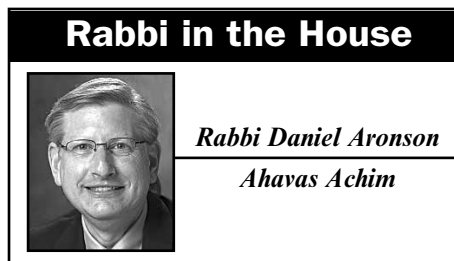
603-646-0460
Seder Night 1: n/a
Seder Night 2: 6:00PM
For more information: office@uvjc.org



My Passover Bucket List

In addition to the bucket I fill with soapy water to clean my kitchen before Passover, there's another, much smaller bucket I occasionally fill for the "season of our freedom"—my Passover bucket list. There's not a lot on my bucket list, but one thing that is there is to take a Passover cruise.

It could happen one day, maybe after I retire. It won't matter to me if I'm the rabbi who is hired by the cruise line to lead dozens of likeminded vacationers in a seder on the high seas or if I'm just an ordinary stow away fleeing the rigors of Passover prep. I imagine my family and I signing our *hametz* over to our non-Jewish neighbors, putting those neighbors in charge of our pets, and heading off into the kosher-for-Passover sunset for a week. No cleaning house. No changing our dishes over. No purchasing expensive *kosher l'pesach* foods. No wondering how our child is going to



make it through a whole week without Lucky Charms and Eggo waffles. Ahhh. Paradise!

I think Moses would approve of this item in my bucket list. After all, it was he who said, "I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse — therefore choose the good life!" (Deut. 30:19). Okay, I added the part about "the good life," but is it so wrong to desire the life of luxury just once instead of killing myself to prepare my home in fulfillment of all the *mitzvot* of Pesach? Plus, not all that time at sea would be self-in-

dulgent: I'd get to spend quality time with my family and tend to my physical and emotional wellbeing. If it's good enough for people far more observant than me, sign me up!

All that said, I'm also not overly eager to embark on that dream Passover cruise. Without taking the cruise off my bucket list nor for a moment retracting my self-pity for going through the annual rituals of preparing for Passover, I do need to share that all the cleaning, all the changing over of dishes, all the work that goes into making Passover different from all other weeks of the year is something I relish. Doing that work is one of the major points of Passover. We're *supposed* to experience hardship. We're *supposed* to see ourselves in some small way as if we were slaves in Egypt; the *haggadah* tells us to.

It is precisely because we're so fortunate to live in freedom and security, even in these troubling times, that we need to feel overburdened at least once a year in order earnestly to follow the *haggadah's* dictum. We *need* to have the experience of filling our buckets with soapy water and straining our backs washing floors. No one says we should pretend to love doing all the work. Grumble and moan all you want! Our ancestors in Egypt surely grumbled. Nonetheless, whether preparing for Pesach as a compulsory response to God's command or choosing to do the hard work because it's something that binds us to the Jewish People, engaging in the chores and rituals of Pesach enables us to be ever grateful that we are no longer slaves to a pharaoh.

Another reason why I'm not ready to start looking for deals on a Passover getaway is that I, like all of us, need to do my own share of spring cleaning, if not in my home then in my soul. Once a year is not enough. In non-leap years in the Hebrew calendar, the first *seder* falls 6 months after Yom Kippur, the other time we devote ourselves to a deep spiritual cleansing. Between Yom Kippur and Pesach, though, most of us accumulate enough *schmutz* in the form of thoughtless deeds, hurtful comments,

and other sins -- both intentional and unintentional -- to merit a deep cleaning in the month of Nisan as well. We should make the same commitment for our inner selves that we make to cleaning our homes more than once a year.

Let's be honest: it's not *such* hard work to get ready for Passover. I don't really believe it will kill me to do whatever my body will tolerate to remove *hametz* from my home and bring in those special once-a-year foods that I could eat all year long but reserve, instead, for *Chag Hamatzot*. As a rabbi, I remind my congregants every year that it's better to do a little than to do nothing at all, but that we each have a different limit for what we can accomplish and we each have different pushes and pulls on our time that make it only reasonable to "call it a day" when we've reached that limit.

Preparing for Pesach is not an all-or-nothing proposition. We should each do what we are capable of doing in order to experience a different week from all other weeks in the year -- a week in which we acknowledge the pain of our ancestors and those in our world who suffer needlessly, a week in which we give thanks for your freedom and all the blessings in our lives, and a week that allows us to begin the second half of the year with fresh resolve to avoid those behaviors that tarnish our souls. Passover does require some effort, but how much effort depends on what each of us can handle. We each need to be our own judge.

Since I am many years away from retirement, this year—rather than sail the ocean blue—I'll once again prepare for and observe Pesach as I am able. I'll have a bucket of suds beside me in the days leading up to Pesach, after which I will joyously celebrate the season of our freedom with my family and community on dry land. And you can bet that my bucket list of luxurious Passover aspirations will remain safely stored away in a plastic storage bin in our basement with the Trix and Eggo waffles.

May we all have a *Chag Kasher v'Sameach*, a "kosher" and joyous Passover!



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- **Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE).** You can create an endowment to perpetuate your Annual Campaign gift. This is a wonderful way to sustain your lifelong investment in the community you have helped build.
- **Restricted Endowment.** Our planned giving professionals will work with you to craft a gift that supports the work of a valued partner organization or an area of particular interest to you, such as caring for the most vulnerable, engaging people of all ages in Jewish learning, and supporting Israel.

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LEARN MORE:
Contact Foundation Chair Julia Preis through the JFNH Office at 603-627-7679



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In the Community

Keeping Purim going into April! Concord's Temple Beth Jacob presents: The Megillah According To Hamilton: The Shul Where It Happens! April 6-7, 2024

By Gary Sobelson, Director/Producer
Temple Beth Jacob Purimshpiel

Hey – it's still Adar II! The Temple Beth Jacob (TBJ Concord) Purimshpielers, always happy to prolong the celebration of our favorite late winter holiday, are pleased to welcome all of our NH Jewish Federation neighbors to our 27th annual theatrical extravaganza and holiday celebration, scheduled for performances on Saturday April 6 at 8:00PM and Sunday April 7 at 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord. While everyone is familiar with the Megillat Esther and the raucous celebrations that the holiday of Purim brings to our synagogues, you have certainly never experienced the story of Mordecai, Esther, Ahashuerus, Vashti, and Haman in the style of Lin-Manuel Miranda and the hit Broadway musical, Hamilton. With a 34-person cast and a 9-piece orchestra the familiar story will come to the stage/bema on Broadway in Concord with a theatrical flair and creativity that will uphold a multi-decade tradition at TBJ. If you haven't seen a TBJ Purimshpiel before, you are in for a wonderful surprise, as the theatricality of this quirky Jewish tradition would be more at home in a NYC off-Broadway theatre than in our usually sedate capital city!

With an original script written by TBJ and TAY Cantor Shira Nafshi, the creative energy, costuming, and musical performances of the show are inspired by the wonderful Broadway hit, but follow the important Purimshpiel tradition of storytelling with humor. The story winds its way through 18 musical numbers as it heads for its dramatic (and pre-ordained) outcome. Is Vashti just a disobedient wife, or an ancient feminist? What is with those rebellious (but very endearing) palace guardsmen, Bigthan and Teresh, and the especially heinous narcissists Haman and Zeresh? Is King Ahashuerus a real leader, or just a party animal in colonial garb? And are Esther and Mordecai merely social climbers in Shushan, or will they remember from whence they came? All will be answered.

The TBJ cast has refined the Purimshpiel performance art form over the years, and promises a wonderful and entertaining evening for all. There is an open bar to allow everyone to fulfill the requirement of the Shulchan Aruch (the code of Jewish law) to imbibe until one can't tell the difference between the phrases "Blessed is Mordecai"

and "Cursed is Haman!" While the humor is "tilted" toward an adult audience, older children and teens are welcome.

All seats are reserved; tickets (\$25/\$20) are available through the TBJ website (www.tbjconcord.org) and office (603-228-8581). Please join with the Granite

State Jewish (and Jew-"ish"?) community in a night of comedy and music. Don't "throw away your shot!" You will feel truly welcomed as the Shpielers celebrate the joyous holiday and theatrical entertainment, and you will certainly leave TBJ with a promise to return next year!



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New Hampshire Teens Represented at International Jewish Teen Summit in New York

Manchester, NH — A delegation of passionate Jewish teens from New Hampshire's CTeen chapter, under the guidance of Chanchie Krinsky, Program Director of Chabad of New Hampshire, attended the highly anticipated CTeen International Shabbaton in New York City. This year, the summit held an even greater significance as its aim was to fortify Jewish teens, providing them with a platform to connect with fellow Jewish teenagers and an unwavering commitment to Jewish values amidst the backdrop of recent adversities.

The summit, known as "the Shabbaton," held from February 23rd to 26th, attracted over 3,000 participants from 58 countries across the globe, making it one of the largest and most diverse gatherings of Jewish teens in recent history. Amidst the vibrant energy of Crown Heights, NY, the NH delegation experienced a weekend filled with inspiration, leadership training, and a deeper exploration of their Jewish roots. The annual gathering, which hosted a delegation of 200 Israeli teens, including survivors of the Nova massacre, was especially poignant this year in the wake of recent events that have tested the resilience and spirit of the Jewish people since October 7th.

Julia Waldman, from Bedford, shared her reflection about the summit. "After everything that's happened since October 7th, coming together at the CTeen Shabbaton was an astounding way to show Jewish pride and was incredibly inspiring to be with so many Jewish teens that felt like family," she expressed.

The summit featured an array of programs designed to inspire and engage, including workshops, discussions, and opportunities for prayer and reflection at the world-renowned sacred site, the Ohel, resting place of the Rebbe, the inspiration behind the CTeen movement. A highlight of the event was the Times



Square Havdalah ceremony, where thousands of teens filled the crossroads of the world, celebrating their Jewish identity and praying for peace, symbolizing the collective resilience of the Jewish people.

Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky, Vice-Chairman of CTeen International, emphasized the importance of such gatherings in today's context. "In a world where our youth are bombarded with countless challenges to their faith and identity, the CTeen International Summit stands as a critical platform to empower the teens to hold strong and be ambassadors of positivity back home," he stated.

"This year's CTeen Shabbaton was so meaningful and absolutely amazing," shared Moriah Rezaoui, a sophomore from Merrimack, attending for her second year. "The theme of 'Count On Me' was one to remember forever, and I can't wait to go back next year" she said.

The impact of the CTeen Summit extends beyond the event itself, inspiring participants to return to their communities with renewed vigor to lead and make a difference. Chanchie Krinsky reflected on the significance of the summit: "Our



teens have come back invigorated. This experience has not only strengthened their Jewish identity but has empowered them to support their peers during this tough time as well."

About CTeen:

CTeen of New Hampshire, led by Chanchie Krinsky, is part of the International Chabad Teen Network, the world's largest network of Jewish teenagers, en-



compassing over 730 chapters in 58 countries across six continents. Focused on empowering Jewish teenagers to become leaders in their communities through acts of kindness, community service, and a strong commitment to their values, CTeen is transforming the landscape of Jewish teen engagement. For more information about the CTeen program and future events, please contact Chanchie at Chanchie@Chabadofnh.com

2024 Tu B'Shevat Seder at Temple Adath Yeshurun

Over 35 congregants and friends celebrated a belated Tu B'Shevat Seder at TAY this year, prepared by Sisterhood members. Rabbi Beth Davidson led us in the seder and joyful songs. The delicious lunch included blueberry soup, chicken fingers with orange sauce,



wild rice with grapes, salad, homemade rolls and lots of fruit-filled home-baked cookies. Kudos to the co-chairs Mandy Frank and Priscilla Malcolm.





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To learn more about making a legacy gift, contact Foundation Chair **Julia Preis** through the JFNH Office (603) 627-7679.



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Temple Israel Portsmouth Shines a Spotlight on Israel

Congregants at Temple Israel, Portsmouth, have been focused on Israel: learning from engaging speakers, expressing support through art, and gathering for a special prayer service in support of the hostages still held in Gaza.

On February 11, Moshe Perez gave a well-attended talk sponsored by the Brotherhood and the Israeli Affairs Committee. An Israeli and former IDF member, he spoke about his volunteer service in the National Search and Rescue unit of the home front command of the IDF and showed several slides of the devastation that he encountered from the October 7 Hamas attack. He also answered questions from the audience, that covered topics ranging from the increase in antisemitism, to the need for education about the Middle East, to the prospect for a two-state solution.

On February 25, Jared Goldfarb, a Dover native who has lived and taught in Israel for thirty years, gave a presentation on present-day life in Israel in the midst of the war. Jared has extensive experience working with organizations that include both Israeli and Palestinian representa-



Moshe Perez. Photo by Walter Rous.



Jared Goldfarb. Photo by Jared Nabel.

tion, such as schools, social service organizations, and peace advocacy groups. He recommended American Jewish support for those groups as an important way to foster peace between the two populations. A lively Q & A session followed.



Courtyard installation. Photo by Aimee Margolis.

Congregant and artist Aimée Margolis has created "Pillars of Freedom & Hope," an outdoor installation in the temple courtyard, to raise public awareness of the plight of the hostages and their families. On a regular basis, the subjects pictured change; visitors are invited to come and read the stories of those held hostage in Gaza.

On March 7, Temple Israel honored

this day as the hostages in Gaza entered their sixth month of captivity. Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman led the community in a service of song, verse, and psalms focused on strengthening the hostages. Afterwards, participants entered the courtyard installation, placed rose petals by the portraits of the hostages, and stood in silent prayer for their safe return to their families.



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WE CARE of Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: David Clark's 'ALL ABOUT JOEL' Brings Billy Joel to Life in Meredith!

Dust off your dancing shoes and prepare to sing along as David Clark's *All About Joel* benefit concert takes you on a musical journey through the iconic hits of Billy Joel while supporting The Lakes Region Food Pantry's fight against hunger.

More than just a concert, this charitable event is presented by We Care of Temple B'nai Israel. Join this night of entertainment and heartwarming support on Saturday, May 25th, at 7:30 PM (General Admission) at the Inter-Lakes Community Auditorium in Meredith, NH. Tickets are just \$40; no additional fees and plenty of free parking at the venue. Tickets are available online at <https://tbinh.org> and select retail locations (see website).

David Clark, a seasoned performer, will be joined by a talented saxophonist to create a dynamic duo performance. Clark's stunningly accurate piano playing, powerful vocals, and charismatic stage presence will leave you feeling like you're experiencing the Piano Man himself as he engages the audience with wit and humor. Whether you're a lifelong



Billy Joel fan or simply looking for a fantastic performance, David Clark's *All About Joel* is the perfect event for all.

The We Care concert model goes beyond entertainment as all the net proceeds will directly benefit The Lakes Region Food Pantry, a vital non-profit dedicated to providing essential food assistance and other resources to families in need. We Care has championed local causes since 2013 by "lending a helping hand to Lakes Region nonprofits," and they are proud to support the Food Pantry's mission. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an evening of unforgettable Billy Joel music, support a worthy cause, and make a real difference in the lives of others. Relive the golden age of piano rock with David Clark's electrifying performance. Get your tickets today and prepare for a night of music, community, and giving!

We Care extends its deepest gratitude to Miracle Farms Landscaping, Audi Nashua, and Interlakes Family Dental, our steadfast event sponsors, as well as the major support of The Laconia Daily Sun and Northeast Communications. Their continued commitment to We Care, year after year, has clearly improved the lives of countless individuals within the Lakes Region community.

DAVID CLARK'S ALL ABOUT JOEL BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE



Celebrating Rabbi Davidson's 20 Years at TAY at a Special Deli Nite

For the first time since the pandemic, Deli Nite is back — with a twist.

On Saturday, May 18, the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood will be recognizing Rabbi Beth D. Davidson for her 20 years with TAY, and celebrating with its famous Deli Nite, featuring a New York Kosher-style deli meal with all



the fixings. Several speakers will be on hand to recognize Rabbi Beth on this milestone, including Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Dean of the Cincinnati Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and a classmate of Rabbi Beth's, and U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan. Rabbi Hecht will also be leading services at TAY Friday night, and will be

a scholar in residence Saturday morning. In addition to the speakers, the evening's entertainment will include the magic of Andrew Pinard.

A few tickets to the event are still available for \$50 each, but they're going fast. To get yours, contact the TAY office at office@taynh.org or (603) 669-5650, or Dave Pen-

chansky at docpen@comcast.net or (603) 622-6040. You can also call or email TAY to RSVP for Friday night services or the Saturday program with Rabbi Hecht. If you'd like to make a contribution to honor Rabbi Beth's 20 years of leadership, checks can be made out to Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH 03104.

Innovations in Israeli Education at Etz Hayim Synagogue

Dr. Ronna HasBrouck will speak about "Innovations in Israeli Education" at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 7 PM on April 11, 2024. Dr. Ronna HasBrouck is the SAU 107's Superintendent. In March 2023, she was part of the delegation of the American Association of School Administrators-American-Israel Friendship League trip



to Israel. Among others, she met with the Mayors of Bethlehem and Tel Aviv. She will share some of the unique facets of Israeli education.

The talk is in-person at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038. There is no charge, but donations are encouraged. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, *Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff*. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603-895-6120.

Jewish Journeys

Medical Mission to Israel

By Amichai Kilchevsky

We all watched in collective horror as the brutality of Hamas' terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023 unfolded. Compounding the already overwhelming tragedy was the upsurge in antisemitism both in the United State and abroad. The age of illusion was over and the notion of "Never Again" was rendered an empty sentiment. The Jewish people, who for generations have worked to rebuild after the Holocaust, were reminded that we can count on no one. It was this realization which undoubtedly led to the increased solidarity experienced within the Jewish community here in New Hampshire. Shabbat services, Hanukkah celebrations, and Israeli music concerts were better attended than ever before. Each one of us felt the need to not only come together but also to grow from this trauma. It was this desire for community and growth that led me to travel to Israel in February 2024 as part of a medical solidarity mission through American Healthcare Professionals and Friends for Medicine in Israel.

The aim of the mission was to both un-



Dr. Amichai Kilchevsky and Dr. Adam Goldstein at Wolfson Medical Center



Dr. Amichai Kilchevsky and Raanan de Haas at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv

derstand and support the humanitarian efforts being implemented to restore the security and safety of Israeli society. We



Car Cemetery close to the site of the Nova Music Festival where hundreds of cars belonging to the victims of the October 7 massacre represent a silent testimony to those killed.



Dr. Eitan Kilchevsky (3rd from left), neonatologist and father of Amichai Kilchevsky, volunteering in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv

visited multiple medical and rehabilitation centers where we learned about treating war casualties, rehabilitation practices, and the challenges medical professionals face in conflict zones. Furthermore, we received insight into the secondary traumatization of medical teams while exploring military response strategies, including medical combat training and Special Search & Rescue operations. For those of you who are interested, the organization will have another solidarity mission July 7-11 and an Emergency and Disaster Preparedness course November 9-14 (www.apfmed.org).

Medical Mission continued on page 18



Memorial at the site of the Nova Music Festival massacre near Kibbutz Re'im



An abandoned children's bicycle at Kibbutz Be'eri



Destroyed homes at Kibbutz Be'eri



Art installation at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv. In January 2024 artist Roni Levavi installed a 30 yard tunnel that visitors can walk through to experience that darkness and seclusion that Israeli hostages in Gaza are currently experiencing.





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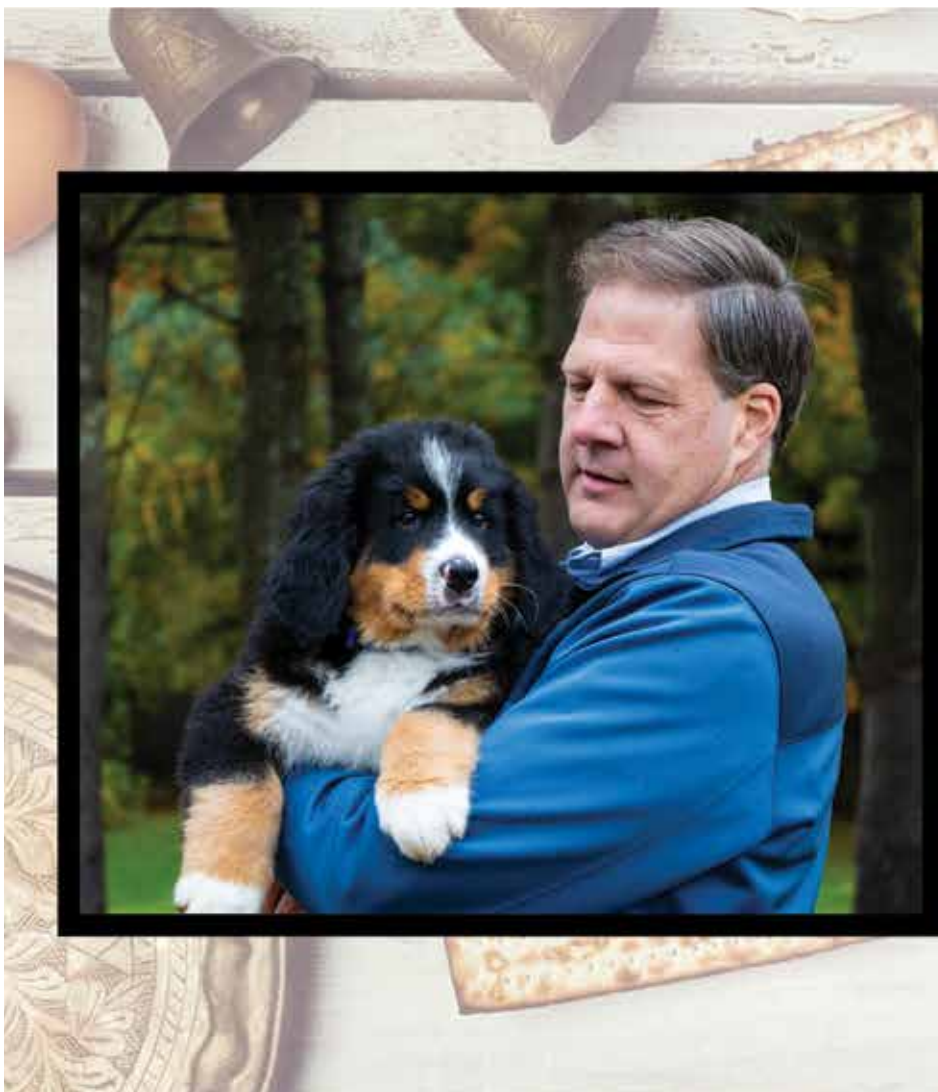
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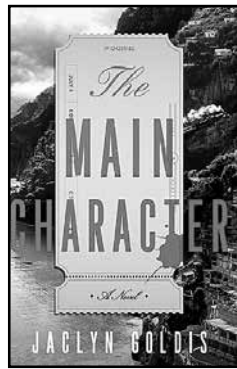
Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Main Character by Jaclyn Goldis

Check out this author, Jaclyn Goldis: she has a very vivid imagination. Her novel The Chateau boasts an interesting twisting plot, with a mysterious thread running through it. Now Goldis has captured our imaginations again, with her new novel, The Main Character.

Have you ever wondered if there are things about those closest to you that you do not know? How would you react if their secrets came out and affected your life? This mysterious novel shows how characters react to the secrets as they come to light. One of the interesting themes in this novel is sibling rivalry, a topic close to my heart—always in competition with a younger smarter sister, always wondering who Mom loved best. This is a novel that examines how the relationship between siblings can



fester and grow into love and or resentment. How a parent responds to each child can have an impact on both children and their relationship. Reader, you may want to watch your back

after reading this story: you never know what your sibling might be planning.

Following in the footsteps of Agatha Christie, we meet our characters on the famous train ride along Italy’s Mediterranean coast, the renovated Orient Express. Rory is the main character in Ginevra Ex’s new novel, and Ginevra Ex

is a prolific author who studies people and writes mystery novels based on their lives. She learned early on in her career to write what you know sells the most books, but she cannot bring herself to really delve into her own life for a book.

Ex has interviewed Rory for hours about her life, and also interviewed the people closest to Rory—her brother, Caroline, her best friend, and her ex-fiancé, Nate. When they all turn up on the train, Rory begins to wonder if real life will start to imitate fiction and that Ginevra is manipulating her life into a mystery novel. She is concerned that this may lead to someone’s death.

This book also discusses the topic of the refuseniks, Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union who escaped and came to America. The author bases the charac-

ter of Rory’s father, Ansel, on her father and his parents’ experience. The author’s father was born in Ukraine and his identification card stated he was Jewish. He took the perilous path to freedom in 1976. The author describes life in the Soviet Union and refuseniks situation beautifully. She also paints the picture of the scenery of Italy’s Mediterranean coast with a rich palette.

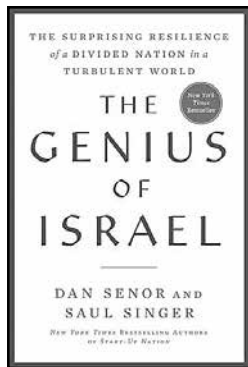
Jaclyn Goldis is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and NYU Law. She practiced estate planning law at a large law firm for seven years before leaving her job to travel the world and write novels. Taking with her only what would fit in a backpack, she traveled for over a year until settling in Tel Aviv. She can be found writing from cafes near the beach.

Book Review

Reviewed by Richard England

The Genius of Israel: The Surprising Resilience of a Divided Nation in a Turbulent World

The news from Israel during the last year has certainly been unsettling: months of protests within Israel over judicial reform followed by the attack from Gaza on October 7. Some observers have been surprised by how quickly most Israelis came together to support the IDF and to provide aid and comfort to hostage families and several hundred thousand Israelis evacuated from at-risk border communities.



This rallying of Israeli society wasn’t a surprise to readers of a book published only months before October 7. In The Genius of Israel (Avid Reader Press),

best-selling authors Dan Senor and Saul Singer explore in detail how it can be that Israelis score so highly on “happiness” surveys. What they discover is that, despite their religious and political differences, Israelis share a commitment to the future of their nation. This commitment is reflected in a high birth rate among secular and religious Jews alike. But what explains this optimism about the future despite the enemies

surrounding Israel? Senor and Singer point to the strong ties among family members who gather for “thanksgiving” every Shabbat, the enduring friendships among IDF veterans, and other forms of social solidarity that bind Israelis together. If you want to learn more about the fascinating project that is Israel today, I strongly recommend that you get a copy of The Genius of Israel.



CHAG SAMEACH!

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy Passover.

Mayor Jay & Veronica Ruais

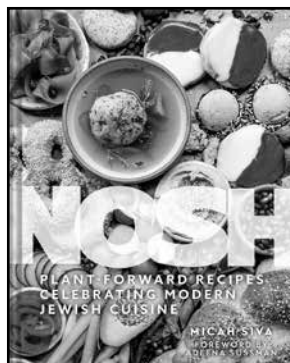
Paid for by Friends of Jay Ruais

Cookbook Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Nosh: Plant Forward Recipes Celebrating Modern Jewish Cuisine by Micah Siva

This cookbook by Micah Siva is an interesting new take on the traditional Jewish recipes you have been eating: All the recipes in this book are plant-based. If you have been looking for a way to change your diet to eat more plant-based for any reason, this is the cookbook you are looking for.



pastrami made of celeriac, and jackfruit and tofu that will taste like shawarma. So when you serve bagels and lox along with whitefish salad for brunch, this book gives you a recipe for lox made from carrots and whitefish salad using hearts of palm. There are other recipes that use vegetables to create delicious soups, salads and desserts.

Siva calls her recipes plant forward, using the definition; "A way of cooking and eating that emphasizes plant based foods without limiting ones diet to being vegetarian or vegan." There are many traditional sounding recipes that are made from a variety of plant ingredients. Some of the recipes use some more unusual ingredients with similar textures and flavors to the original recipe. Pulled brisket made from mushrooms and tofu,

Yossi's Lemony Lentil soup, Sweet and Sour Cabbage soup and Chickpea Noodle soup were the recipes this reviewer cooked, and those recipes were easy to follow and the results tasted delicious. Smashed Cucumber Dill Salad and a Cast Iron Potato and Caramelized Onion Kugel are on the menu for another Shabbat. Of course, there are also desserts like Mini Halvah Cakes and

Passover Black and White cookies, to name just a few.

This is a Jewish cookbook that will appeal to many different home cooks. The book has beautiful photos that make each recipe look delicious. The recipes give the chef serving size, time from preparation to on the table, and dietary labels. There is a glossary of terms and lots of helpful hints. Everything from how to fix an oversalted dish, to choosing your olive oil or nut butter. Even suggestions on how to measure flour and melt chocolate. It will be hard to choose which recipe to start with, and you will want to work your through the book and try them all.

MICAH SIVA is a trained chef, registered dietitian, recipe writer, and food photographer, specializing in modern Jewish cuisine. After graduating from the Natural Gourmet Institute of Health &



Culinary Arts, she pursued a career in nutrition and later worked for global brands, media outlets, and publications in food media. She shares Jewish-inspired, plant-forward recipes through her blog, Nosh with Micah. Micah lives in San Francisco, California, with her husband, Joshua Siva, and their mini sheepadoodle, Buckwheat. Micah and Josh are the coauthors of 1, 2, 3, NOSH WITH ME, an illustrated children's book about Jewish foods and their meanings.

Advertisement for Senator Maggie Hassan featuring a portrait of her, the text 'Happy Passover', 'Peace, health and happiness to you & your family!', and 'Senator Maggie Hassan'. It also includes a photo of a wine glass and matzah, a 'PAID FOR BY MAGGIE FOR NH' box, and the website 'www.MaggieHassan.com'.

'A Child's View of the Holocaust' Dance Performance

Sunday, April 7, 2024:
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

A touring group of highly trained New England Dance Ensemble (NEDE.org) members ranging in age from 6-18 present a 40-minute production of "A Child's View of the Holocaust" in the Temple Beth Abraham social hall on Sunday, April 7 at 1 pm. A light lunch at noon will precede the performance.

Artistic Director Barbara Mullen choreographed the original drama ballet in 1990. The production recognizes the atrocities that occurred towards Jews at the hands of the Nazi party in Germany between 1939 and 1945.

Nothing can erase the tragedy of a systematic attempt to exterminate a race, but showing respect for the survivors and regard for the human spirit imparts valu-



able lessons. Holocaust survivor Paul Oppenheimer believes memories of Auschwitz and the Holocaust belong in the schools, noting, "It should not be taught as a history lesson but as a lesson in history; it should never happen again." While illuminating historical events, the production may also be applied to contemporary issues including bullying and prejudice.

In 2011, "A Child's View of the Holocaust" was awarded the prestigious Charles A. Hildebrandt Award from the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Keene State College.

The event is free and open to the public, although donations are welcome.

Suggested donation of \$18 per person or \$36 per family.



Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, NH JFF
Steering Committee Member

The Frisco Kid

On Sunday, March 3, the newly established Film Club, connected with *The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival*, screened the 1979 comedy *The Frisco Kid* at Red River Theatres in Concord as it celebrated its 45th anniversary. A longtime supporter of our annual Festival, Red River graciously opened their intimate Simchik Cinema that seats 22 for a private screening of the movie. Nearly every seat was filled, and the laughter was contagious!

For those unfamiliar with *The Frisco Kid*, it is a fun and witty piece about a Polish rabbi sent to San Francisco in the 1850s. Played by Gene Wilder, who exerts his great comic chops, brilliant timing, and unending chutzpah as always, the film takes its audience on a wildly funny ride through the United States as Wilder confronts people from all walks of life.

Paired with a young Harrison Ford who plays the "cowboy" role of a bank robber, the two get themselves into their fair share of trouble all while checking the usual boxes that a Western picture does, albeit in a unique way. The Jewish



humor abounds throughout, especially with the fair share of Yiddish and Hebrew words written into the script and making light of themes like Shabbat and Torah.

This film is featured prominently in our opening night documentary *Remembering Gene Wilder*, which will screen at The Rex Theatre on April 4 at 7 PM. For those who missed *The Frisco Kid*, you can watch it for just \$3.99 on Amazon and Apple TV from your own living room. It is bound to bring you a barrel of laughs as you watch what is perhaps the only "Jewish western" ever written for the silver screen come to life!

Our next Film Club event will be publicized after the Festival concludes. We anticipate the event will occur in the summer, similar to last August's event with our 40th anniversary screening of *Yentl*. Stay tuned for more information in *The Reporter* and from the Federation.

Medical Mission

continued from page 14

I was fortunate enough during one stop to reconnect with a dear friend of mine, Dr. Adam Goldstein, Director of Trauma Surgery at Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, Israel, who had just returned from reserve duty as a field surgeon in Gaza. Dr. Goldstein and I first met at a medical clinic in Ethiopia in 2003 and we have stayed close ever since. Despite his recent deployment to Gaza, Dr. Goldstein lectured about his steadfast commitment to the organization he founded years ago, Operating Together, whose objective is to promote partnerships between Israeli and Palestinian medical professionals with the goal of building cross border relationships while optimizing acute surgical care (www.operating-together.org).

Of course, no trip to Israel would be complete without seeing one of New Hampshire's favorite Israelis, former shaliach Raanan de Haas. Raanan and I spent a meaningful day walking around Tel Aviv, visiting Hostage Square, talking politics and, of course, eating hummus.

In Judaism there is much emphasis

placed on *Chesbon HaNefesh*, which literally translates to "accounting of the soul." We have all spent the past six months deep in self-inspection. Now is the time to take that *Chesbon Hanefesh* and use it for meaningful growth by both supporting our family in Israel and advancing Jewish life at home. I encourage all of you to engage with and promote the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. For starters, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival is just around the corner with a diverse lineup of Jewish and Israeli themed features. For those of us in the area with young children please subscribe to PJ Library and take part in their events. Our current shaliach, Guy Ben David, continues to lead profound events on all things Israel, including the fun stuff! For my friends in the medical profession, look into contributing to organizations such as APF and Operating Together. Finally, the Federation has its very own upcoming Israeli Solidarity Mission in May 2024 which I would ask you to consider participating in. Now, more than ever, we must support our Jewish Community here in New Hampshire and beyond to ensure that "Never Again" means never again.



Enrollment is Open for Fall 2024!

The Derryfield School

Don't Miss the Admission On-Campus

Information Session

Thursday, May 9, 2024

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Register Today!

WWW.DERRYFIELD.ORG/VISIT



An independent day school welcoming bright, motivated students in grades 6-12.
admission@derryfield.org / 603.621.5913



Zikaron BaSalon Teen program

May 2 at 7pm
Private Home, Bedford

Zikaron BaSalon offers a new, engaging and intimate way to commemorate Yom Hashoah and its significance through discussions at home among family, friends and guests.

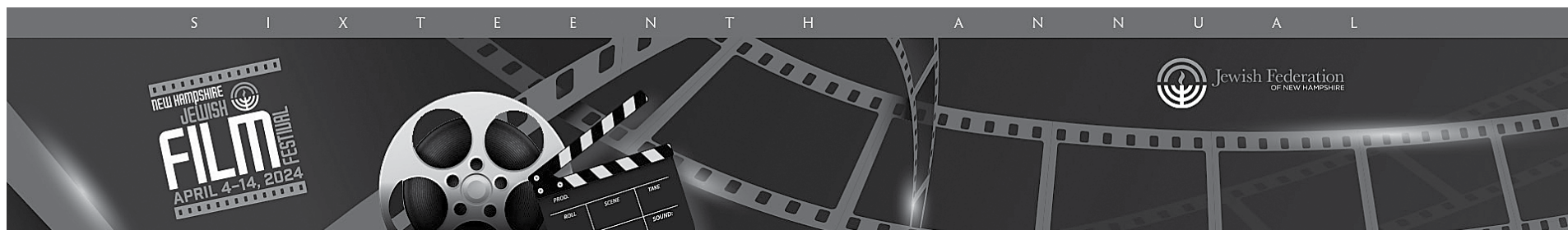
The program is geared towards teenagers ages 13-18.
Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend with their children.



Eva Berger is the daughter of Holocaust survivors. She will speak about her mother's recorded story of WWII Nazi occupation and concentration camp survival. Eva is committed to telling her mother's story in the firm belief that **only through education can we begin to combat hate and prejudice.**

Scan QR code for more information
and to register. Location sent to
registered participants.
Free program.
Light refreshments provided.





Film Festival Highlights

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee Member

If you've not yet purchased your tickets for our 16th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, there is still time! Information featured in *The Reporter* and on our website www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com provides you with many logistical details about each event.

This year, we are pleased to offer two movies with post-film discussions moderated by Film Festival Committee members. One of our virtual documentaries *Rabbi on the Block* will have a live Zoom discussion on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM.

This film features Chicago-based activist Rabbi Tamar Manasseh, who tells her

own story of bridging the gap between the African-American and Jewish communities of the South Side. Her approach to activist-based Judaism particularly shows her desire to take religion into the streets and beyond the walls of the synagogue. Manasseh and the film's director Brad Rothschild will join us on Zoom for what will certainly be an insightful chat.

Additionally, the documentary film *Call Me Dancer*, which screens in-theater at Red River in Concord on Thursday, April 11 and tells the story of two very different men both chasing a dream, will feature a two-part discussion following the 7 PM showing of the movie. In the first part, I will have the opportunity to ask questions of the film's dance teacher,

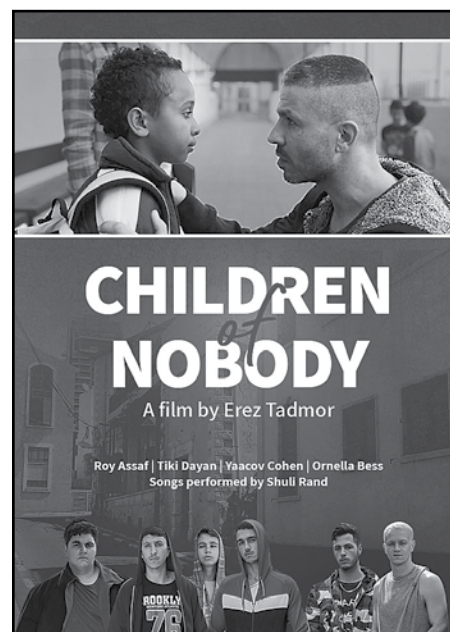
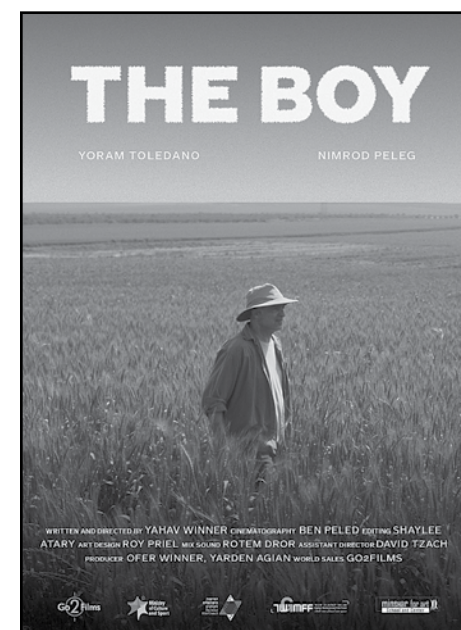
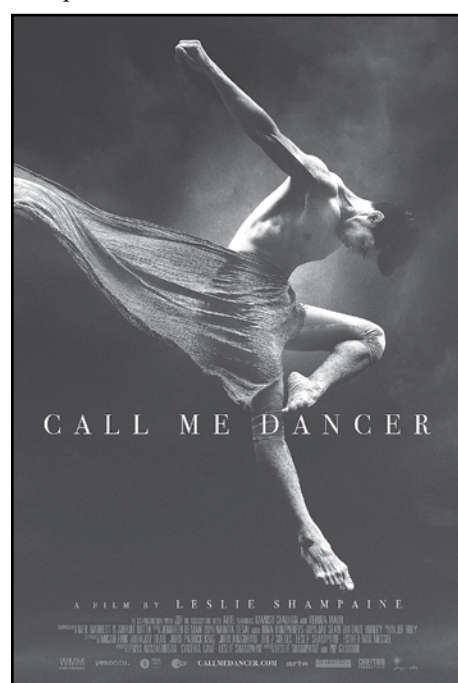
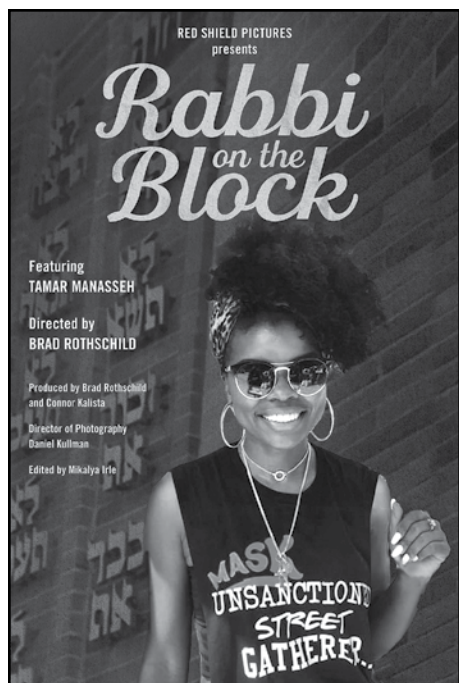
Yehuda Ma'or, and one of the directors, Leslie Shampaine. This section will be pre-recorded. In the second part, we will be joined in-person by Manish Chauhan, the film's featured dancer, as he discusses his dancing journey studying under Yehuda. I have the good fortune of moderating this conversation, as well.

As a reminder, we have the unique opportunity to screen a short film, *The Boy*, at Southern New Hampshire University on Sunday, April 7 at 6:30 PM. Made by Yahav Winner, who was killed by Hamas terrorists on his kibbutz in Southern Israel on October 7. *The Boy* will be free to honor the memory of those murdered by Hamas, as well as those who survived the attacks of that day, including Winner's wife Shaylee and baby daughter Shaya. The two were rescued after 27 hours with no food or shelter. We hope you will join us for this film at such a challenging time in the Middle East.

Last, but not least, we are pleased to have films at a new location this year: the Nugget Theaters in Hanover. We will screen two films there. First, on Sunday, April 7 at 10 AM will be *The Way to Happiness*, a dramedy about an aspiring filmmaker forced to come to terms with his own escape from the Holocaust some 40 years earlier, as he embarks on his creative journey. The second film at Nugget Theaters on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM is

Children of Nobody, which tells the story of at-risk youth living under the care of an Israeli woman and her right-hand man Jackie, who is forced to step up to the plate when the unexpected happens.

We are so excited to offer such rich and insightful discussions about our varied film topics and to bring the very best in Jewish entertainment to venues throughout the state. We cannot thank our sponsors enough, especially the Film Star Sponsors for *Remembering Gene Wilder*, *The Boy*, *Rabbi on the Block*, and *Call Me Dancer*. See you at the movies!





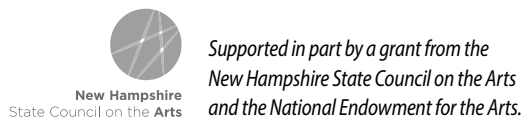
PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance purchase for ALL screenings suggested:

- Online at <https://2024nhjff.eventive.org/welcome>
- Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org
- By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM

*Additional tickets for in-theater screenings may be available at the door prior to the show.

**Tickets for virtual screenings are per household



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



PRODUCERS



FILM STARS



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 Cultural Endowment Fund • Universal Car Service • Upper Valley Jewish Community
 Zvi & Debby Cohen Jewish Film Festival Fund

In-Theater Events

Thursday, April 4, 5:15 PM
Opening Night Gala Reception
 Spotlight Room at the Palace,
 Manchester, NH

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 PM
Remembering Gene Wilder
 Opening Night
 The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Sunday, April 7, 10:00 AM
The Way to Happiness
 Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Sunday, April 7, 3:00 PM
PJ Library Free Event
Hotel Transylvania
 Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
 Bedford, NH

Sunday, April 7, 4:00 PM
Children of Nobody
 SNHU Mara Auditorium, Hookset, NH

Sunday, April 7, 6:30 PM
Special Free Event: The Boy
 SNHU Mara Auditorium, Hookset, NH

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 PM
All About the Levkoviches
 Peterborough Community Theatre,
 Peterborough, NH
 and
 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 PM
Bella!
 SNHU Mara Auditorium, Hookset, NH

Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 PM
Children of Nobody
 Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Thursday, April 11, 7:00 PM
Call Me Dancer
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, April 14, 1:00 PM
The Monkey House
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

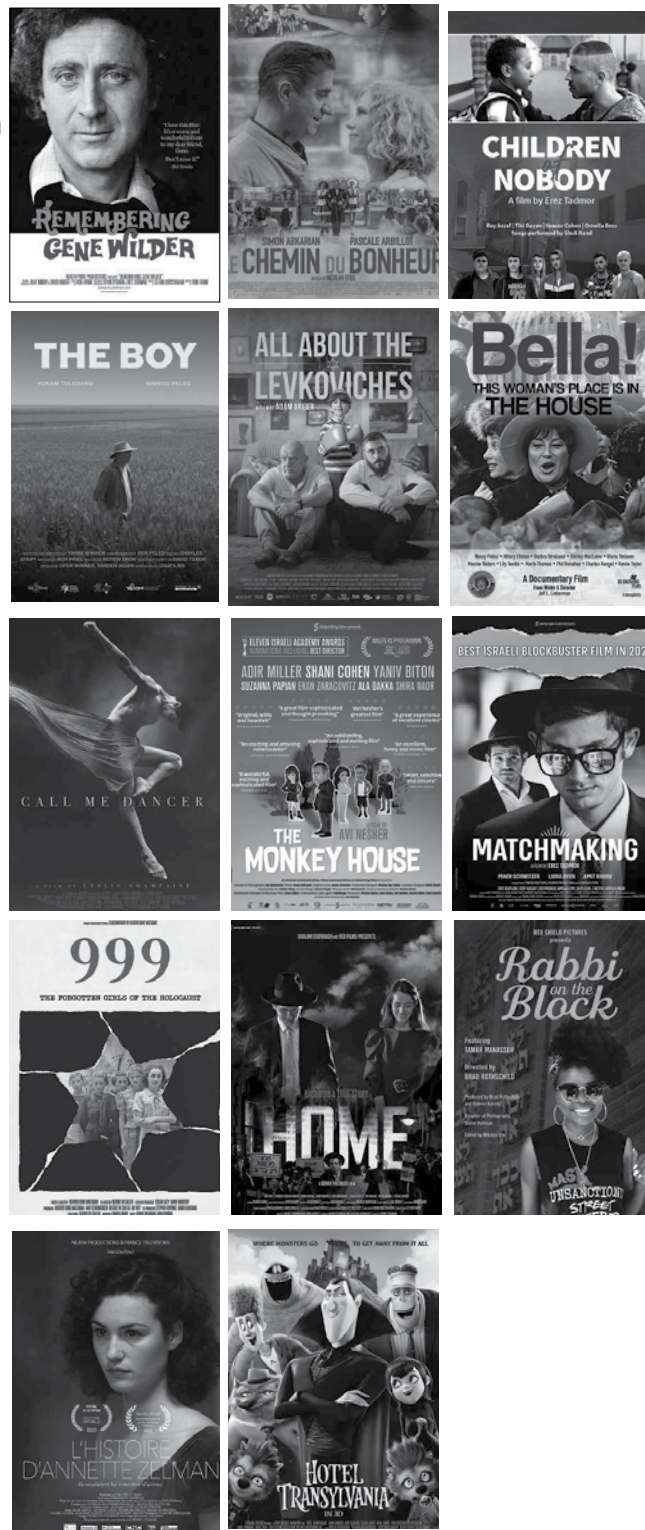
Sunday, April 14, 3:30 PM
Matchmaking
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, April 14, 5:30 PM
Wrap Party
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Virtual Screenings

Thursday, April 4 –
 Sunday, April 21
 The following films will be available
 for 18 days, except 999 (see below).
999: The Forgotten Girls of the Holocaust
 (only available April 11–April 14)
Home
Rabbi on the Block
The Story of Annette Zelman

After film is unlocked you have 48
 hours to screen.



**Virtual Post-Film
 Discussions**
 Wednesday, April 10,
 7:00 PM
Rabbi on the Block
 Live Zoom discussion with
 Rabbi Tamar Manasseh and
 director Brad Rothschild



**Virtual Screenings
 Bonus Week**
 Sunday, April 14 –
 Sunday, April 21

All About the Levkoviches
Bella!
Call Me Dancer
Children of Nobody
Matchmaking
The Boy
The Monkey House
The Way to Happiness

After film is unlocked, you have
 48 hours to screen.



Jewish Federation
 OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To Increase Inclusion During Passover, JBI Offers Free Large Print, Braille & Audio Haggadot to Anyone Visually Impaired, Blind, or Print Disabled

Deadline to order Haggadot is April 11, 2024

NEW YORK (March 13, 2024) – JBI, the nearly century-old nonprofit that enables access to Jewish life for individuals who are blind, have visual impairments, or print disabilities, recently launched its annual Haggadot campaign offering free large print, braille, and audio Haggadot to anyone in need.

JBI's Executive Director Livia Thompson said, "Participation at a Passover Seder can be difficult and isolating for those who have trouble reading standard text. Our accessible large print, braille, and audio Haggadot allow everyone, young and old, to join together with family, friends, and community and partake in the mitzvah of sharing the Passover story. Whether leading the seder in long-standing family tradition or reciting the Four Questions for the first time, all should be able to participate and feel they belong."

JBI offers 18 different versions for patrons to choose from, including Haggadot in several languages, denominations, as well as a Haggadah "digest" for communal seders perfect for use in settings such as nursing homes. Last year JBI

partnered with several organizations to add new braille and large-print editions to their offerings, and these now include the *Mishkan HaSeder* from the CCAR Press, PJ Library's *Family Haggadah*, and the *Chabad Haggadah*. Through the PJ Library collaboration, JBI has also made an audio version available for families who want to study the text and songs in advance of the holiday.

To learn more or to request a free large print, braille, or audio Haggadah for you or someone you know or love, please visit JBI's website at www.jbibrary.org, call 800-999-6476, or email haggadah@jbibrary.org. Please note orders are requested by April 11 in order to receive a free Haggadah in time for this year's Passover Seder. Haggadot are free for individuals. For institutions requesting multiple Haggadot, JBI charges a modest fee to cover the cost of production for those located outside of New York City. (Within NYC nonprofits can request Haggadot free of charge, thanks to an accessibility grant serving NYC.)

About JBI

JBI, established in 1931 as *The Jewish Braille Institute*, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people of all ages

FREE HAGGADOT

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Enabling Access to Jewish Life

ORDER BY April 11, 2024

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www.jbibrary.org
haggadah@jbibrary.org

and backgrounds who are blind, visually impaired, or print disabled gain access to Jewish life. Through a vast circulating library, liturgical texts, customized materials, and cultural offerings, JBI enables its patrons to connect to the rich literary, cultural, and religious texts of the Jewish community. JBI creates, publishes, and

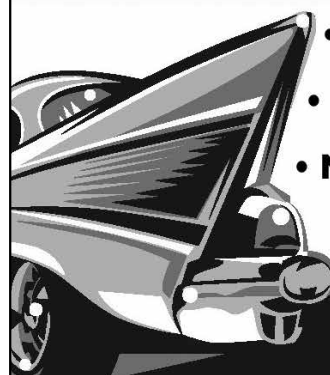
distributes thousands of Jewish-interest materials in audio, braille, and large print that are provided free of charge and sent directly to patrons' doorsteps. JBI continues to innovate and empower communities through its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. To learn more, visit www.jbibrary.org.

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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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Don't let your problems simmer until they boil over. Call the JFNH social worker at **603-310-9941**.

All calls and assistance are confidential.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Hadassah's New Campaign: End the Silence

By Michele Bank

The Manchester Chapter of Hadassah will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 4 at 1 PM. The address is 1400 Front Street. The topic of discussion will be Jewish amulets. Save the date of Sunday, June 23 for the chapter's annual fundraising brunch at the Manchester Country Club. We will be honoring our 50-year members, have musical entertainment and a silent auction. Advance reservations will be required. Work on the 2024 edition of the Membership/Ad Book is under way. There is still time to submit your memorial, tributes, tag lines and ads.

Recently, Hadassah reported that several states are adapting the IHRA definition to combat antisemitism. Since October 7, there has been a horrifying **388 percent** increase in antisemitic incidents in the US. After months of strong advocacy and

hard work by Hadassah members, Georgia, South Dakota, and Indiana recently advanced laws formally adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, a crucial tool in combating the alarming rise in antisemitism. The IHRA is an intergovernmental organization that promotes collaboration around issues related to the Holocaust and urges governments and organizations around the world to adopt a consolidated definition of antisemitism. The definition includes key ideas such as the harmful or hateful perception of Jews and both rhetorical and physical indications that impact people, communities, and institutions. Importantly, through its examples, the IHRA definition makes clear that anti-Zionism is a form of antisemitism. Other states, including Florida and New Jersey, have plans to pursue action related to the

IHRA definition during the current legislative session. Over 30 states, including New York, Texas, and Ohio, as well as the District of Columbia, have already passed measures enacting the IHRA definition, and Hadassah members have played a vital role in making that happen.

Also in Hadassah news, Hadassah is launching a new campaign called "End the Silence" to speak out, raise awareness, and demand accountability for Hamas' war crimes. To support this campaign, there are a couple of very important things that you can do. Please sign the petition at Hadassah.org. In approximately 14 countries, Hadassah will solicit signatures calling for UN Secretary-General António Guterres to speak out about these war crimes, pursue an independent, trauma-informed, unbiased investigation, and seek justice for the victims.

You can also share the petition with ev-

eryone in your network. Hadassah needs as many people as possible to sign the petition, and that includes your friends, your family, your Hadassah friends, your non-Hadassah friends, your male relatives, and your male friends. We need more than just Hadassah women to sign the petition to show Secretary-General António Guterres that there are many people from many places who understand that weaponizing rape in war needs to be stopped. Sharing means emailing and posting to social media. We are depending on each of you to share this. We are 300,000 in the United States, and if we each urge 10 people to sign, we will reach 3,000,000 signatures.

If you have any questions about Hadassah or its initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact michele.bank@gmail.com. Also, please remember to sign the petition at Hadassah.org.

Economic Impact of the Gaza War

By Richard England

Before October 7 of last year, the Israeli economy had been recovering nicely from the serious disruption caused by the COVID pandemic. But then Hamas invaded southern Israel and committed shocking atrocities: 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals killed, 240 hostages taken to dungeons in Gaza, thousands of rockets launched at Israeli cities, and several communities in the Negev looted and burned.

This barbaric attack by Hamas and the ensuing counterattack by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have had major impacts on Israel's economy and society. Most airlines quickly suspended flights to Ben Gurion Airport. More than 200 thousand Israelis were forced to evacuate their homes near Gaza and Lebanon in order to avoid rocket and artillery attacks. Thousands of Asian guest workers left their jobs in Israel and returned home. Over 150 thousand Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank were no longer allowed to enter Israel daily for employment. Perhaps most importantly,

350,000 Israeli reservists were called up for months of active duty in the IDF.

These dramatic developments had major impacts on Israel's economy during the weeks and months following October 7. During the last quarter of 2023, GDP (or total production of goods and services) shrank by almost 20 percent. The contraction of production and employment was especially severe in tourism (because of far fewer international visitors), in agriculture (because domestic and foreign farm workers had to evacuate), and in construction (because Palestinian workers could no longer enter Israel). By the end of 2023, half of all construction sites had shut down because of labor shortages. Although the war's impact on high tech companies was less severe, over 10 percent of high-tech workers were called up for service in the IDF.

On the financial front, the international value of the shekel fell sharply during the weeks after October 7. However, because of swift intervention by the Bank of Israel (the nation's central bank) and IDF successes in Gaza, the shekel strengthened sharply by the end of 2023.

This helped to restrain cost of living increases for Israeli consumers, especially the prices of imported foodstuffs.

Wars always result in government budget deficits, and the war in Gaza has been no exception. Falling national income and consumer spending have shrunk government tax receipts. Government spending has surged, not only because of the direct costs of warfare but also because of subsidies to keep small businesses alive and the costs of housing evacuated families. Housing displaced families in hotels cost the government over \$250 million monthly by year's end. Because Israel's ratio of public debt to GDP was quite low in 2023 (only 58 percent compared to more than 100 percent in the US, UK, and France), the war cabinet felt confident that it could borrow freely to pursue its goal of eliminating Hamas as a security threat.

During the opening months of 2024, the economic prospects for Israel have improved. IDF suppression of rocket fire from Gaza has freed Tel Aviv and other cities from "take cover" sirens. Lufthansa, United and other airlines have resumed or plan to resume service to Ben Gurion Airport, service that will boost business travel and the depressed tourism industry. Plans to recruit guest workers from India, Kenya, Ecuador, and other countries will help to revive agriculture and housing construction. Since October 7, US investors – including state and municipal governments – have invested more

than a billion dollars in Israel government bonds. In January, Intel confirmed that it will build a \$25 billion chip manufacturing plant in the Negev, a major sign of confidence in Israel's future.

In the words of Amir Yaron, governor of the Bank of Israel, "The Israeli economy is rooted on strong and healthy economic fundamentals and is a world leader in the fields of innovation and technology. We have known how to recover from difficult periods in the past and rapidly return to prosperity, and the Israeli economy has the strength to ensure that this will happen this time as well."

Those of us in New Hampshire can help to make Professor Yaron's words a reality. Consider joining a volunteer mission to Israel during the coming months. You can serve the needs of Israel and help to revive its tourism industry at the same time (search for options at www.ramah.org.il or at www.jnf.org). If you don't have time to visit Israel this year, consider investing in Israel government bonds (www.israelbonds.com). The interest rates are presently quite attractive, and these bonds make excellent gifts. Even though New Hampshire and Israel are far apart in miles, you too can make a difference in promoting our Jewish homeland's prosperity and security.

Richard England is a retired UNH professor of economics. He loves to visit friends and family in Israel.



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Israel's Role in Forming Rabbis

By Elsa Conrad

When you think of the role that travel to Israel plays in forming and educating Jewish identity, you may think primarily of young people, going to Israel through Birthright and other programs that teach them about their heritage. However, Israel has something to teach people at all phases of life, from young children going with family, to the MOMentum moms who wish to educate their own families, to retirees fulfilling a lifelong dream.

This even includes rabbis and those training to become rabbis. Many American seminaries require rabbinic and cantorial students to spend a year in Israel, including Hebrew College, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and Yeshiva University. Programs vary, but generally include intensive study of modern Hebrew and service requirements in addition to academic studies, often in conjunction with Israeli institutions. What does this experience bring to the rabbinate of the participants? Does living in Israel shape rabbis and if so, how?

Views from New Hampshire rabbis

For Rabbi Robin Nafshi of Temple Beth Jacob in Concord, the year she spent in Israel during rabbinic school offered her the opportunity to live the Jewish calendar. She marveled at visiting a farm that grew *etrogim* and other agricultural products needed to observe Jewish holidays, but also appreciated how so many Israelis built sukkot at their homes, even if they did not always consider themselves observant.

She also appreciated the opportunity to see different observances. Writing about her relationship with Israel, she talked of the opportunity to attend a Sephardic *S'lichot* service, saying, "I can still hear the nasally young male voice pleading with God on behalf of the community for forgiveness for our sins. Somehow, his voice made me feel as if there was no way his pleas would fail to reach God. I'd be forgiven that year because this young man – with that amazing voice – prayed on my behalf."

Rabbi Beth Davidson of Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester also spent her first year of rabbinic school in Israel and like Rabbi Nafshi was struck by the variety, vibrancy, and integration of Jewish life into the fabric of Israel. She also shared a memory of the period leading up to the High Holy Days. On the first of *Elul*, the month prior to Rosh Hashanah, she and her roommate were awakened at 5:30 am by the sound of the Shofar com-



ing from a nearby Yemenite shul. It would continue throughout the month.

Rabbi Davidson noted that it was very different from where she grew up, a town where she and her sister were the only two Jews at her elementary school, and there were only a few more in her high school. She likened her time in Israel to a living laboratory of Judaism.

If she has any regrets, Rabbi Davidson said that she wasn't sure the first year was the best time in rabbinic studies to go to Israel, citing the lack of experience with Hebrew that sometimes made it hard to take advantage of all opportunities. For example, when it was time to do her service project, she decided to go with friends to sing for older people in caregiving settings. While she was glad to bring happiness to her audience, she felt that had she gone to Israel with more experience, she would have had wider service opportunities.

One important learning experience that both rabbis mentioned was less pleasant – being in Israel in times of war or high tension. For Rabbi Davidson, that meant realizing that she saw few civilian men on the streets; aside from soldiers, there were only boys and older men. Because of the threat of bombings, the streets were conspicuously bare of garbage and mailboxes. Similarly, Rabbi Nafshi recalled the silence of the Amidah at a Friday night service broken by the sound of gunshots.

Ongoing security concerns may keep Rayden Marcum, the Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Betenu in Amherst, from spending the year in Israel next year, as the curriculum at Hebrew College in Newton usually expects. However, Rayden already felt the pull toward the rabbinate on a previous trip to Israel.

Rayden traveled to Israel to improve his Hebrew while preparing to apply to seminary. Having grown up in a Reconstructionist synagogue, the plan was to apply to their seminary. However, Rayden's decision to stay on a little longer led to courses at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and a decision to continue studying at Hebrew College because of its similar approach, what Rayden describes as "an invitation to reinterpret and reimagine" texts.

Rabbi Peter Levy of Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry felt the influence of Israel in a different way. His training at the Acad-

emy for Jewish Religion did not include a required stay in Israel, although he had traveled there before beginning his studies. However, one experience rooted in Israel may have been a strong strand in his journey to the rabbinate. Visiting Israel at the age of 16, he remembers visiting a small shul in the ancient city of Tzfat and finding it "amazingly moving." Thirty years later his Jewish journey took him to a URJ Biennial convention where he attended a session on mysticism with Rabbi Lawrence Kushner and became fascinated by Itzhak Luria, a 16th Century rabbi and mystic. Just a few years later, he was back in Tzfat and happened to wander by the same shul

he had visited as a teenager. It shouldn't come as a surprise that he learned it was the synagogue of Rabbi Luria.

Perhaps the most common element of the Israel experience for rabbinic students and rabbis is the unexpected way in which a seemingly random event leads people to explore something they had not previously considered. Where will your next trip to Israel lead?

Elsa Conrad is a long-time member of Congregation Betenu in Amherst and currently serves the congregation as President. She lives in Nashua with her husband and son.

Simchas

Mazel Tov to Manchester Local David Levavi

David Levavi of Manchester, New Hampshire graduated from Touro University Worldwide in March 2024 with a Doctor of Health Science degree. His doctoral research focused on the development of habitual alcohol consumption-related, chronic nitric oxide-deficient hypertension in middle-aged non-Hispanic white men.

For more information, visit dlev.net.

Touro University Worldwide is the online campus of New York-based Touro University, the largest Jewish university system in the United States serving more than 19,000 students across 35 campuses in four states. For more information, visit tuw.edu.

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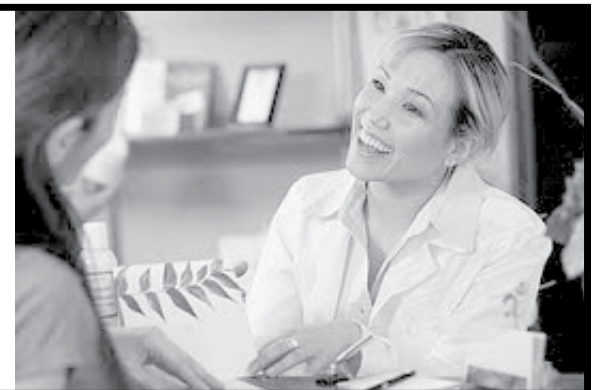
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