

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

Published by the
Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 46, Number 7

April 2026

Nissan - Iyar 5786



PASSOVER

**A Note from JFNH's
New Director of
Jewish Advocacy**

I'm honored to step into the role of Director of Jewish Advocacy at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. I bring a combination of

Jessie Mocle

**Director of
Jewish
Advocacy**



Jewish educational leadership, community engagement experience, and professional management skills, and I'm excited to help strengthen and expand JFNH's advocacy and community relations work across the state.

I was born in Montreal and attended a trilingual Modern Orthodox school, Talmud Torah of Chomedey, where I learned Hebrew, French, and English simultaneously. I remained in the private school system through Grade 8, an experience that deeply shaped both my Jewish identity and my connection to community. In fact, until about age 10, I didn't realize that non-Jewish people existed because my world was so fully immersed in Jewish schools, family life, and the flourishing Montreal Jewish community.

When my family moved to the United States when I was 14, we were warmly welcomed into the synagogue families of Temple Beth Abraham and Chabad of New Hampshire. That sense of belonging had a lasting impact on me and helped shape my understanding of what a strong and caring Jewish community can look like. Even after moving here, I remained deeply involved in Jewish communal life — whether through leadership positions like the Membership Representative in

*Jewish Advocacy
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*Celebrate Israel with our community at
Camp Tel Noar, Hampstead, NH*

Join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and synagogue partners from across the state for a joyful, family-friendly Yom Ha'atzmaut-connected celebration.

Sunday, June 7, 2-5pm

Questions? Email info@jewishnh.org or call JFNH office at (603) 627-7679

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CONGREGATIONS

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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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 Jonathan Biatch and
Rabbi Marcia Plumb (Transitional Rabbis)
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM,
Saturday 9:30 AM.
Torah Study - Saturday 10:45 AM. Check
the website for updates
Monthly Family Pizza Shabbat at 5:30 PM.
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 9:30 AM.
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd
Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM.
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the
4th Saturday of each month at 10:30 AM.
All services are in-person and online.
Check the website for schedule changes
and Zoom links.

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Andy Bachman
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 USCJ
(603) 622-6171
office@templeisraelmht.org
www.templeisraelmht.org
Shabbat Services: Every month we offer
one Friday night Shabbat with a catered
community dinner (rsvp required), and two
Saturday Shabbat services followed by a
light kiddush (no rsvp necessary). Every

Wednesday, we offer a 7:00 AM in-person
morning minyan and a 6:30 PM Torah
study via ZOOM. Please check our
website www.templeisraelmht.org, call
our office at (603) 622-6171 or email
office@templeisraelmht.org for
information on specific service dates and
times.

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 Marlina 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 Rosalind Glazer
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 10 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed
M-F preschool.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

Volume 46, Number 7

APRIL 2026
Nissan - Iyar 5786

Published by the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

273 South River Rd. Unit #5
Bedford, NH 03110
Tel: (603) 627-7679

Editor: Nicholas Conley
Layout and Design: Tim Gregory

Advertising Sales:
(603) 627-7679
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 July issues. All items, including
calendar events, for the December-January
or June-July newspaper must be submitted
by Nov. 10 or May 10, respectively.

Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter
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Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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Hampshire Jewish Reporter are ©2026 Jewish
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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



April 3	6:57 PM
April 10	7:05 PM
April 17	7:13 PM
April 24	7:21 PM

Passover, Courage, and the Responsibility to Act

As Passover approaches, Jewish families across New Hampshire and around the world prepare to gather around the Seder table. This year, Passover begins on the evening of April 1 and continues through April 9 in the Diaspora, marking the annual retelling of the Exodus from Egypt and the Jewish journey from slavery to freedom.

At the Seder, we tell the story of a people who lived under oppression and uncertainty. We ask questions, remember hardship, and celebrate the courage it took for our ancestors to take their first steps toward freedom. The rituals of Passover remind us that Jewish history has never been a straight path, but rather a journey shaped by resilience, faith, and responsibility for one another.

This year, those themes feel especially present. The world is once again watching events unfold in the Middle East as tensions escalate between Israel, the United States, and the Iranian regime.

Erik Martin

**JFNH
Executive
Director**



Recent military strikes and retaliatory attacks have intensified the conflict and raised concerns across the region and around the globe. For many in our community, these headlines are not distant news stories, they are deeply personal. Friends, family members, and loved ones are directly affected by the uncertainty and danger.

In moments like these, Passover offers both perspective and grounding. The story of the Exodus reminds us that Jewish survival has always depended not only on courage, but also on unity. The Israelites did not leave Egypt as individuals, they left as a nation. Their strength came from

standing together and taking responsibility for one another's future.

That same principle continues to guide Jewish communities today. Here in New Hampshire, the Jewish Federation works every day to strengthen the fabric of Jewish life. Through educational programs, community gatherings, security initiatives, and partnerships with organizations in Israel and across North America, we help ensure that our community remains connected, resilient, and prepared for the challenges of our time.

At the same time, our Federation is part of a much larger global network responding to the needs of the Jewish people. When crises emerge in Israel or elsewhere, Jewish Federations mobilize quickly to provide humanitarian support, assist vulnerable populations, and help communities remain safe and secure.

Passover reminds us that freedom is not free. Each generation must help carry the story forward. One of the most mean-

ingful ways to do that is through acts of generosity that strengthen Jewish life in our own community while supporting those in need beyond our borders.

As you prepare for Passover this year, I invite you to take part in the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's Passover Appeal. Your gift helps sustain Jewish education, protect our community, support programs that bring people together, and ensure that we remain connected to Israel and the global Jewish family.

At the Seder we conclude by saying, "Next year in Jerusalem." These words are both a hope and a promise. They remind us that the story of the Jewish people continues to unfold—and that each of us has a role in shaping what comes next.

Chag Pesach Sameach. May this Passover bring your family meaning, reflection, and the enduring reminder that when we stand together, the Jewish future remains strong.

Learning to Do Jewish: Confidence, Community and the Passover Table

A new friend recently asked me, "How do I do this?"—raising a child Jewishly at home, especially with a non-Jewish spouse. I didn't hesitate: "Are you registered for PJ Library?"

While my kids may get the books each month, I'm the one who turns to PJ more often than not for the essentials that, in earlier times, I might have asked a trusted community elder about: the blessing over Shabbat candles, food ideas for Passover, how to talk to my kids about scary situations, an explanation of what Shemini Atzeret is.

PJ Library launched something that feels a lot like a modern Jewish manual: the **PJ Library Family Guides**. Three have already been released, and they've quickly become my own "Jewish Mother's Manual." Download a free PDF of *A Time to Gather: A PJ Library Family Guide for Passover through Shavuot* at <http://pjlibrary.org/gather> or scan the QR code.



The Passover Hub on PJ Library's website (pjlibrary.org/Passover) begins with the Four Questions every parent trying to do Jewish around Passover asks: *What is Passover? When is it? How long does it last? What do people do?* From there, you'll find resources for engaging children during the seder and sto-

Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



ries about how families celebrate Passover around the world.

Passover is the perfect example of Judaism telling "how to do this." The *sefer*—meaning "order"—is a series of rituals created to help children absorb our history and wrestle with its meaning. We dip *karpas* in salt water and think about sadness and pain—and sit with it. We dip our fingers in wine, letting drops fall like blood, and talk about plagues and consequences. We sing and play tambourines to celebrate freedom and the right to be who we are.

This is a time to gather—with family and community, *kehillah*. A time to use PJ Library Get Together Grants to share a dinner and ask each other, "How do you do this?" Judaism gives us the tools, stories, and rituals to guide our practice. How each family uses them may differ—and that conversation, participation, and adaptation are part of the living tradition.

Perhaps somewhere between the resources provided by PJ Library to help

us see and understand the instruction Judaism offers, and gatherings that welcome the sharing of experiences and questions, lies the confidence to find our own answers for "how to do this." In Judaism there's a phrase: *eilu v'eilu*—these and those are both the words of the living God. There isn't just one way to do Jewish, and that might be the best instruction manual we have.

Upcoming Opportunities to Gather:

Join us for Shavua Tov Story Time on Sunday, April 19th at 8:30am on Zoom; later that same day for *Names We Carry*:

A Celebration of Hebrew Names and Identity at Temple Israel in Portsmouth; and save the date for our Israel Bazaar: A Community Celebration of Israel on June 7th at Camp Tel Noar! Learn more and register for all of our PJ Library, PJ Our Way and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire programs—as well as community events submitted by area synagogues and community members—at jewishnh.org/community-calendar.

Happy Passover from the Berches, and here's to confidence, community, and connection.

<p><i>Happy Passover</i></p> <p>ISRAEL BOOK SHOP, INC.</p> <p>Jewish Religious Books & Gifts</p>	<p>"New England's Judaic Superstore"</p>	
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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.

NOTE: This calendar lists community events for April. Passover seders offered by New Hampshire synagogues are not included here—you can find them on a separate page in this issue of *The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter*.

Thursday, April 9

Reclaiming What Was Taken: A Jewish Return to German Citizenship

7:00 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

The current Etz Hayim president, Milt Zweig, has spent years doing genealogical research on his European roots including the tumultuous time of WWII. His research and perseverance as well as his drive to undo some of the wrongs done to his family led him to becoming a German citizen. Trying to undo some of the wrongs that were laid upon the Jewish people of WWII, Europe can be a lesson in futility, but some things can be done. Should a Jew regain the German citizenship that was wrongly taken away from them? Should Jews refrain from anything at all German or embrace a culture that has in some ways come to grips to things that happened a generation ago? For more information contact Steve Soreff at 603-895-6120 or at soreffs15@aol.com.

Saturday, April 11

TAY Brotherhood's 2026 Deli Night

6:00 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH
Peace, Love & Pastrami. Groove and dance the night away to the beats of the 60's and our famous NY Style Deli Meat! For more information, please contact TAY office at 603-669-5650 or at office@tay.org.

Sunday, April 12

Sunday Family Camp

10:00 AM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

This Month's Theme is Passover! April's class will focus on the holiday of Passover, including learning the story and customs surrounding this holiday. We will also try some Passover foods. RSVP to sarahjohnplater@aol.com by Friday, April 10 to ensure we have enough food. Etz Hayim Synagogue hosts monthly Sunday Family Camp for ages 4-6. Our teacher uses a mix of music, crafts and games to introduce students to the Jewish calendar, prayer, Torah and Hebrew. The program is free, and no membership is required. Visit <https://www.etzhayim.org/learn/grades-0-1> for more information or contact Sarah Plater at 603-432-0004 or at sarahjohnplater@aol.com.

TBA Lunch and Learn - Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust

12:00 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond

Street, Nashua

During World War II, the majority of European Jews were imprisoned by the Nazis in ghettos before being deported to concentration camps or "work camps" where they were starved, murdered or worked to death. Yet approximately 30,000 Jews, many of whom were teenagers, escaped the Nazis to form organized resistance groups. These Jews are known as the Jewish partisans who fought against the enemy throughout much of Europe. This presentation will describe various forms of Jewish Resistance during World War II and will provide the details of how his parents survived the Holocaust in a partisan resistance group. Read Lou Yelgin's bio on the Federation calendar here: <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar/lunch-and-learn--jewish-resistance-during-the-holocaust-1772642567>. 12:00 pm - Light lunch | 12:30 pm - Discussion. Open to all and free to attend, however, donations are welcome to help support programs like this one and other similar programming. For more information contact Temple Beth Abraham at 603-883-8184 or at office@tbanashua.org.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration at Temple Israel Portsmouth

2:00 PM, Temple Israel Portsmouth 200 State St, Portsmouth, NH.

Join Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and Temple Israel Portsmouth for a Yom Hashoah Commemoration event with guest speaker, author and Holocaust survivor Janet Singer Applefield. As a child survivor of the Holocaust, Janet Singer Applefield has touched hundreds of thousands of people as a public speaker spanning over 40 years. Her new memoir, *Becoming Janet: Finding Myself in the Holocaust*, shares her poignant journey as she triumphs over the darkest chapter of human history, rebuilding her life with resilience, inspiring hope, and carrying the enduring legacy of remembrance. Her book, *Becoming Janet*, is an engaging, emotional account of a 4-year-old made to navigate much of the Nazi occupation without her parents. Janet Singer Applefield takes the reader on a journey from the comforts of her pre-war Singer family traditions through her emotionally charged war-torn years of sadness, pain, love, secrecy, and resilience. Please register for this event at <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/yom-hashoah-commemoration-event.html>. Contact Ryan Bernstein at 603-436-5301 or at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org with questions. Sponsor: Temple Israel Portsmouth and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

Six million Steps: Yom HaShoah Remembrance Program

5:00 PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St, Manchester, NH

For the fourth year in a row, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is partnering with Manchester synagogues to take part in Six Million Steps, a national initiative supported by the Israeli American Council dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and raising awareness about global antisemitism. Join our community walk and help us reach the collective goal of six million steps in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Shoah. Program & service following the walk, featuring Jesse Mocle, Director of Community Advocacy at JFNH and the granddaughter of four Shoah survivors, who will share reflections on memory, legacy, and the importance of standing against antisemitism today. For more information

contact Jewish Federation of New Hampshire at 603-627-7679 or at info@jewishnh.org. Sponsor: Temple Adath Yeshurun, Temple Israel Manchester, & Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Register online through the Federation community calendar at jewishnh.org/community-calendar.

Evening with Holocaust Survivor Andre (Andy) Sarkany

6:00 PM, UNH Memorial Union Building (MUB) Theater 2, 83 Main St, Durham, NH
Join Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center for a moving evening with Andre (Andy) Sarkany, a Holocaust survivor who grew up in the Budapest ghetto. Andre will share his incredible story of survival, life under Soviet rule in Hungary, and his journey to building a new life in the United States. From surviving the Holocaust as a child in a building that sheltered over 150 orphaned children to escaping Communist Hungary after the 1956 uprising, Andre's story is one of resilience, hope, and the power of remembering. Free admission | Donations Appreciated | Registration required. Sponsorship opportunities available. RSVP: jewishseacoast.com/yomhashoah. Contact office@jewishseacoast.com with questions.

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, begins on the evening of April 13th and ends at sundown on April 14th.

Monday, April 13

Remembering to Remember: Memorial Monuments and the Holocaust

5:30 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, 6:00 PM, Cohen Institute Zoom Webinar
"Remembering to Remember: What Memorial Monuments Teach Us About the Holocaust (and Ourselves)" is a Zoom webinar presented by the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Since the end of World War II Holocaust memorial monuments have been made in scores of shapes, sizes, forms, and with text in many languages. Initially designed for Jewish audiences, and then in more recent decades for a wider public, they are often intended to teach broader lessons or meet political objectives. Given the breadth of these memorials, what roles do and/or should they play in art, history, commemoration, and education? Using the expansive data from the International Holocaust Memorial Monument Database, to which he has been a lead contributor, Dr. Samuel Gruber, President of the International Survey of Jewish Monuments, reveals how these memorials both reflect and shape Jewish and other collective memories over the past 80 years. Registration: This event is open to everyone, but we ask that those interested in attending please register for the webinar in advance. Registration is available here: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_DHJW8ac5QRCE_DhgdeGnIQ#/registration. This event is being held in commemoration of Yom HaShoah. It is organized by the Harriet & Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center (KHC) and is underwritten by the Yehoshua and Edna Aizenberg Holocaust Memorial Fund. It is co-sponsored by Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College and many other organizations across the country. Please note that speakers' views should not be taken as representative of the Cohen Institute or Keene State College as a whole. For more information contact Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide at

coheninstitute@keene.edu. Sponsor: Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Harriet & Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Yom Hashoah Event 7:15PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

Etz Hayim Synagogue will be presenting a screening of the *60 Minutes* segment on "Remembering the Cap Arcona: Nazi ship sunk with concentration camp prisoners on board". The Cap Arcona, a Nazi ship, was attacked by British Royal Air Force planes near the end of World War II. Thousands of prisoners died as the ship sank in the horrific and little-known disaster. The evening will be supplemented with a discussion, El Maleh Rachamim and lighting of a yahrzeit candle. Contact Jay Madnick or office@etzhayim.org with questions or for more information.

Thursday, April 16

From the Desert to the table

7:00 PM, Manchester - Address provided upon registration.

Join us for a moving and intimate evening with Raif Rashed, a survivor of the Nova Music festival, resilience advocate, and founder of Taboonia, New York City's first Druze restaurant. Listen as he shares his personal story, his journey forward, and how he later channeled his experience into opening his restaurant. The evening will conclude with Raif preparing a traditional Druze meal, offering guests a taste of the culture, traditions, and hospitality that have been central to his identity and healing. Event limited to 50 guests at \$50 per person. Registration closes April 10. Visit <https://givebutter.com/desert2table> to register or contact Erik Martin at erik.martin@jewishnh.org with questions.

Sunday, April 19

Shavua Tov Story Time - Lag B'Omer

8:30 AM, Zoom

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 the JFNH office at info@jewishnh.org. The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. For more information contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or dinah.berch@jewishnh.org.

Names We Carry: A Celebration of Hebrew Names and Identity

3:00 PM, Temple Israel Portsmouth, 200 State St, Portsmouth, NH

PJ Our Way students (ages 9-12) and their families; including grandparents, "grandfriends," and community members — are invited to join us for this FREE special partnership event between Temple Israel and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's PJ Our Way program! Explore Hebrew Shemot (names), learn what they mean, and honor family traditions. Create keepsakes like a Yad to use on your Brit Mitzvah or Torah reader journey, or other personalized jewelry and keychains with your Hebrew name. Younger siblings are welcome with adult supervision, as some activities include small beads. Adults can also discover or deepen their own Hebrew names and reflect on naming customs,

Calendar continued on page 5

Statewide Calendar of Events

Calendar

continued from page 4

including the bar/bat + parent connection and tribe (ex. Malka Lita bat Dinah Ronit v' Hershel Yosef ha'Kohen). Share stories, celebrate heritage, and carry your names forward together. Registration required. Special thank you to our program sponsor, Judy Craig, for bringing us wooden letter beads from Israel! For more information contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org. Sponsor: Judy Craig, PJ Our Way, Temple Israel Portsmouth. Register through our community calendar at jewishnh.org/community-calendar or go to bit.ly/nameswecarry. Free program | donations appreciated.

Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, begins the evening of April 20th and ends at sundown on April 21st.

Yom HaAtzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, begins the evening of April 21st and ends at sundown on April 22nd.

Saturday, April 25

Breakfast with Rabbi Beth

9:30 AM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH
For more information, please contact the office at 603-669-5650 or office@tay.org.

Sunday, April 26

Mah Jongg Tournament

9:30 AM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH

You are invited to a Mah Jongg Tournament! The tournament will include 4 rounds of game play (4 games per 1-hour round). Entry fee is \$30 per player. There will be prizes for placement, a 50/50 raffle, additional raffles, sandwiches, desserts and refreshments. Come join the fun! Pre-register and pay at <https://www.etzhayim.org/mah-jongg-tournament>. Registration deadline is April 12, 2026. For more information contact Jean Lisien at 603-432-0004 or at jlbortz@comcast.net or Deb Eisner at ric800@aol.com. Rules & Scoring provided after payment receipt.

Thursday, April 30

Hadassah Meeting

1:00 PM, JFNH, 273 South River Road, Unit 5, Bedford, NH.

Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Open Meeting. For more information contact Michele Bank at 603-488-5657 or at michele.bank@gmail.com for questions. No registration needed.

Saturday, May 9

Jewish India with Scholar-in-Residence Rahel Musleah

12:00 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH.

On the weekend of May 8, Temple Beth Abraham hosts Rahel Musleah, an award-winning journalist, author, singer and educator, born in Calcutta to a family that traces its roots to 17th-century Baghdad. Rahel will lead both Friday night and

Shabbat services, opening a fascinating window into a culture and customs little-known to most American congregations. Through stories, authentic photographs, memorabilia, and music, Rahel will highlight the distinctive Calcutta traditions and

Baghdadi melodies, enriching your community's understanding of global Jewish diversity. An Indian style kiddush will follow Shabbat services on May 9. Registration is required. Visit tbanashua.org for more details.

Jewish Advocacy

continued from page 1

the local and regional B'nai Brith Youth Organization — or simply by showing up for community in smaller ways, like playing Mah Jongg every Tuesday night.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Creative Writing from Concordia University in Montreal, followed by a dual Master's in Teaching from Brandeis University for both Jewish day schools and secular schools. Before returning to Jewish communal work, I spent ten years in software project management, where I developed strong skills in organizational leadership, strategic planning, and project management.

I later transitioned into Jewish education, teaching at The Rashi School, the Maimonides School, and Temple Beth Abraham's religious school. In TBA's leadership roles, including Director of Family Engagement and Assistant Di-

rector of the Religious School, I focused on developing programs, engaging families, and strengthening connections between institutions and the broader community — like partnering with PJ Library, for example!

One of my greatest joys is bringing people together and helping them feel connected. In this role, I look forward to collaborating with communities and individuals across New Hampshire on issues related to Israel, antisemitism education, and strengthening Jewish communal life. This year I will also be coordinating the Israel Bazaar, helping select and guide a new Shaliach, and most importantly, meeting people across the state so I can better understand how the Federation can best serve our community. If this were 150 years ago in Romania, I probably would have been your neighborhood matchmaker — and that same spirit of connection and community-building is what I hope to bring to this work.

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SIGN UP Ages birth through 8
pjlibrary.org
Ages 9 through 12
pjjourway.org



Yom HaShoah Observance at Temple Israel Portsmouth

By Richard LeSavoy, JFNH Treasurer

This year, on Sunday, April 12, at 2:00 PM, our community will gather for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a day for Jews around the world to pause and remember the six million Jewish men, women, and children murdered in the Shoah—as well as the vibrant communities, languages, and traditions that were nearly destroyed with them.

This year will be very special as our guest speaker, Janet Singer Applefield, is a living survivor. Today, living Jewish Holocaust survivors are extraordinarily rare and precious. In early 2026, fewer than 200,000 remain worldwide. Each survivor we can still hear from is one of the last direct witnesses to the Shoah, which makes our responsibility to listen to their stories and carry their memories forward both urgent and sacred.

In 2026, this work of remembrance is especially urgent. We already see casual

Nazi comparisons in public discourse, the trivialization of the Shoah on social media, and a rise in antisemitic incidents here and around the world. Yom HaShoah calls us to respond with knowledge, with memory, and with moral clarity. “Never Again” is not only a slogan we repeat; it is a commitment we renew.

This day is also about the next generation. Our children and teenagers are further from the events of the Shoah than we may realize; for many of them, this event on April 12 may be their first real encounter with this history, so I would urge every Temple parent to bring their families to this event.

By coming together for Yom HaShoah—lighting candles and hearing Janet's story, we show that Jewish memory is alive and demanding. We teach that grief can give rise to responsibility, and that even in the shadow of unimaginable darkness, we can choose to build a more just and compassionate world.

Fridge Flyer

Shavua Tov Story Time

A program 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. Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail for the year! The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Scan QR code to register or go to <https://bit.ly/shavuatovNH>.



April
19

April Theme: Lag B'omer

Sunday, April 19th, 8:30am
Register by April 10th for craft.



May
17

May Theme: Shavuot

Sunday, May 17th, 8:30am
Register by May 10th for craft.



June
7

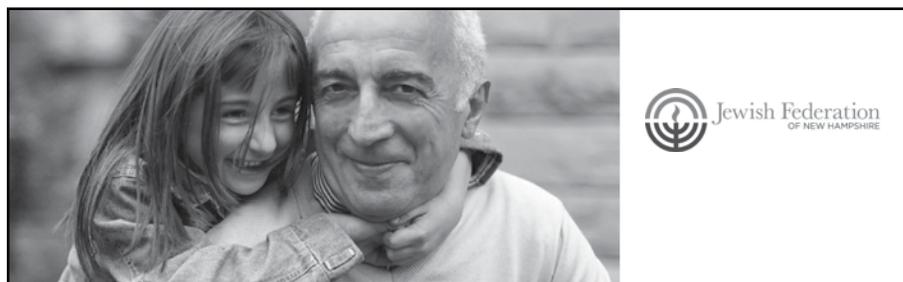
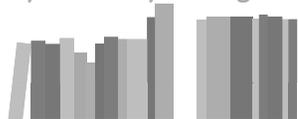
June Theme: Mitzvot

Sunday, June 7th, 8:30am
Register by June 1st for craft.



No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation

PJ Library



PLANNED GIVING

Secure the future of our Jewish community

As you envision the future of the Jewish community that means so much to you, consider creating a planned gift with the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire that will touch the lives of generations to come.

ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

By making a planned gift to a JFNH endowment fund, you can ensure that your generosity and vision will have an impact that extends far beyond your lifetime. Endowment funds that were established decades ago are still providing important support to our community today. At JFNH, we have the knowledge and expertise to help you design a planned gift that meets your needs while also endowing your personal vision for the future.

- **Unrestricted Endowment.** A gift to JFNH's Unrestricted Endowment will support the full spectrum of initiatives and programs essential to the future of our Jewish community.
- **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.

WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

- **Bequests:** A bequest through your will, trust, or retirement account is an easy way to create an endowment. We will work with you and your advisor to create a gift that clearly reflects and honors your intentions.
- **Retirement Plan Assets:** You may designate JFNH as a beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan such as an IRA, 401(k), or 403(b). To do so, simply contact your plan administrator and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form. By naming JFNH as a beneficiary, you may avoid significant and often unanticipated estate and income taxes that would otherwise be paid by your heirs.
- **Life Income Gifts:** A Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust can provide an immediate tax deduction and lifetime income for one or more beneficiaries. After the death of the last beneficiary, the remainder becomes part of an endowment fund to be used in accordance with your wishes.
- **Life Insurance:** You may purchase a life insurance policy that names JFNH as both owner and beneficiary. After your passing, JFNH will redeem the policy and the proceeds will support JFNH's endowment.

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





Names We Carry: A Celebration of Hebrew Names and Identity

Explore Hebrew *shemot* (names), learn what they mean, and honor family traditions. Create keepsakes like a Yad to use on your Brit Mitzvah or Torah reader journey, or other personalized jewelry and keychains with your Hebrew name. Younger siblings are welcome with adult supervision, as some activities include small beads.

Adults can also discover or deepen their own Hebrew names and reflect on naming customs, including the bar/bat + parent connection. Share stories, celebrate heritage, and carry your names forward together.

PJ Our Way students (ages 9–12) and their families — including grandparents, grandfriends, and community members — are invited to join us for this **FREE** special partnership event between Temple Israel and Jewish Federation of New Hampshire's PJ Our Way program! Registration required. Special thank you to our program sponsor, Judy Craig!

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

3:00pm, Temple Israel, 200 State St, Portsmouth
Scan QR to register or visit bit.ly/nameswecarry



Temple Israel
An Engaging, Diverse Jewish Community
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Questions? Email Dinah at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org



Scan to Register



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Haggadah: GREAT Story!

The pedagogical brilliance of the Pesach seder is unmatched among Jewish texts. Far from a repetition of the Exodus, it is brilliantly, masterfully designed to teach values, identity, and history through narrative, ritual and engagement. The chain of tradition is passed through storytelling. And the more interactive, the better! The root of "Haggadah" is "to tell," and Magid, literally means "telling the story." Jewish learning is built on stories, from the Torah to Rabbinic Midrash. The Haggadah is a masterful work transforming a meal into an immersive educational experience.

Rabbi in the House



Rabbi Rosalind Glazer
Interim Rabbi of
Temple Israel
Portsmouth

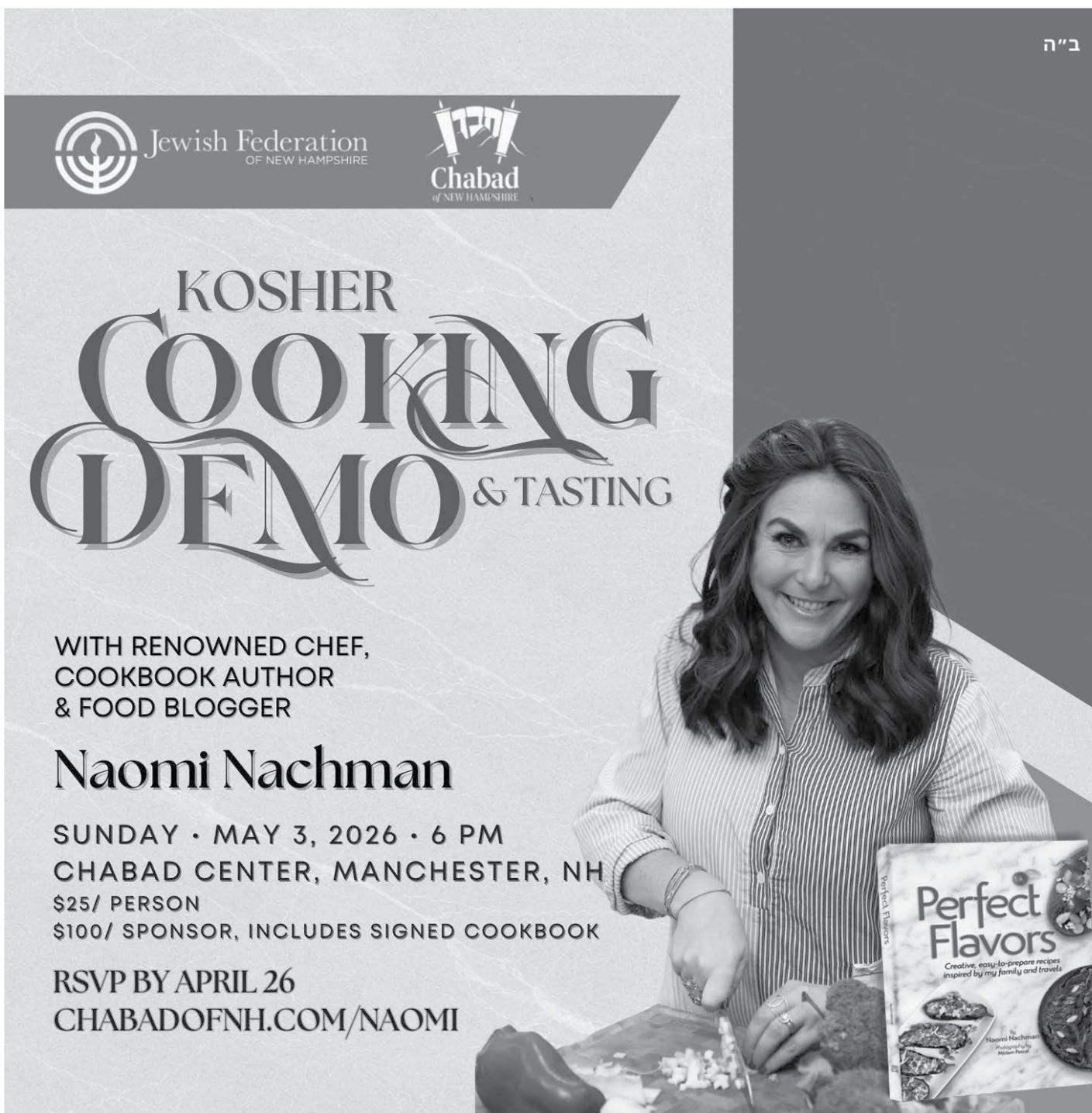
Curiosity is essential to all good pedagogy. The "Ma Nishtana" invites the youngest child to ask, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" and places inquiry-based learning at the center of the seder. The message is clear: this story belongs to you! The four children is a teaching guide in addressing different kinds of learners and the chanting of "B'chol Cor Vador," calls us to imagine ourselves as if we too are personally leaving slavery for freedom.

The seder employs every sense - from the colorful visuals of the Seder plate; the rousing songs and clever rabbinic twists; the breaking, hiding and the search for the afikomen, the shock of the bitter maror and the sting of the saltwater. This experiential learning becomes embedded in our memory. The seder's many mnemonic devices include the recitation of "Kadesh, Urchatz... etc." repeatedly throughout the evening and "Echad Mi Yodea," teaching core Jewish beliefs and practices by number.

Values are embedded in every teaching. "Avadim Hayinu" reminds us to celebrate the miraculous liberation from slavery to freedom while "Ha Lachma Anya" commands those who were oppressed and poor to "Let all who are hungry come and eat." Dayenu reminds to continually express gratitude and acknowledge every blessing. And "V'hi She-amda" commands every generation to fight the tyrants of our time. And yet with each drop of wine we remove from our cup of joy we are forbidden to rejoice in the suffering our enemies, for they too are God's children.

Crowding around the seder table affirms the values of community and family and reinforces our collective resilience. And after welcoming Elijah the harbinger of a brighter future, we conclude with the rousing "L'shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim" to affirm that even in the darkest of days redemption and renewal are possible.

Happy Passover



Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE **Chabad of NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Naomi Nachman

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ב"ה

Passover & Yom HaShoah at Temple Israel Portsmouth

Temple Israel is marking the month of April with two meaningful community gatherings—one celebrating Jewish tradition, the other honoring memory and resilience.

On Thursday, April 2 at 6:00 PM, Temple Israel will host a second-night Passover Seder. Doors opened at 5:30 PM for a festive evening featuring a kosher-for-Passover meal catered by Mezzanine Catering, with vegetarian and children's options available by pre-order. Guests will bring their favorite kosher-for-Passover wines, joining together to retell the story of the Exodus, sing traditional songs, and reflect on the themes of freedom and renewal that make Passover so meaningful. (Registration for this Seder has now closed.)

Later in the month, the focus shifts from celebration to remembrance with a special Yom HaShoah commemoration on Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 PM. Organized with the help of Rich LeSavoy and renowned collector Dr. Ira Schwartz, this program will feature the testimony of survivor Janet Singer Applefield and a remarkable display of artifacts from Temple Israel's Holocaust Collection. Generously donated by Dr. Schwartz and now housed at Keene State College, this collection—valued at nearly \$100,000—includes objects that would be considered staples in any major Holocaust museum worldwide. From personal items carried by survivors to historical documents and ritual objects that endured the war, each artifact tells a story of survival, courage, and the importance of memory. As the number of

Holocaust survivors continues to dwindle, this commemoration provides a rare and profound opportunity to hear firsthand accounts, connect with history,

and reflect on its lessons.

Together, these April programs highlight Temple Israel's commitment to celebrating Jewish life and preserving

memories for future generations. All are encouraged to RSVP for the Yom HaShoah event in order to be part of this powerful and meaningful gathering.

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

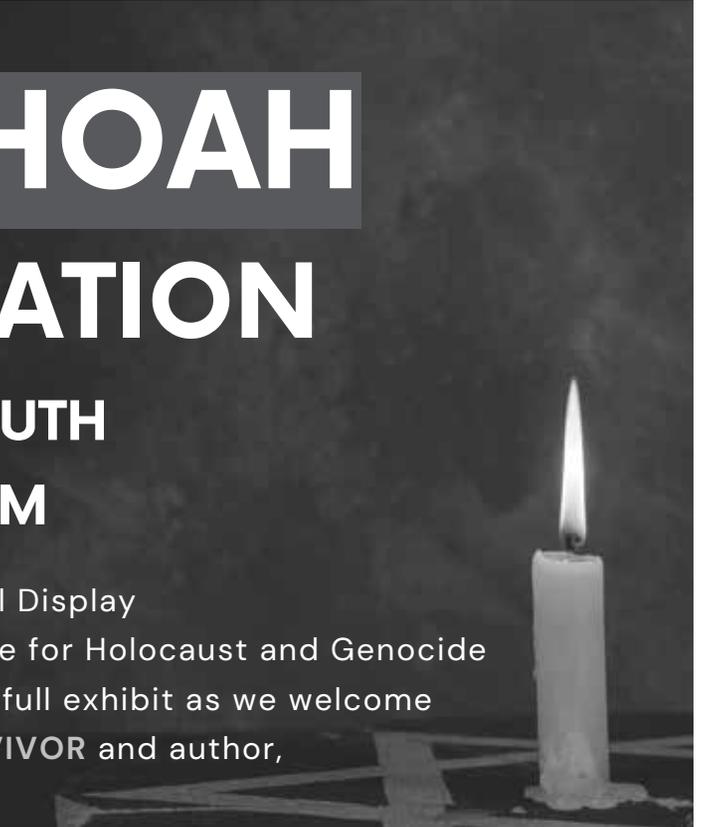
TEMPLE ISRAEL PORTSMOUTH SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2:00 PM

Temple Israel Holocaust Collection on Full Display
Permanently loaned to the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College—view the full exhibit as we welcome special guest speaker, **HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR** and author, Janet Singer Applefield.

Janet Singer Applefield +

As a child survivor of the Holocaust, Janet Singer Applefield has touched hundreds of thousands of people as a public speaker spanning over 40 years. Her new memoir, *Becoming Janet: Finding Myself in the Holocaust*, shares her poignant journey as she triumphs over the darkest chapter of human history, rebuilding her life with resilience, inspiring hope, and carrying the enduring legacy of remembrance.

Her book, "Becoming Janet," is an engaging, emotional account of a 4-year-old made to navigate much of the Nazi occupation without her parents. Janet Singer Applefield takes the reader on a journey from the comforts of her pre-war Singer family traditions through her emotionally charged war-torn years of sadness, pain, love, secrecy, and resilience.



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Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sam Zucker: Our Beloved Gabbai

By Thomas Cochran

For more than 20 years, Sam Zucker lovingly served as the gabbai of the Upper Valley Jewish Community in Hanover, New Hampshire. On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Sam passed away at his home in Vermont. He was 80 years old.

Sam was a man of quiet commitment and generous service. Like most of the Saturday morning “regulars,” he had his favorite spot in the sanctuary: the first seat in the last row of chairs. But his favorite spot had nothing to do with personal preference; it was an expression of consideration for others. Being close to the back of the sanctuary enabled Sam to let people into the building without their disrupting the service and those who were already davening.

Sam was so thoughtful and unassuming that it would have been easy to overlook all that he did. Moreover, much of what he did for our community took place behind the scenes. Who knew that



he arrived an hour or so before Shabbat services to set up the sanctuary or that he came in every Thursday to make sure the Torah scrolls were rolled to the right section of the weekly parashat?

Of all the tasks he assumed, however, it was his Torah reading that I will remember and miss most of all. I marveled not only at the ease and proficiency with which he read the Torah, but also the musicality of his reading. When Sam read the

Torah it was as if he was singing, as the Psalmist says, with his “whole being.” For me, part of the joy of being called to the Torah was the chance to listen to Sam up close. It was such a pleasure to hear him intently articulate every syllable in the soft tones of his Ashkenazi accent.

Sam was the gabbai of our community long before I was a member of it, and I imagine that he was chosen for this role because of his extensive knowledge of Jewish liturgy and religious practice. From one Shabbat to the next, he guided us through the intricacies of the liturgical year. He kept us on the proverbial “straight and narrow,” and we cherished him for that. His guidance was so effective that no one will ever forget to close the curtain after the Torah is taken from the Ark.

A congregant recently observed that Sam was a man of few words, and that he rarely spoke about his personal life. It was clear from what he did, however, that he revered his parents and was grateful to

them for having given him an extensive Jewish education. Every year he organized a kiddush and called for a minyan to honor the memory of his parents on their Yahrzeit. Sadly, this year, Sam passed away a few days prior to the anniversary of his father’s passing. A minyan had already been organized.

A passage from the Pirkei Avot teaches us that the world stands upon three things: Torah, worship, and acts of loving kindness. As a dedicated member of our community, Sam regularly demonstrated these essential values. He understood that the Torah is the beginning and end of the world and that we praise the Holy One best when we serve others.

Sam Zucker was born Shimon Tzvi to Julius A. Zucker and Eva (née Smith) Zucker on April 14, 1945 in Pawtucket, RI. He is survived by his wife, Mary Zucker and siblings, Donna Zucker, Harriet Krasnoff, Diane Sudakoff. He was predeceased by his sister, Suzanne Zucker.

May his memory be a blessing.

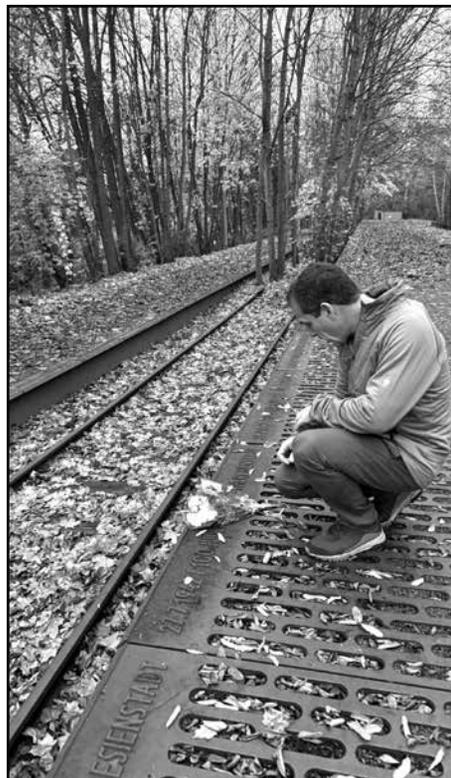
Reclaiming What Was Taken: A Jewish Return to German Citizenship

Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 PM

The current Etz Hayim president, Milt Zweig, has spent years doing genealogical research on his European roots including the tumultuous time of WWII. His research and perseverance as well as his drive to undo some of the wrongs done to his family led him to becoming a German citizen.

Trying to undo some of the wrongs that were laid upon the Jewish people of WWII, Europe can be a lesson in futility, but some things can be done. Should a Jew regain the German citizenship that was wrongly taken away from them? Should Jews refrain from anything at all German or embrace a culture that has in certain key ways come to grips with things that happened a generation ago? These are questions that this program will cover and examine.

All programs are held at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. These presentations are 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.

Honest Reporting: Correcting the Record

By Richard England

In February, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire hosted a presentation at Seacoast Chabad by Mr. Gil Hoffman, executive director of Honest Reporting. For the past 25 years, Honest Reporting has exposed media misinformation about Israel and educated readers and viewers of news reporting. Major media outlets including the *New York Times* and CNN have issued corrections and retractions of news stories after Honest Reporting has uncovered errors and even falsehoods in those stories.

Following introductions by the Federation’s Erik Martin and Jeremy Berger, Mr. Hoffman began the presentation with his personal story. A native of Chicago, Hoffman now lives in Jerusalem. For 24 years, he served as a political correspondent for *The Jerusalem Post* before joining Honest Reporting. Hoffman then turned to the importance of correcting misinformation about Israel in the media. He argued that Israel faces an ongoing “narrative war” that seeks to undermine its legitimacy and security. Years ago, Honest Reporting focused on analyzing news coverage in daily papers and weekly newsmagazines. Today, however, its focus is shifting to social media such



Gil Hoffman at Seacoast Chabad, February 2026.

as TikTok and Instagram because those are important sources of information and misinformation for younger news consumers. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are being developed to quickly detect false claims about Israel circulating in social media networks.

Mr. Hoffman urged his audience at Seacoast Chabad and on Zoom to become better educated consumers of news stories about Israel. Resources are available at www.honestreporting.com.

In the Community



JFNH celebrated Purim at Federation headquarters!

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia's Annual Purim Party



Lots of Purim spiel fun and delicious food at Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia's annual Purim Party. The Purim spiel was once again fun and entertaining, and although bowing is not "allowed" on Purim, the actors & actresses of all ages took a well-deserved bow.



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- Pam and Jay Cohen • Lois Jacobs
- Arlene Fishbein and Leon Cornell
- Leslie Hoff • Puritan Backroom Restaurant
- Tracy Richmond • Abigail Schein
- Fran and Steven Short • Madeline Taube



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

nhjewishfilmfestival.org 



NEVER AGAIN IS NOW

6 Million Steps

Sunday, April 12 | 5:00 PM

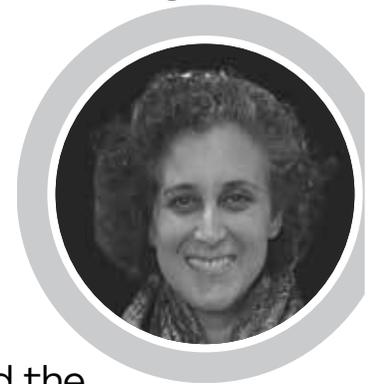
Temple Adath Yeshurun to Temple Israel, Manchester

Security Provided Throughout the Walk & Program

For the fourth year in a row, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is partnering with Manchester synagogues to take part in Six Million Steps, a national initiative supported by the Israeli American Council dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and raising awareness about global antisemitism.

Join our community walk

Help us reach the collective goal of six million steps in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Shoah.



Program & Service Following the Walk

Featuring Jesse Mogle, Director of Community Advocacy at JFNH and the granddaughter of four Shoah survivors, who will share reflections on memory, legacy, and the importance of standing against antisemitism today.

Walk. Remember. Honor.

Every step keeps memory alive.

Scan QR to register



Passover

Passover Seder Listings

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 5pm
- **Location:** Please call 212-426-6715 for location info.
- **Additional Info:** Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation is hosting a potluck second night seder. All are welcome, no charge, just bring a dish to share.

Chabad Center for Jewish Living, Manchester

- **Seder:** 4/1 at 8:15pm
- **Location:** Bernice & Irving Singer Chabad Center
- **Registration Link:** <https://chabadofnh.com/seder>
- **Additional Info:** Cost: Adults: \$50 | Children: \$25 | Please reach out for subsidized pricing-Office@ChabadofNH.com
- **Website:** chabadofnh.com/seder

Congregation Ahavas Achim

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 5pm
- **Location:** Congregation Ahavas Achim
- **Registration Link:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPE_ePu2IQ5laLqoP84oCVSMujsRw1U3mpP3eGg2Rd7G9Y3g/viewform
- **Additional Info:** Please register for our 2nd Night Passover Seder. The seder is on Thursday, April 2nd at 5:00pm. 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! Rabbi Dan and Laine Ginsberg will lead us in a family-friendly, 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.
- **Website:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPE_ePu2IQ5laLqoP84oCVSMujsRw1U3mpP3eGg2Rd7G9Y3g/viewform

Etz Hayim Synagogue, Derry

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 6pm
- **Location:** Etz Hayim Synagogue
- **Registration Link:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pouP7u1EaNzTxV8Wmvff-v3cWfItiAKL>
- **Additional Info:** See image for more details. Don't miss the second night Seder with your Etz Hayim community. Please RSVP by email: office@etzhayim.org or call 603-432-0004. Open to the entire community. Sponsored by the Etz Hayim Ritual Committee - No Charge!
- **Website:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pouP7u1EaNzTxV8Wmvff-v3cWfItiAKL/edit>

Kol Ha'Emek Upper Valley Jewish Community, Hanover

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 5:30pm
- **Location:** Roth Center, 5 Occom Ridge Road, Hanover, NH
- **Registration Link:** Contact Monte to reserve your seats.
- **Additional Info:** Join the Kol Ha'Emek community for a rousing retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Pareve Dinner and 4 cups of wine included \$25/adult (16 or older) | \$5/child under 16-year-old | \$60/family (1-2 adults, and their under 16-year-old children). Please email Monte to reserve your seats. Registrations after Friday, March 27, 2026 cost \$30 per adult and \$10 per child. Please note that the above pricing is set to assure affordability for all members of the community and does not fully cover costs. If you are in a position to purchase an additional adult meal for Elijah, the contribution will help to offset the costs for those members in the community who are not in such a position this year. We are also looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal, set up the room, welcome attendees, and clean up after. If you are able to help please contact Monte.

Temple Adath Yeshurun

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 7pm
- **Location:** Temple Adath Yeshurun
- **Registration Link:** <https://files.constantcontact.com/eb86f2f0901/7d825c78-927e-43fc-8c85-a0c2f8e98311.pdf>
- **Additional Info:** "TAY Sisterhood Second Night Seder" - Adults \$45, Children 12 and under \$15; registration required.

Temple Beth Abraham

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 5pm
- **Location:** Temple Beth Abraham
- **Registration Link:** <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/passover-community-seder-2026.html>

- **Additional Info:** Join Beth Abraham for our Passover Second Night Seder held at the Temple. "From Exodus to Abacus: Counting our Blessings." Open to all!
- **Additional Services:**
 - o Wednesday, April 1, 8:00-8:45 am: Weekday Morning Service and Siyyum Bechorot (First-Born Breakfast)
 - o Thursday, April 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm: Morning Service — 1st Day of Pesach
 - o Friday, April 3, 10:00 am-12:00 pm: Morning Service — 2nd Day of Pesach
 - o Friday, April 3, 8:00-9:00 pm: Evening Service — Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Pesach
 - o Saturday, April 4, 10:00 am-12:00 pm: Morning Service — Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Pesach
 - o Tuesday, April 7, 7:30-8:00 pm: Evening Service — 7th Night of Pesach
 - o Wednesday, April 8, 10:00am – 12:00 pm: Morning Service — 7th Day of Pesach
 - o Wednesday, April 8, 8:00-8:30 pm: Evening Service — 8th Day of Pesach
 - o Thursday, April 9, 10:00 am-12:00 pm: Morning Service — 8th Day of Pesach, Yizkor Memorial Prayers
 - o Thursday, April 9, 7:30-8:15 pm: Afternoon Yizkor Memorial Prayers and Evening Minyan to Conclude Pesach
- **Website:** <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/passover-community-seder-2026.html>

Temple Beth Jacob, Concord

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 5:45
- **Location:** Temple Beth Jacob
- **Registration Link:** <https://www.tbjconcord.org/event/tbj-second-night-community-seder-2026.html>
- **Additional Info:** Meat/Parve potluck. Juice, wine, matzah, hard boiled eggs, gefilte fish, and matzah ball soup will be provided.
- **Website:** <https://www.tbjconcord.org/event/tbj-second-night-community-seder-2026.html>

Temple Israel, Manchester

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 6pm
- **Location:** Temple Israel Manchester
- **Registration Link:** https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/wn6ynk5/lp/711333fc-83c5-47f1-b069-a9cd7f08a4b1?source_id=9c91b311-8015-45d4-823b-fab4f440ec73&source_type=em&c=JqidqoBRmTMMUYLUxgT7TnwheyhIOteYvnkYG0cFcBdE0hGMyJvDw==
- **Additional Info:** Community Passover Seder at Temple Israel: Come join us April Thursday, April 2nd at 6pm for an incredible Passover Seder with your Temple Israel family. RSVP required.
 - o \$45 pp TI Members - Ages 13+
 - o \$55 pp Non-Members - Ages 13+
 - o \$15 pp TI Members - Children Aged 6 - 12
 - o \$20 pp Non-Members - Children Aged 6 - 12
 - o Kids 5 and under eat free! (Member of Non-Member)
- **Additional Services:** Morning Passover Services on Thursday, April 2nd at 9:45am; Later in the holiday, we will gather again for Morning Services and Yizkor on Thursday, April 9th at 9:45am, offering a time for prayer, reflection, and remembrance of our loved ones.
- **Website:** <https://www.templeisraelmht.org/events>

Temple Israel, Portsmouth

- **Seder:** 4/2 at 6pm
- **Location:** Temple Israel Portsmouth
- **Registration Link:** <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/pesach-seder-day-2.html>
- **Website:** <https://www.templeisraelnh.org/2026/02/community-passover-seder-april-2-2026/>

UNH Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center, Newington

- **Seder:** 4/1 at 7pm
- **Location:** The Seacoast Jewish Community Center
- **Registration Link:** [JewishSeacoast.com/Seder](https://www.jewishseacoast.com/Seder)
- **Additional Info:** The Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center invites you to join our annual Passover Community Seder. Enjoy an in-depth Hebrew/English Passover experience, with plenty of translation and an abundance of explanation while enjoying a delicious meal, with all the trimmings. A Passover experience you will remember for a lifetime!
 - o RSVP Required:
 - After March 1st - Adult \$72 | Child \$36
 - UNH Students - FREE
- **Website:** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pouP7u1EaNzTxV8Wmvff-v3cWfItiAKL/edit>

Passover



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"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."

~ Albert Einstein

Happy Passover

Passover Humor: The Wicked Child Support Group

By Joshua Kail, The Rebbitzman

Jewish humor is not only the backbone of our culture, but it is also a tool for our survival. From surviving the shtetl with tales from Chelm, to the Hitler Megilah created in the refugee camps following the Shoah, it has been humor that has helped us carry through. It is one of the few things that bridges us across halachic disputes, cultural divides, and even the Shabbos table. It is something we all participate in and share across generations. Jewish humor is how, when faced with antisemitism, violence, deportation, vilification, and scapegoating, we can always reply with, "Peh, it could have been worse."



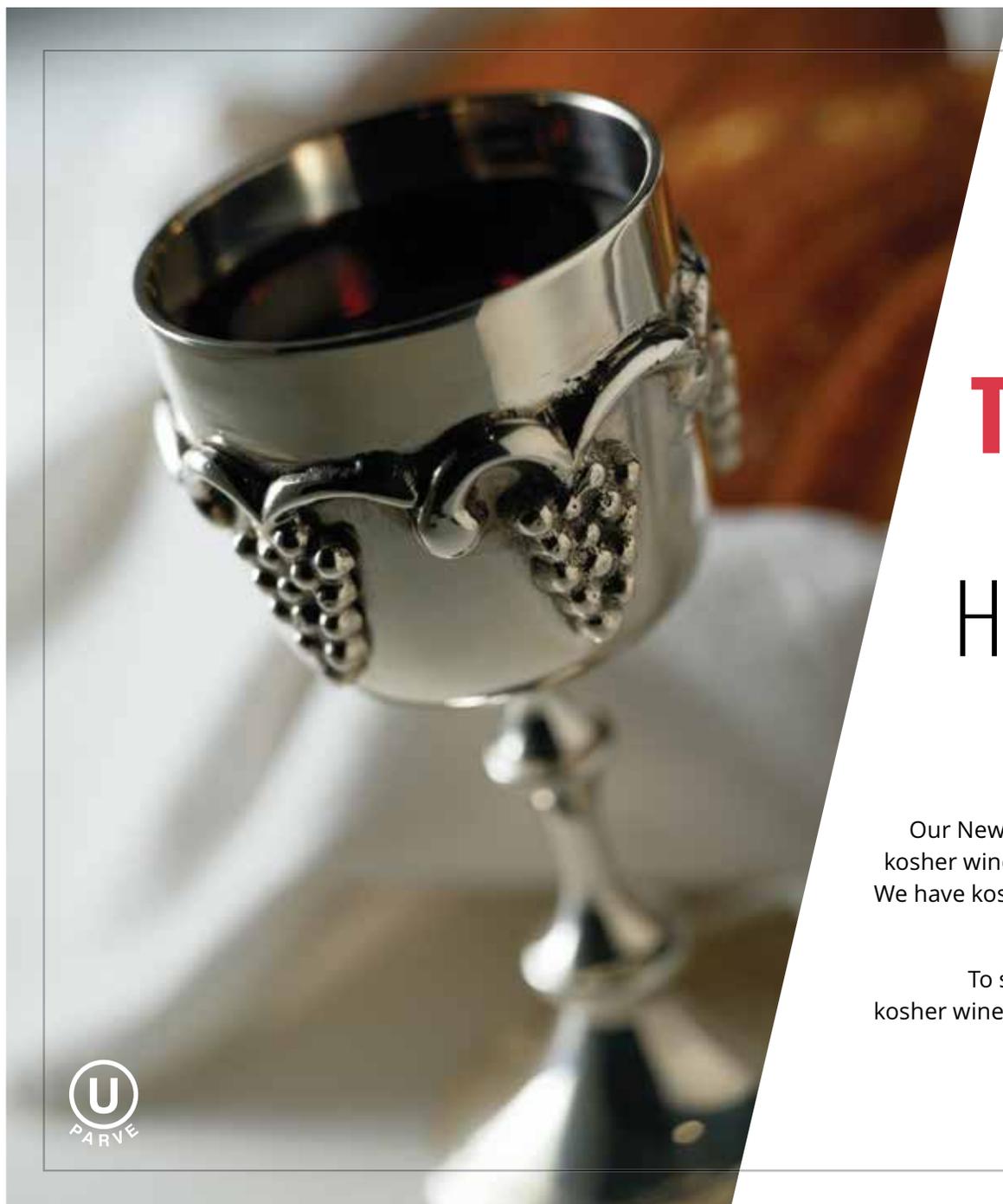
We are fast approaching Pesach. A holiday where Jews come together, tell the story of the Exodus, share a meal, and most importantly, welcome the stranger. Yet, there is one group of people who are not given the same kindness and empathy that we give to those whom we don't

know. I am talking about The Wicked Child.

For those of us deemed wicked, we have come to dread the part of the seder when it is time to read about the four children. For generations, it is this moment when all eyes dart to one particular person at the table. With curled smiles on their lips, they jokingly say "That's the wicked one." It is an annual reminder to millions of Jews that they are not welcome.

This is the year we change that. This is the year the wicked children unite! That is why, as your Rebbitzman, I have formed The Wicked Child Support

Passover Humor continued on page 18



THIS PASSOVER, BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS AND TRY SOMETHING NEW

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LiquorandWineOutlets.com Please drink responsibly.



Passover

Passover Greetings

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

Chag Someach Pesach to all our NH friends.
- Barrie & Barbara Ann Paster

May your Passover be filled with joy, renewal, and the warmth of family and friends. Wishing you a blessed and Happy Passover!
Chag Sameach!
- Temple Israel Portsmouth

Wishing everyone a meaningful Passover.
- Marc Rubenson

We wish you a Passover filled with peace and yummy matzah balls.
- Dr Milt and Kristina Zweig

May we be blessed with peace in our lives, peace in our communities, and peace in our world. Chag Pesach Sameach.
- Ed Schoen and Gail Ellis and family

May your Passover be filled with community and connection.
- With love from The Berches

Chag Pesach Sameach! Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Passover!
- Michelle and Michael Bank

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

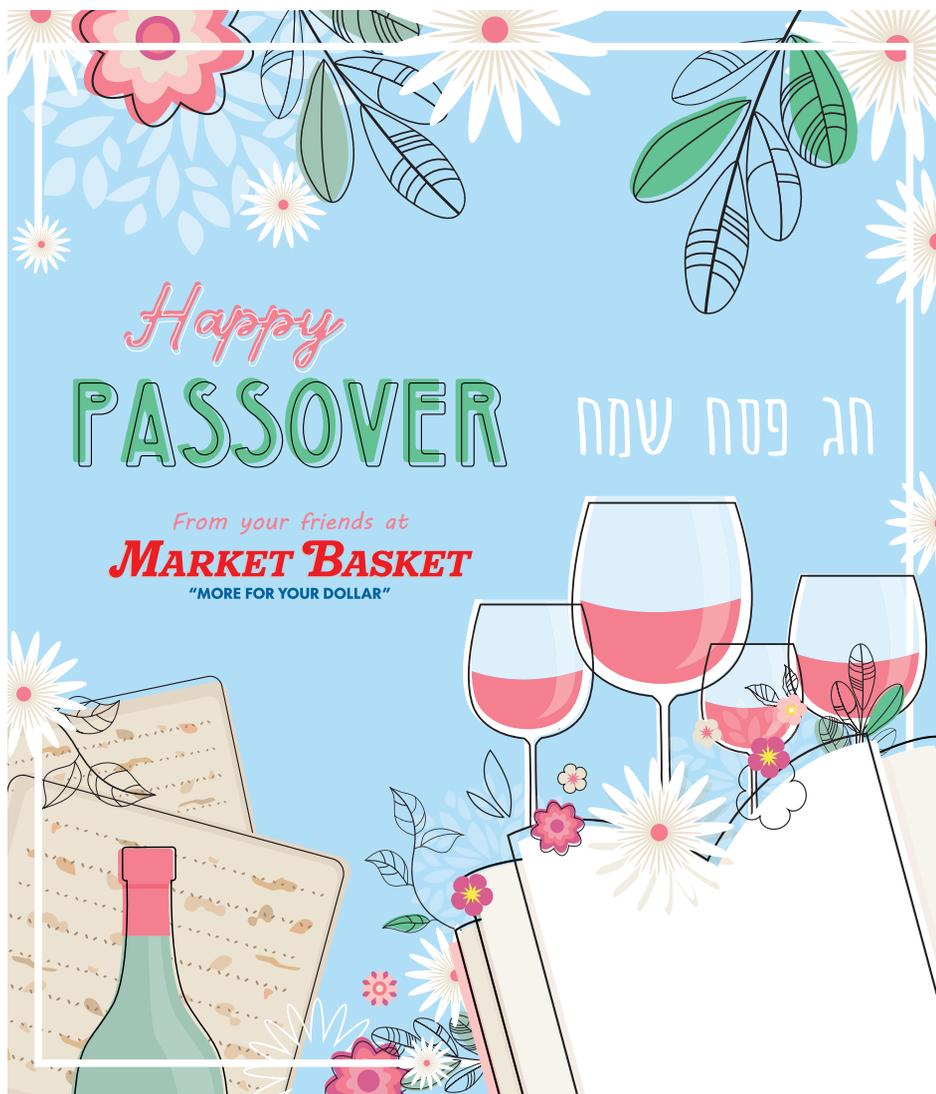


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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Book Reviews for Passover 2026

Passover is coming and here are three fun books to read to or with your children.

First up, we have short picture book written by Laura Gehl and illustrated by Olga and Aleksey Ivanov, *The Not-Quite-Perfect Passover*. This is a colorful story about a father and his two young children getting ready to host Passover for the first time. Usually, Bubbe holds the first seder at her house but this year she has a broken leg and cannot be the hostess. Ruby is excited to make this Passover special for Bubbe. Her little brother Benny always seems to get in the way. In the end everyone realizes that even if things are not perfect, they



can be a lot of fun. Told in simple to understand language, there is a note at the end of the book explaining the holiday of Passover.

The Passover Pet Surprise is a very different style of children's story. A longer picture book with very colorful illustrations on thick paper, *The Passover Pet Surprise* is the story of a family from Miami, Florida traveling to relatives in Mendoza, Argentina for Passover seders. Using the Spanish names for all the family pets and accent symbols to emphasize the Spanish pronunciation of a variety of words, this book teaches us some of the differences other countries and cultures celebrate the holidays. In



the backyard a roast is being cooked on the *parilla*.

In the kitchen, *kneidalaj* are being prepared to go with the soup. But the Passover story is always the same and it is told to all the children at the seder. The children learn a lesson about freedom from the family pets. This is a lesson the author, Ana Maria Shua learned as a child. The illustrations by Angeles Ruiz are saturated with color.



For the older readers, *On All Other Nights: A Passover Celebration in 14 Stories*, which is edited by Chris Baron, Joshua S. Levy and Naomi Milliner, with black and white illustrations

drawn by Shannon Hochman. We are invited into this book with the charge similar to the request at the Seder, "Let all who are hungry come and read." This is a series of stories each by a different author told in the order of the Seder. The heart of the Passover seder are the stories that are told, and this book follows that tradition. Each story follows one of the steps of the seder. Though the stories are told in the traditional order, they all are different—there is some fiction and non-fiction, realistic and fantasy tales, and there's even a graphic novel story. But as the editors write in the introduction, though all the authors come from different experiences and backgrounds, the stories are all being shared at the same table. The message here is that now we are free to speak, listen and ask questions and even to disagree, as we all read this book together.

Chag Pesach Sameach!

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Passover. Each year, the Passover Seder and retelling of the story of Exodus serves as a lasting reminder that faith brings triumph over adversity.

New Hampshire's proud Jewish community contributes so much each day to our great state. I am proud to stand with you, and I thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for New Hampshire.

Joe and I hope everyone celebrating has a joyous, meaningful Passover.

Best wishes,

Governor Kelly Ayotte

PAID FOR BY THE GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL FUND, AL LETIZIO TREASURER

Passover Humor

continued from page 14

Group. A place where the wicked are celebrated for the much-needed critical eye we bring to every situation.

Take this quiz to see if you should join:

- Are you always asked to read the part of Wicked Child at the Seder?
- Do you tense up at the idea of having to listen to your uncle sing "Had Gad Ya?"
- Do you prefer white maror to the red one?
- Does it bother you that the four questions are really just one redundant question?

If you answered yes to any of these questions or find yourself wondering, "What do these questions mean to him?" Then, The Wicked Child Support Group is right for you.

What does becoming a member of The Wicked Child Support Group get you?

- A lifetime membership*
 - o *Lifetime memberships expire if you start seeing a therapist and find your general disposition changing.
- Sunglasses to hide your constant eye rolling when your father tries and fails to say "Gamliel."
- A copy of our pamphlet: *Who Moved My Afikomen: An Amazing Way to Deal With the Wicked Criticism in Your Life*

- Access to our social media platform, Bitter, which brings wicked children from around the world together. It's kind of like Twitter but without the rampant antisemitism.
- An invitation to our annual trip to Giza so you can see firsthand what it would be like "had you been a slave in the land of Egypt and were left behind." (The Mahshi is delicious!)

For wicked children everywhere, the seders can be a difficult time. With The Wicked Child Support Group, that doesn't have to be the case. You can go into any seder knowing there are people just like you, forever deemed unworthy because one time when you were twelve but still the youngest, you refused to say the "Ma Nishtana." One time! I mean, does that justify a lifetime of being deemed wicked? Or you know, whatever your reason for getting the seder side-eye is.

Joshua Kail is a Jewish humor writer and America's Rebbitzman. He has been featured in outlets across the US, including *The Jewish Fiction Journal*, *Chabad News*, *JNS*, and several other non-Jewish outlets. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his Rabbi wife and two children. It is important to note that nothing he has written has not been approved by any rabbi, alive or dead, especially if he is married to her. More of his writing can be found on his Medium page, *Ask The Rebbitzman*.

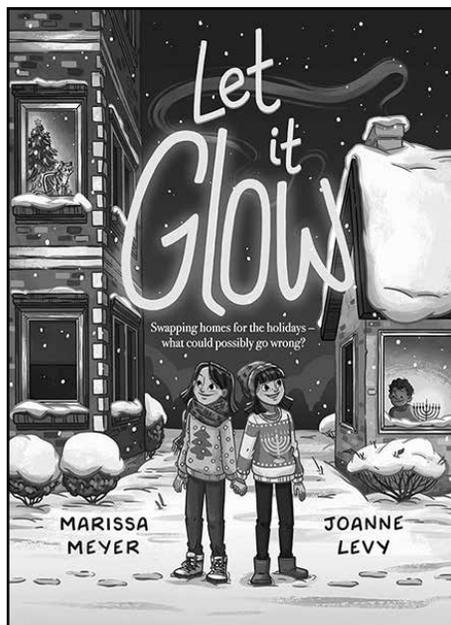
PJ Library Book Reviews

Let it Glow by Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy

By Raya Wolf Bennett

Let It Glow is about identical twin sisters, one Jewish, one Christian. They were separated at birth, so when they met each other, they decided to switch homes for the holidays so they could experience the other holiday. At the end they went to a big singing event, where they sang together about both Christmas and Hannukah.

This is a really good book for people who like adventures, facing their fears, and holidays. The only problem with the book is they left out something very important to me - how the twins were separated at birth. I hope the authors decide to write a sequel to answer this question! Hope you enjoy *Let It Glow* by Marissa Meyer and Joanne Levy!



Federation of New Hampshire is proud to bring PJ Our Way to local families—sign up for free at pjourway.org, or email me, Dinah Berch, at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with any questions.

PJ Our Way is the next chapter of PJ Library for kids ages 9–12! Each month, kids can choose the book they want to receive and even share reviews or videos about it. In New Hampshire, the Jewish

Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Taback

By NH PJ Library subscriber Norah, age 8

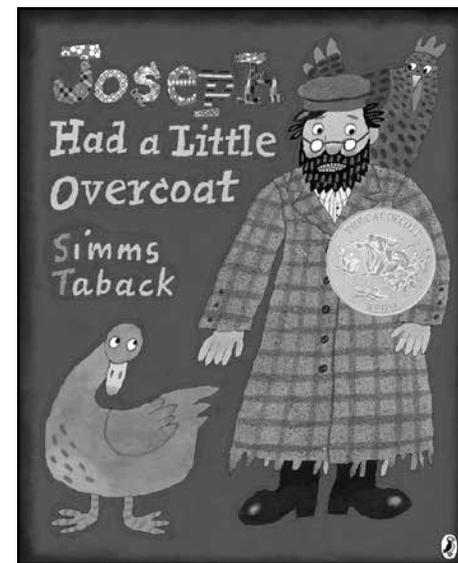
I chose a PJ Library book called *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. It was about a man named Joseph. He had an overcoat and it got old and very worn. He made lots of things out of it until he lost his button, and then he made a book about it.

I like the part where he made new things out of his old and worn clothing. When he lost his button, he made a book about it. This shows that you can make something out of nothing.

My dad and I cut up some useless towels and turned them into face-cleaning rags. We use others to clean tables and other stuff like that. This is an example of how Jewish people do not waste, like oil in a menorah.

I recommend this book because Joseph was creative. He made new things out of old stuff.

PJ Library sends free Jewish-themed books each month to kids ages 0–8, helping



families explore Jewish stories, traditions, and values together. In New Hampshire, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire brings PJ Library to local families—sign up for free at pjlibrary.org, or email me, Dinah Berch, at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with any questions.

Happy Passover



Photo credit: Kateryna Hliznitsova, Unsplash

PJ OUR WAY

We Need You

Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

Do you have a favorite PJ Our Way book? Something you just couldn't put down or that you think EVERYONE should read?

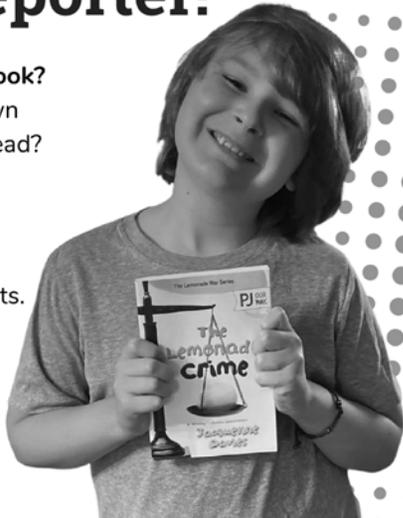
Tell us all about it!

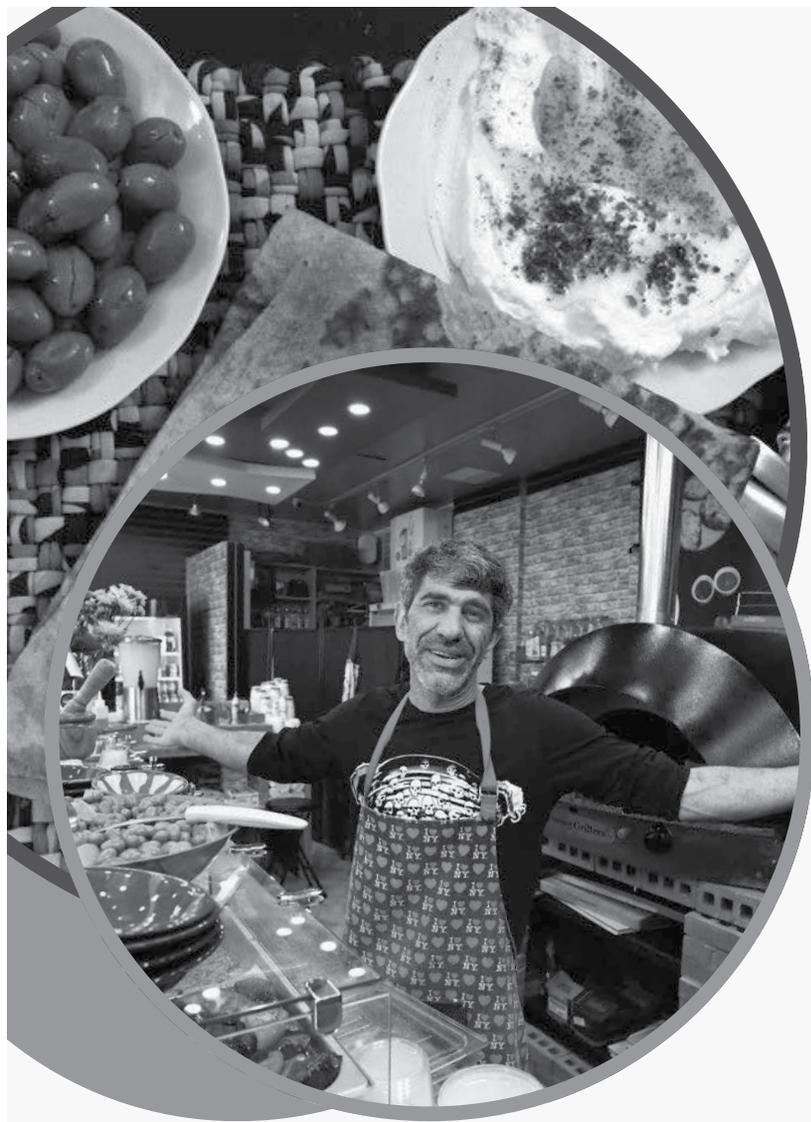
Send your reviews to Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org or email for details & question prompts.

We'll publish your review in upcoming issues of The Reporter and on Facebook!



PJ Our Way sends FREE Jewish middle-grade books for kids ages 9 through 12. Sign up at pjourway.org/enroll





FROM THE DESERT TO THE TABLE

AN EVENING WITH RAIF RASHED
AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF STORY,
RESILIENCE & DRUZE CUISINE

APRIL 16 | 7:00 PM
MANCHESTER, NH

ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION

Join us on Thursday, April 16 for a moving and intimate evening with Raif Rashed, a survivor of the Nova Music Festival, resilience advocate, and Druze restauranter

Listen as he shares his personal story, his journey forward, and how he later channeled his experience into opening the first Druze restaurant in New York. The evening will conclude with Raif preparing a traditional Druze meal, offering guests a taste of the culture, traditions, and hospitality that have been central to his identity and healing.

The program will include:

- Raif's journey from survival to rebuilding in New York
- An introduction to Druze culture and traditions
- A live Druze cooking demonstration
- A shared meal prepared by Raif

This unique evening brings together storytelling, culture, and cuisine in a powerful reflection on resilience and community.

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Nashua's April 15th Yom HaShoah event focuses on "The Music of Terezín"

On Wednesday evening April 15th, Temple Beth Abraham and Rivier University welcome composer, writer and pianist Michael Schachter. The event will be held at Rivier University in the Dion Center at 16 Clement Street in Nashua at 7 p.m.

Composer, writer and pianist Michael Schachter will explore his forthcoming music and theater projects based on the history of the Terezín Ghetto, a WWII concentration camp outside Prague where the Jewish inmates resisted the Nazis through musical, dramatic, and artistic expression. In particular, he'll focus on the musical activities of Eric Vogel, a trumpeter who founded a jazz band in Terezín called the Ghetto Swingers, and Rafael Schächter, a pianist and conductor who led the inmates in performances of such monumental works as Verdi's Requiem.

Schachter's compositions have been performed at venues ranging from Lin-

coln Center to the Smithsonian to the Minnesota Centennial Showboat. Current projects include commissions and premieres with the Vermont Symphony, the Burlington Choral Society, the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra, and Grammy-winning choir Conspirare. Additional performances in the 2025-26 season include Ljova and the Kontraband, Salina Symphony, New World Symphony, BBC Symphony and the City of Birmingham Symphony.

Recent projects include a concerto for pianist Aaron Diehl and the Knights in honor of the centennial of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, which premiered at Carnegie Hall in October 2024, as well as commissions with the Knoxville Symphony and Violins of Hope, the Make-Music Festival and Przekroj Foundation, and the New World Symphony with bass-baritone Davóne Tines.

His concerto for Grammy-nominated violinist Tessa Lark and the Knoxville

Symphony, Cycle of Life, premiered to rave reviews in April 2022 and was profiled in a recent PBS feature (Craft in America: "Harmony"). Also in 2022, the Los Angeles Philharmonic premiered "Concerto No. 2: Anthem" at the Hollywood Bowl, created in collaboration with Davóne Tines, Caroline Shaw, and Tyshawn Sorey. His music-theater piece, The Black Clown (libretto co-written with and starring Davóne Tines, directed by Zack Winokur) premiered with sold-out runs at the American Repertory Theater and Lincoln Center, where it was a New York Times Critic's Pick. The Black Clown will kick off a national tour in 2026-27 with a production in May 2026 at Opera Philadelphia. As a scholar, Michael recently completed a three-year term as a Junior Fellow in the Harvard University Society of Fellows.

Following a question-and-answer session, a candle-lighting ceremony will be



held memorializing Holocaust victims. The Nashua Community Interfaith Choir will perform at this observance.

The event is free and open to the public.

Happy
Passover

Peace, health and happiness
to you & your family!

Senator Maggie Hassan

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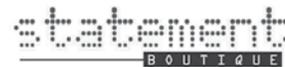
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Randi Gelfman Continues Her Search for a Living Kidney Donor: Please Consider a Gift of Life

By Randi Gelfman

My name is Randi Gelfman, I live in Parsonsfield, Maine, and I have been a member of Congregation Bet Ha'am in South Portland, Maine for many years. Some of you may know that I have kidney disease. Over time, my kidney disease has gotten worse, causing my kidneys not to work well enough to keep me alive. My treatment options at this time are limited to dialysis or a kidney transplant. I have been on dialysis since May 2023 – 3 days a week for 4 hours each day, which is helping my kidneys do their job of removing wastes, toxins, and extra fluids. But the longer you are on dialysis, the less time you have to do the things you love, and the more your kidneys deteriorate.

However, a life-giving living donor kidney transplant would offer me much more freedom and the ability to live a longer, healthier, and more meaningful life. A transplant would also give me more time to do the things I love most,



such as spending time with my family and friends, my partner Nick, my pets, helping others, and being outdoors.

Finding a kidney is not easy. People who are on a wait list for a kidney from a deceased donor often have to wait 5-10 years, and the kidney lasts on average only 10-15 years. But the wait list for a living kidney donor is often shorter, and the kidney typically lasts 15-20+ years. It also has much better function.

In order to donate, living kidney donors get a careful and thorough evaluation with their own team of health professionals to see if you could be a match for me and to ensure that living donation is as safe as possible for you.

I want to share with you some basic information about kidney donation:

1. You only need one kidney to live a long, healthy life.
2. The surgery for a donor is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions, and the recuperation period is fairly quick, generally only a few weeks.
3. The cost of an evaluation and surgery would be covered by my insurance.
4. Although my blood type is O+, you do not necessarily need to have the same blood type or tissue type to be a match.
5. There is no age limit to be a donor. You just have to have a healthy kidney.

In order to express your interest in becoming my kidney donor, you can fill out

the form at this link: www.mghlivingdonors.org. Upon submission, the Mass General Living Donor Team (617-643-7193) will be in touch with you. To learn more about kidney donation, you can call Randi's Transplant Navigator, Jullie Hoggan at 702-530-4156, or go to the National Kidney Foundation's website: www.kidney.org/livingdonation. There are also many other websites that can help you learn about kidney disease and donation. Thank you for taking the time to read my story. Major ways you can help me are to share it with your friends, family, and on social media.

With appreciation and gratitude,
Randi Gelfman
rsselfman@gmail.com

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A Collector's Rare Showcase of Holocaust Memorabilia Started Small — and Grew Very Big

By Morey Stettner

In 2000, Ira Schwartz sought to buy a yellow star in an eBay auction. Starting in 1939, the Nazis forced Jews to wear the yellow badge as the Holocaust intensified.

Schwartz had no idea that this single, modest transaction would blossom into something far greater. But over the next two decades, he built a unique collection of over 300 Holocaust-era artifacts.

A retired physician who lives in New Hampshire's Seacoast, Schwartz acquired the items through online auctions. "Initially, I bought photos," he said. "The faces in the photos became real to me. There's a story behind every one of those photos."

He also obtained handwritten letters and postcards that captured the plight of Jews seeking safe passage in a perilous time. The collection spans the 1930s and 1940s—from a pre-war report card for a young man in Bucharest to passports and relocation documents to a 1948 letter from a Holocaust survivor, a Polish

Jew who moved to China, inquiring about relatives who had survived the concentration camps.

"A lot of the pieces in Ira's collection are quite rare," said Rachael Goldman, Ph.D., a New Jersey-based professional appraiser and certified member of the Appraisers Association of America. She analyzed the collection in 2025 and wrote a 125-page appraisal report.

The collection's breadth and depth are striking. The range of items provides a wide-angle view of everyday life during a tumultuous period.

"You hear voices of all different types of people," Goldman said. "You get a central voice of Judaism from all parts of the world at a time when the Nazis were trying to destroy any documents of human life. And Ira collected a lot of underground material and resistance efforts of underground groups."

The collection is housed at the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College in Keene, N.H. Students digitized and catalogued

every item, and it now serves as an ongoing resource for both the college and larger community.

The Cohen Institute hosts programs for educators and the general public to view the collection. For example, workshops for middle- and high-school teachers help them explore ways to discuss the Holocaust in the classroom.

"When you're holding these documents, history comes to life in a different way," said Kate Gibeault, director of the Cohen Institute. "It humanizes the Holocaust and renders a human face on each life affected by the genocide."

Founded in 1983, the Cohen Institute is one of America's oldest resource centers for Holocaust studies. Over the years, its officials have assessed Holocaust memorabilia collections.

This one stood out.

"It's such an extensive collection," Gibeault said. "The number is much more vast than anything we've seen."

Because Schwartz's collection is filled with primary sources, it serves as a captivating teaching tool. Gibeault likes to assign students a single item from the collection, such as a passport or identity papers, and asks them to "build a life story around" that document.

"There's so much to unpack in this collection," she said. "It shows how events pushed people around and led to migration" as Jews kept searching for safehaven.

Students find the collection eye-opening and emotionally wrenching. They also see its value in combating Holocaust deniers. "The objects are undeniable proof of the Holocaust because they are primary sources and are original and

firsthand accounts of the time," a student recently wrote. "I learned about the importance of the Jewish identification stars within the concentration camps and how the passports help visualize and show how widespread the problems of the Holocaust were. The primary sources are also important in our class because they are used for researching the Holocaust, which is important when learning how we as a society can prevent tragedies like the Holocaust in the future."

The student's comments reinforce the goal of Keene State College educators: to provide a multi-dimensional resource to understand the lives affected by the Holocaust and to place it in the proper historical context.

"It has immense educational value," said Rodney Obien, an associate professor at Keene State College. "It has been a godsend for us to have such a collection of original archival documents and primary sources."

While Schwartz never had a grand plan to amass such a rare and massive collection, he's glad he did. The pieces speak for themselves and make a dark chapter in history come alive.

"Through this collection, you feel the gravity of the events," he said. "My hope is that people see it and think, 'Whoa, human beings did this.'"

On April 12, you can view the collection at Temple Israel in Portsmouth by attending the annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration at 2:00 PM. Janet Singer Applefield, 90, a Holocaust survivor, will share her experience. The event is free and open to the public.

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

HAPPY PASSOVER



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April Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

On Saturday, February 28, we woke up to the news that the US and Israel attacked Iran — and Iran, in response, attacked Israel and American military bases in the Middle East. Staff at Hadassah hospitals, who had been preparing for weeks for Iranian attacks, jumped into action, moving patients to fortified underground hospital areas at Hadassah Ein Kerem and Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus.

Dr. Moshe Simons, director of the fortified underground hospital at Hadassah Mount Scopus, said, “We are continuing to do the regular good work that we are able to do above ground as well.” The underground hospital has all the same departments, including ICU, dialysis, pediatrics, orthopedics, surgery, rehabilitation (both neurological and orthopedic) and internal medicine, which took in

about 30 patients from Hadassah Ein Kerem. Babies are safe, and emergency surgeries continue.

“We strive to give the utmost care to everyone, all citizens of Israel, be they Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze or Arab,” he said.

“Hadassah Mount Scopus and Hadassah Ein Kerem have a lot of experience in treating trauma, especially blast injury, and, indeed, we have proven our expertise today,” said Prof. Weiss.

On Monday morning, Israeli President Isaac Herzog and First Lady Michal Herzog met with wounded patients from Beit Shemesh, including the families coping with loss and patients suffering from severe PTSD, during a tour of Hadassah Ein Kerem’s Lower Levels of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower.

“It was very impressive to see how you all went underground,” said President Herzog. “You are there in a huge under-

ground facility, which was built in the heart of the mountain 20 years ago, and the place is full of the best staff there is, who are taking care of everyone and of all the injuries and diseases.”

President Herzog thanked Hadassah, HMO and Hadassah International for supporting Israel and said that it is a “source of pride to see Jews and Muslims, Christians and people of all faiths coming here both as patients and as staff of the highest level.”

He wished Hadassah luck and wished “luck for all the people of Israel. We are in a difficult and complex battle, but it is a historic and important battle for all of the people of Israel, the future of the Middle East and world peace.”

Away from the hospital scene, students who remain at Hadassah Neurim Youth Aliyah Village and Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village are safe, having access to new and upgraded bomb shelters thanks

to the generous support of Hadassah donors. Most students were able to go home. On Sunday, 65 students at Meir Shfeyah were going about their day, safely, happily and calmly.

“In times like these, Hadassah remains steadfast in our mission to protect life, care for our patients and uphold the resilience of Israel’s people,” said Hadassah National President Carol Ann Schwartz. “Our thoughts and profound appreciation are with our hospital staff, Youth Aliyah village faculty and colleagues in Israel, and with the American service members and Israel Defense Forces who are fighting for the US and Israel.”

The next meeting of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah will be at the Federation office, on Thursday, April 30 at 1PM. As always, this is an open meeting. For Hadassah information, please contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

Recent Events

JFNH Stands with the West Bloomfield Jewish Community

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire is deeply disturbed by the recent attack at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan, which also houses a Jewish school and early childhood center. According to authorities, an armed individual rammed a vehicle into the synagogue and opened fire before being stopped by security personnel. We are relieved that, at this time, no children or congregants appear to have been seriously harmed, though one security officer was injured while protecting the community.

Our hearts are with the congregation of Temple Israel, the students and families connected to the school, and the entire Detroit-area Jewish community. A synagogue and a school are places meant for prayer, learning, and community. Violence directed at these sacred spaces is an attack not only on one congregation, but on the fundamental right of people to gather freely and safely in their faith.

We are grateful for the swift response of security personnel and law enforcement, whose actions helped prevent further harm. Their vigilance underscores

the very real security challenges Jewish institutions face and the importance of continued partnership between Jewish communities and law enforcement.

Incidents like this are deeply unsettling for Jewish communities everywhere. They are also a sobering reminder of how the antisemitism expressed online and in public discourse can escalate into acts of violence. Confronting this hatred requires vigilance, partnership, and a shared commitment across society to reject antisemitism in all its forms.

Here in New Hampshire, we remain

committed to working closely with law enforcement, partner organizations, and community leaders to ensure that our synagogues, schools, and Jewish institutions remain safe places for Jewish life to flourish.

At moments like these, the Jewish community stands together. We send our strength and solidarity to the people of Temple Israel and to the broader Michigan Jewish community.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Berger | Board Chair
Erik Martin | Executive Director

“Chag Sameach, New Hampshire! Wishing you and your family a happy Passover!”

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How to submit an obituary

The Reporter publishes obituaries for any member of the community, past or present, for a \$36 fee. Please send obituaries and one photo, if desired, as a separate jpg attachment to thereporter@jewishnh.org or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford, NH 03110

Simchas

New! B'nai mitzvah, engagement, wedding or new baby in the family? Share your happiness with the community with a notice in the Reporter's new *Simchas* section. Your \$36 payment will support JFNH's nonprofit mission. Submit a short notice and photo to thereporter@jewishnh.org or JFNH, 273 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford, NH 03110

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

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

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As One We Carry The Story Forward

As Passover begins, Jewish families across New Hampshire gather around the Seder table to retell the story of the Exodus. Each year we remember the journey from hardship to freedom and the responsibility every generation shares to strengthen the future of the Jewish people.

Today, that story continues. Through connection, resilience, and shared purpose, our community moves forward **AS ONE**.

As One We Inspire Jewish Connection

Through programs, community events, and educational opportunities, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire helps people of all ages build meaningful connections to Jewish life and to one another.

As One We Protect Our Community

Through security partnerships, training, and community coordination, the Federation helps ensure that Jewish spaces across New Hampshire remain safe and welcoming.

As One We Stand With Israel

Through education, community briefings, and advocacy, the Federation helps our community remain informed, engaged, and connected to Israel's story and future.

As One We Support Jewish Life in New Hampshire

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