

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jewish **Reporter**

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December 2025 - January 2026

Kislev - Tevet - Shevat 5786

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New Hampshire



CHANUKAH



Image Credit: Cottonbro Studio/Pexels

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Bringing Light into the Year Ahead

Chanukah arrives each year as the nights reach their longest—a reminder that even the smallest light can cut through the dark. There’s something powerful about gathering around the menorah, watching each new candle add to the glow. It’s not just a story of ancient resilience; it’s a living metaphor for what we do as a community. Every act of kindness, every volunteer hour, every gift—each is a spark that strengthens the light we share.

This season always invites reflection.

Erik Martin

JFNH
Executive
Director



As I look back on my first few months as JFNH’s executive director, I’m struck by how much light our community has created together. From meaningful state-wide programs to local events that bring

neighbors face-to-face, our collective efforts have built connection and hope. We’ve gathered together to reflect on the pain we’ve felt since the horrible events of October 7th through art, for education programs that help us stand strong against antisemitism, and for opportunities to learn, pray, and laugh together across generations and miles. Each initiative—big or small—has been another candle in our shared menorah.

Chanukah also reminds us that light

Bringing Light continued on page 9

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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 Marlena Fuerstman
PO Box 474, Bartlett
(978) 853-4900
harlavancommunity@gmail.com
Services: Wed. mornings 9 AM online via
Zoom
Enter meeting ID https://zoom.
us/j/381930069
Holiday service times, locations TBA

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi 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.

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thereporter@jewishnh.org

To submit Calendar items for the print and
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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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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



December 5	3:53 PM
December 12	3:53 PM
December 19	3:55 PM
December 26	3:59 PM
January 2	4:05 PM
January 9	4:12 PM
January 16	4:20 PM
January 23	4:29 PM
January 30	4:38 PM

Standing Together: Addressing Antisemitism in Our Schools

By Erik Martin, Executive Director,
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

More than 120 people gathered on Sunday, November 9—both in person and online—for *Antisemitism NOT In Our Schools: Building Safe & Inclusive Schools for All Students*, a statewide education program presented by the Israeli-American Council (IAC) and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. The strong turnout reflected both the urgency of the topic and the community's deep commitment to ensuring that New Hampshire's schools remain places of respect, safety, and belonging for all.

Hosted at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua and Temple Israel in Manchester, the sessions drew parents, grandparents, teens, and educators from across the state. Many participants described feeling a sense of relief and empowerment—

finally having a space to ask questions, share experiences, and learn practical ways to respond when antisemitism appears in classrooms, hallways, or online.

The program combined interactive discussion and best practices to help participants understand how antisemitism manifests in the classroom—from coded language and social media memes to the misuse of political discourse. Presenters from the IAC guided attendees through real-life scenarios, helping them practice what it looks like to intervene effectively, support affected students, and engage constructively with school administrators and peers.

Beyond recognizing antisemitism, participants left with actionable tools to bring back to their communities. These included strategies for educating others about bias, promoting inclusive policies within schools, and building partnerships

with local leaders to strengthen a culture of safety and respect. Many attendees spoke about wanting to share what they learned with their PTAs, youth groups, and interfaith partners—evidence that the program's impact is already extending well beyond the walls of the event.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the day was the presence of educators, counselors, and administrators from public and private schools across New Hampshire—many of whom are not themselves Jewish but came eager to learn how to better support Jewish students and families. Their participation underscored a powerful truth: combating antisemitism is not only a Jewish responsibility, but a collective one shared by everyone who believes in the dignity and safety of all children.

The Federation extends special thanks to Debbie Berger, volunteer chair for the

program, whose thoughtful organization and steady leadership helped make the day's success possible. Deep gratitude also goes to Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua and Temple Israel in Manchester for partnering with JFNH and the IAC to host and support this important statewide initiative.

The conversations that emerged were honest and often emotional. Participants reflected on the challenges of confronting prejudice in educational spaces while balancing the need for open dialogue and mutual understanding. Yet amid those challenges, there was also hope—hope rooted in knowledge, empathy, and the belief that education remains one of our greatest tools for change.

Together, we are laying the groundwork for a statewide culture of respect—one school, one classroom, and one conversation at a time.

A Little Light Goes a Long Way

Ever feel like Chanukah is the elephant in the room? That faint scent of burning oil you can't quite get out of your sweater? Everyone knows it's there, but no one's quite sure how to talk about it—because *chas v'shalom*, heaven forbid, we make too big a deal out of something that's supposed to be kinda small.

And yet there we are, going slightly feral at the sight of a menorah-print dish towel at Target. We will, in fact, buy every blue-and-silver item within reach because—look!—they remembered us! We're seen! Sort of. Once a year. Maybe twice if Tu B'Shevat merch ever takes off.

It's a dull ache—a special kind of exhaustion that comes from wanting to share who we are in a world that doesn't always see it. So we show up. We're the parents who go into school to talk about Chanukah, quietly wondering: Why me? And why always Chanukah?

Every year, I wrestle with these feelings. Am I playing into the hands of Hallmark? Should I be satisfied when a menorah appears in the “holiday display”? Am I too easily appeased by the menorah emoji in the town newsletter? Should I be starting a movement instead of a spreadsheet of who's getting which night's gift? (Don't answer that.) Why can't our holidays matter too?

And yet—every year—we find the good. We remember that Chanukah isn't about keeping up with Christmas. It's about bringing a little defiant joy into the dark. It's a reminder that light multiplies when we share it, that miracles can show

Dinah Berch

JFNH
Program
Coordinator



up in the most ridiculous places (even the clearance aisle).

We drop off dreidels and chocolate gelt at our neighbors' doors. We bring *Meet the Latkes* by Alan Silberberg to our kids' classes because it's funny, a little chaotic, and actually teaches something real. We lean into the absurdity and the beauty of it all as we light candles and sing songs passed down for generations. In that moment, the candlelight softens everything else—noise, tinsel, Target-induced angst.

We do what Jews have always done: we adapt, we laugh, we feed people.

In the end, Chanukah was never meant to compete. It's meant to illuminate. It's our yearly reminder that a small spark can outlast the darkness, that miracles can come from the most ordinary oil. We don't need the biggest holiday—just our little lights: steady, stubborn, and bright enough to cut through December.

And yes, the matching Chanukah pajamas are pretty cute.

If you want more ways to bring that light home—recipes, crafts, ideas, and possibly justification for more latkes—check out PJ Library's Chanukah Hub at pjlibrary.org/hanukkah.

Chanukah Recipes

Baked Jelly Donut Muffins

Ingredients

Dough

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted (or non-dairy substitute)
- 3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup skim milk or non-dairy alternative (vanilla soy milk works great!)
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

Filling

Raspberry jam

Topping

- 1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
2. Grease or line 24 mini-muffin cups or 12 regular muffin cups.
3. Make the dough: Mix sugar, margarine, and nutmeg in a large bowl.
4. Stir in the milk, then mix in the baking powder and flour until just combined.
5. Place a spoonful of filling in each cup, then a small scoop of jam, then another scoop of filling so that the prepared muffin cups are about 3/4 full.
6. Bake in the preheated oven until the tops are lightly golden and spring back when touched, 15 to 20 minutes for mini muffins, 20-30 for big.
7. While muffins are baking, place 1/4 cup of melted margarine in a bowl.
8. In a separate bowl, mix together 1/2 cup of sugar with the cinnamon.
9. Remove muffins from their cups, dip each muffin in the melted margarine, and roll in the sugar-cinnamon mixture.
10. Let cool and serve.



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.

Friday, December 5

Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Pizza Shabbat
5:30 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH.

Join us for a free pizza dinner followed by potluck desserts. Our Book Bubbe, Leslie Kirshman, will read a story, and Shabbat service will be led by Rabbi Jonathan Biatch with musical accompaniment by Irina Rubenshteyn, our religious school director. All are welcome! Please RSVP to office@etzhayim.org by November 6, so we can plan for pizza. Many thanks to the anonymous donors for covering the cost of the pizza. For more information contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or at office@etzhayim.org.

Family Shabbat Service

6 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect St, Manchester, NH.

Join us for our Family Shabbat Service, focused on young families. All are welcome. For more information contact Karen Roth at 603-669-5650 or at office@taynh.org.

Sponsor: TAY

Sunday, December 7

Come bake Chanukah Linzer cookies

9:30 AM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St, Manchester, NH. Join Temple Israel Manchester and learn how to bake Chanukah Linzer cookies. Whip up some sweetness and holiday cheer at our Chanukah Linzer Cookie Baking Party! Join us for a hands-on, family-friendly afternoon where creativity and community blend together in the most delicious way. Under the guidance of our chef extraordinaire, Roberta Pavoll, you'll learn how to make the famous Linzer cookies, a treat as beautiful as it is tasty! Bring your family, your friends, and your festive spirit for a recipe full of fun, laughter, and connection. Whether you're a seasoned baker or just love a good cookie, this event promises warmth, joy, and plenty of sweet memories. Don't miss out — let's bake, laugh, and celebrate together! Suggested donation \$18 / all are welcome. Please RSVP by 12/2 so we can have plenty of ingredients for all. For more information contact Temple Israel at 603-622-6171 or at office@templeisraelmht.org.

Sponsor: Temple Israel Manchester

Thursday, December 11

Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents How to Beat Inflammation

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

David Riese will present How to Beat Inflammation and the chronic illnesses that it causes as we age. David is a retired aerospace engineer and has been studying, practicing and teaching healthy lifestyle habits for over 15 years. Most common chronic illnesses that plague Americans as we age are

preventable and often reversible through diet and lifestyle modifications. This presentation will focus on systemic inflammation, its causes, and how to reverse it naturally through diet and lifestyle. The presentation is part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at 603-895-6120 or at soreffs15@aol.com.

Friday, December 12-14

Diary of Anne Frank at Bow High School

Bow High School Theater presents the Diary of Anne Frank. 55 Falcon Way, Bow, NH: Friday, December 12 at 7 PM, Saturday, December 13 at 7 PM, Sunday, December 14 at 2 PM. Tickets available at the door: \$15 general admission, \$10 students / staff / seniors. Advance tickets online \$15 each: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/bhsarts/the-diary-of-anne-frank>

Sunday, December 14

Shavua Tov Story Time – Chanukah

8:30 AM, On Zoom

A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to the JFNH office at info@jewishnh.org. The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. For more information contact Corri Wilson at corri.wilson@jewishnh.org.

Latke-Palooza: A Celebration of Light, Music, and Community

4:00PM at Temple Israel Portsmouth, 200 State St, Portsmouth NH

The community is warmly invited to join Temple Israel Portsmouth for our annual Latke-Palooza on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. Come together to celebrate the joy of Hanukkah with friends, family, and neighbors as we fill the building with music, laughter, and the irresistible aroma of sizzling latkes! We'll offer crafts for all ages, festive music, and a Hanukkah sing-along that's sure to lift your spirits. And of course, no Hanukkah celebration would be complete without the star of the show — lots and lots of crispy, golden latkes, lovingly prepared by our Temple Israel Brotherhood. This event is free and open to everyone, but we kindly ask that you register in advance on the Temple Israel website so we can make sure there are enough latkes (and applesauce!) to go around. Come share in the light of the season, reconnect with community, and make new memories at this beloved Temple Israel tradition. Happy Hanukkah to you and your loved ones!

Bethlehem Town Chanukiah Lighting

Join members of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation and the Bethlehem community as we light the menorah in front of Town Hall each night. We gather at 5 pm each evening (4 pm on Friday) from December 14-21.

Tuesday, December 16

SFY Chanukah Party at JFNH

Come join us for a CHANUKAH PARTY!!!! We'll enjoy Latkes with a full toppings bar - ketchup, sour cream, apple sauce, maple syrup...Come celebrate

and have some fun! Please call the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 to register. Sponsor: Seniors Forever Young. <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar/sfy-chanukah-party-2025>

Friday, December 19

NHC Family-friendly Jewish Shabbat in the country

12:00 AM, Camp Ramah, Palmer, MA. Family-friendly Jewish Shabbat in the country, Dec 19-21, 2025 - at Camp Ramah, Palmer, MA. For more information contact Isabel Danforth at 603-772-3697 or at danforth@alumni.tufts.edu.

Sponsor: National Havurah Committee

Chanukah Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner

6:00 PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH.

Join Temple Israel Manchester for a Chanukah, Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner prepared lovingly by our Kiddush volunteers. Suggested donation \$18 / all are welcome. Please RSVP by December 17. For more information contact Temple Israel at 603-622-6171 or at office@templeisraelmht.org.

Sponsor: Temple Israel

Etz Hayim Synagogue Giant Menorah Lighting

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

Etz Hayim Synagogue continues its annual tradition of lighting its giant outdoor electric menorah on December 19 at 7:15 PM. The menorah was constructed by Jay Madnick with his son Aaron and is electronically controlled to display its festive colors for the community to enjoy. Join us for the 6th night of Chanukah and Shabbat Services, as we join in prayer and song. The community is encouraged to bring their menorahs with seven candles (including the shamash), as we light up the synagogue bringing light to our world. Jelly donuts will be served in remembrance of the miracle of oil. For more information contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or at office@etzhayim.org.

Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Meeting

Open chapter meeting. <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar/manchester-chapter-of-hadassah-meeting-1762913194>

Sunday, December 21

Chanukah Party with Temple Israel Manchester

5 PM, Temple Israel, 66 Salmon St, Manchester, NH. Have a Latke Fun: a Chanukah Party with Temple Israel Manchester. Join us for a Chanukuh Party at Temple Israel. Get ready to light up the night and celebrate the Festival of Lights together! Join Temple Israel Manchester for Have a Latke Fun, a joyous Chanukah celebration for all ages. Bring your menorah for a beautiful communal lighting and share in the warmth of the season surrounded by friends, family, and community. Enjoy a festive evening filled with sizzling latkes, delicious food, lively music, fun games, face painting, and so much more! Whether you come to spin the dreidel, sing along, or simply soak in the holiday spirit, there's something for everyone. Don't miss this chance to celebrate, connect, and make bright memories together, come join the fun! Bring your menorahs for communal lighting and let's celebrate the Festival of Lights together! Good food, face painting, music, fun games and more! Suggested donation \$18 / all are welcome. Please RSVP here so we can plan accordingly. For more information contact Temple Israel at 603-622-6171 or at office@templeisraelmht.org.

Sponsor: Temple Israel

Friday, January 2

Family Shabbat Service

6:00 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun 152 Prospect St, Manchester, NH.

Family Shabbat Service with Pizza following. For more information contact Karen Rothstein at 603-669-5650 or at office@taynh.org.

Sponsor: TAY

Thursday, January 8

Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Becky Field

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

Becky Field has been photographing the lives of immigrants since 2012. In 2021, met "Antony," an African immigrant who was tracked with an ankle monitor and detained under house arrest for years, simply for asking for asylum. Every week for almost 2 years, she photographed his experiences with the pain and humiliation of detention. Becky will show photographs of her work with "Antony," a pseudonym for his protection. She will talk about their times together and his status. Under current immigration policies, he still cannot travel freely, but she will play a short recording of him telling his story. 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 at 603-895-6120.

Friday, January 9

Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Pizza Shabbat

5:30 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH.

Join us for free pizza dinner (potluck desserts please!) followed by story time with our Book Bubbe Leslie Kirshman, music by Irina Rubenshteyn and family Shabbat services led by Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. All are welcome! Please RSVP at office@etzhayim.org by January 8, so we can plan on how much pizza to have. Many thanks to the anonymous donors for covering the cost of the pizza. For more information contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or at office@etzhayim.org.

Sunday, January 11

Etz Hayim Synagogue Synagogue Sunday Family Camp

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

This month's theme is Tu B'Shevat! We will learn about how trees help us and may even get to try some special Tu B'Shevat foods! Please RSVP to sarahjohnplater@aol.com by 8:00 AM Saturday, January 10 to ensure we have enough materials. Sunday Family Camp is geared toward little's ages 4-6. Please visit <https://www.etzhayim.org/learn/grades-0-1> for more information about this program or contact Sarah Plater at 603-432-0004 or at sarahjohnplater@aol.com.

Sunday, January 25

Shavua Tov Story Time - Tu B'shvat

8:30 AM, On Zoom

A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Each month will have a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive

Calendar continued on page 5

L'Dor Vador at the Kilton Library in West Lebanon



On Saturday, October 25th, families gathered at the Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon for a joyful L'dor Vador ("From Generation to Generation") Tot Shabbat, celebrating the connections between children, grandparents, and grandfriends. Led by Melissa Herman, Head of School for Kol Ha'emek – The Upper Valley Jewish Community, and Dinah Berch, Program Coordinator for the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and PJ Library New Hampshire, with support from members of Shir Shalom in Woodstock, VT, families enjoyed songs, stories, crafts, and free books — and created beautiful "memory chains" to honor special moments shared across generations.



Calendar

continued from page 4

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. For more information contact Cori Wilson at corri.wilson@jewishnh.org.

Wednesday, January 28

Personalizing the Past: Researching Family Histories with the USHMM

5:30 PM, Zoom Webinar

Please join Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide

Studies for a special Zoom Webinar in recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day and featuring Dr. Susan Evans, Ed.D., Research and Reference Specialist at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). Dr. Evans will present on how families can research relatives affected by the Holocaust. She will introduce participants to the Museum's Research Services, explain the process for submitting a personal inquiry, and share examples of digitized archives and case studies, including a New Hampshire community member's research journey. Attendees will gain practical insight into using resources such as the Bad Arolsen archives and other Holocaust documentation tools. This virtual event is free and open to the public. Please register in advance. Zoom Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_

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Optional: To submit a research inquiry prior to the webinar, please complete the USHMM form (one per individual) and email your case number to Dr. Evans at sevens@ushmm.org, noting your participation in the Cohen Institute event. Early submissions may allow your case to be reviewed before the program.

Sponsor: Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies • Keene State College Archives • Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

Thursday, January 29

Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Meeting

Open chapter meeting. <https://www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar/manchester-chapter-of-hadassah-1762913327>

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PJ Our Way Kids in Hanover



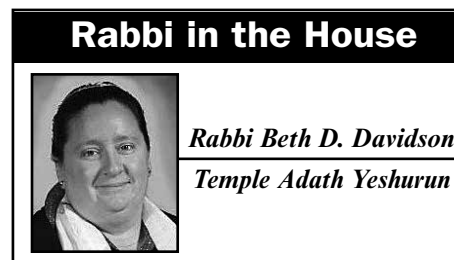
PJ Our Way kids — along with a few adventurous younger siblings — gathered at the Roth Center in Hanover for a fun-filled afternoon of book discussion and baking! Together, they chatted about The \$150,000 Rugelach, tested their trivia skills, and baked their own delicious rugelach treats. The author even sent special bookmarks for everyone! In true adventurous spirit, a few brave bakers gave “cricket cookies” a taste! This sweet event was a partnership between Shir Shalom in Woodstock, VT, Kol Ha’emek – the Upper Valley Jewish Community in Hanover, PJ Library New Hampshire, and PJ Library Vermont. We look forward to more partnership events like this in the future!



The Matriarchs and the Patriarchs

This Fall, as we read the Book of Genesis together, we are (re)introduced to the Matriarchs and the Patriarchs, the first three generations of the Jewish people. As we read their stories, I am reminded every year what a gift we have been given. Torah doesn't give us plaster saints, characters who are perfect and uncopiable. No, we are given the opportunity to learn from flawed human beings, who despite their shortcomings, have moments when they are able to exceed their limitations.

Our ancestors were complicated people, as even a brief overview reveals. While Abraham teaches us a foundational lesson on faith, he doesn't provide a positive model when it comes to how he treats most of the people in his life --- he puts Isaac on that altar, he kicks out Ishmael and Hagar, and he places Sarah at risk to save his own life. Despite



this, Sarah models the supportive spouse and lies for him, but she also displays tunnel vision, so focused on her son Isaac's inheritance that she is cruel to Ishamel and Hagar. In the second generation, Isaac provides an example of someone who just kept his head down and slogged through life, but we know very little about his personality, though he seems passive and rarely makes decisions. He allows others to act for and on him. Despite Rebecca being chosen for him, he falls in love with Rebecca,

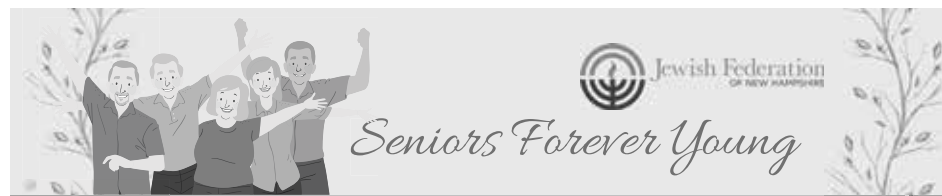
though sadly that relationship eventually withers.

Rebecca is everything Isaac is not. She had no problem speaking up, and she isn't afraid to leave her home and marry a stranger. She falls in love with Isaac in a single glance, so we know she can love, but she isn't afraid to favor one son over the other. She tricks her old, blind husband, ensuring that Jacob, her favorite, inherits the lion's share of tangible property.

In the third generation, Jacob has no issue acting to shape his life. But he always seems interested in what serves him best. He doesn't care that he cheats his brother, he manipulates his father-in-law's flocks; and he sleeps with Leah, making sure she knows that he doesn't love her, but he does like her fertility, something his beloved Rachel is not. Rachel and Leah can't really share Jacob, and they don't have a supportive

sibling relationship—they are competitive with each other for Jacob's attention, treating him like a commodity. Leah is ever hopeful that with each child Jacob will finally love her, which sadly never happens; Rachel is so assured of Jacob's love that she is willing to lie to and steal from her father to protect him.

The characters we meet in Genesis teach us valuable lessons about the human beings we want or do not want to be. Yes, human beings sometimes make good decisions and sometimes bad decisions, and we can learn from the positive and the negative. Sometimes our ancestors rose above the difficult moments, sometimes they didn't. As their stories unwind in Genesis, these people sometimes challenge us and sometimes they inspire us. We can put these lessons to use in our own lives as we try to live committed and engaged Jewish lives.



SFY Chanukah Party Tuesday, December 16th 11:30am

Please join JFNH's "Seniors Forever Young" at the JFNH office in Bedford for a special Chanukah party including games, soup, sandwiches and of course, latkes!

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

\$18/person

Registration Required by December 12th.

Call 603-627-7679 to pay by credit card, scan QR code to register online or mail payment to:



JFNH
Attention: SFY
273 S. River Rd. #5
Bedford, NH 03110



Funding in part by The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, The Ben and Zelma Dorson Fund, The Maurice Foster Fund, The Saul Sidore Fund, The Paul and Fran Gordon Fund and The Singer Family Trust Fund



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



NHC Winter Retreat: Shabbat in the Country - Dec 19-21, 2025

To begin the weekend, light Shabbat Candles and celebrate a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service as part of a warm community. Friday evening continues with dinner, and singing. Study sessions are held Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday morning.

On Saturday and Sunday, take time for spirited prayer or a walk in the woods. Study sessions allow you to learn more about familiar texts and how to apply Jewish values to issues of social justice. Learn and sing new songs, stretch your body and your mind.

Many diverse and provocative courses will be offered, ranging from "Off-color

Bible Stories" and "God Confronts Cain and Jonah" to "The Jewish Take on Peri-Menopause," "Exploring the Angel of Death," and "As he Loved His Own Soul - What Can We Learn from the David and Jonathan Story."

This is a family oriented weekend in nearby Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA, with childcare during the day for children, so parents are free to participate in study sessions. After Havdalah on Saturday night, there is a talent show and singing for all. For more information visit <https://www.havurah.org/> and click on the "regional retreats" button. Late fee will be waived for anyone responding to this invitation.

Hanukkah at Temple Israel Portsmouth: A Season of Light and Community

As the days grow shorter and the chill of winter settles over the Seacoast, Temple Israel Portsmouth is ready to brighten December with the warmth, joy, and togetherness of Hanukkah! The Festival of Lights begins this year in mid-December, and our congregation is looking forward to celebrating meaningful traditions, delicious food, and the spirit of community that makes this season so special.

Our highlight event, Latke-Palooza, will take place on Sunday, December 14 — a can't-miss celebration for all ages! Join us for an afternoon filled with the aroma of sizzling latkes, festive music, and plenty of laughter. Whether you're a fan of classic potato pancakes, enjoy trying creative toppings, or simply want to gather with old friends and meet new ones, Latke Palooza promises to be a joyful and delicious afternoon for everyone.

In addition to this signature event, Temple Israel will host daily Hanukkah candle lightings throughout the holiday season. These short yet beautiful gatherings, held in the afternoon, offer a quiet and meaningful way to mark each night of Hanukkah. As we watch the candles flicker and glow, we are reminded



of the enduring power of light, hope, and faith. All are warmly invited to attend — we simply ask that you contact the Temple office in advance so we can plan for your visit.

Hanukkah reminds us that even in the darkest times, one small flame can illuminate the world. At Temple Israel Portsmouth, we are honored to share that light — through celebration, song, and the bonds of community. We invite everyone, members and guests alike, to join us this December as we fill our hearts and our congregation with the spirit of the season.

Temple Israel Portsmouth

200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH

For more information or to RSVP for candle lightings, please contact the Temple office.



Shavua Tov Story Time

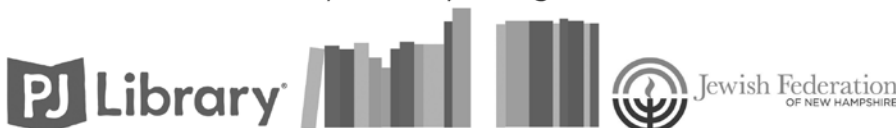
A program for families with children ages 2-5

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>.



September 21 Theme: Rosh Hashanah	February 15 Theme: Purim
October 12 Theme: Simchat Torah	March 29 Theme: Passover
November 16 Theme: Shabbat	April 19 Theme: Lag B'Omer
December 14 Theme: Chanukah	May 17 Theme: Shavuot
January 25 Theme: Tu B'Shevat	June 7 Theme: Mitzvot

No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



Visit <https://bit.ly/shavuatovNH> to register or email info@jewishnh.org with questions.

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

A gift from the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



Sign up your children ages birth through 12 years old and enjoy the gift of Jewish children's books and resources delivered to your home each month. Explore Jewish heritage and culture through PJ Library's high-quality stories about Jewish values, traditions, and heritage.

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

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

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



In the Community

Feed your Soul, Feed Your Body at Temple Israel Manchester

By Aida Koocher

Feed your soul and feed your body at Temple Israel as we welcome Kabbalat Shabbat.

The evening begins with musical Kabbalat Shabbat services led by our inspiring Rabbi Marc Philippe. Services are followed by a delicious, homemade meal lovingly prepared by volunteers who put their heart and soul into creating a wholesome menu from scratch. Come and share in our Haimish Shabbat celebration of community, spirit, and connection.

At Temple Israel, Friday night services and dinners are a beloved tradition. In the warm weather, we gather on the patio, where summer barbecues and joyful holiday celebrations (such as Tu B'Av and Sukkot) bring our community together under the open sky to welcome Shabbat. When the air turns cool, we move indoors to our cozy social hall, where the warmth of friendship fills the room.

There is fun at every stage of these gatherings. Our volunteers enjoy planning the menu and shopping for ingredients. Then comes the laughter and camaraderie in the kitchen as we prepare the meal together. Finally, we share the joy of the finished meal with everyone who comes to celebrate Shabbat. It's a bit like The Little Red Hen—but at Temple Israel, everyone joins in, and everyone gets to enjoy the results.

If you haven't yet experienced a Temple Israel Friday night Shabbat dinner, we warmly invite you to join us. Come for the beautiful melodies, the good food, and the even better company. If you'd like to be part of the volunteer kitchen crew—whether to help cook, set



up, or serve—you'll be welcomed with open arms, laughter, and plenty of delicious tastes along the way.

Mark your calendars! Upcoming Friday night Shabbat dinners at Temple Israel will take place on **December 19, January 16, Feb 13, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17.** Each evening promises wonderful food, music, and community spirit.

RSVPs are due to the Temple office by the Wednesday before each dinner so we can plan accordingly. Services are free and open to all; there is a **nominal suggested donation for dinner** to help cover the cost of ingredients and supplies.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Come and share in our Haimish Shabbat celebration of community, spirit, and connection.



Bringing Light

continued from page 1

multiplies when shared. That's the spirit behind every program we support—from PJ Library books that introduce Jewish stories to the youngest readers, to adult education series and workshops that deepen our sense of peoplehood. When a child opens a book about bravery or belonging, or when a parent finds community through one of our statewide gatherings, that's the miracle of light renewed.

Of course, the end of the calendar year is also a time to ensure that light continues to shine. Your year-end gifts make it possible for the Federation to support Jewish education, and community engagement across New Hampshire. Every

dollar helps us sustain programs that remind us we're part of something larger than ourselves. As we celebrate miracles, we also create them—together.

Looking ahead, there's even more to be excited about. Camp season is just around the corner, and for many families, Jewish summer camp is where lifelong friendships, confidence, and identity take root. The Federation's campership funds make sure that cost isn't a barrier for any first year camper who wants to experience that joy. Each Jewish child who comes home singing Hebrew songs and brimming with stories adds a little more light to our statewide Jewish story.

In a world that often feels divided or uncertain, our community's commitment to connection is itself a miracle. It's visi-

ble in the volunteers who show up, the donors who give generously, and the families who make Jewish life a priority even in the busiest seasons. It's a reminder that the Federation isn't just an organization—it's a network of people who care for one another and believe in a vibrant Jewish future in New Hampshire.

As we gather around our menorahs

this Chanukah, may each candle we light remind us of our shared purpose. May we continue to bring warmth where it's needed most, and may the sparks of generosity, learning, and compassion we kindle this season illuminate the entire year ahead.

Wishing you a bright Chanukah and a joyful start to 2026.



h Federation
EW HAMPSHIRE

Keeping you connected

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In the Community

PJ OUR WAY


We Need You

Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

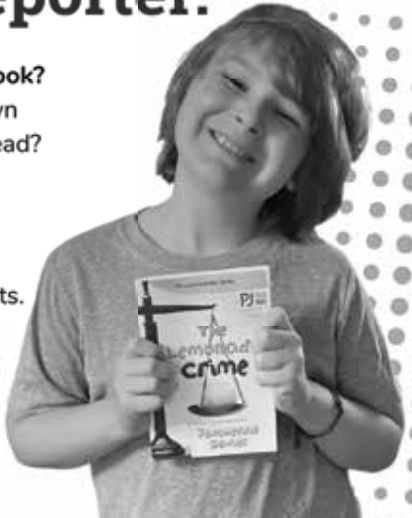
Do you have a favorite PJ Our Way book?
Something you just couldn't put down
or that you think **EVERYONE** should read?

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!

 Jewish Federation
of New Hampshire

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



The Latke Ladies are Taking Orders!

It's that time again – the Latke Ladies of Etz Hayim are now taking orders! Our large latkes are appx 4" and come 6 to a package for \$10.00 each. Please scan the QR codes below to order and pay for your latkes, or visit www.etzhayim.org and scroll down to Upcoming Happenings.

Order deadline is Thursday, December 4. All orders must be prepaid. If you would like to pay by credit card, Venmo or Paypal please scan the QR code below. Otherwise, please send your

check to Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038, marked "latkes."

Your bellies will thank you! Any questions, contact lmedrek@gmail.com.



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

Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. SENATOR

Paid for by Shaheen for Senate

**Best wishes of
health, happiness,
and peace this
holiday season!**

Happy Hanukkah!



*May you and your family
be blessed with joy, good
health, and peace.*

– Senator Maggie Hassan



www.MaggieHassan.com

PAID FOR BY MAGGIE FOR NH



PERSONALIZING THE PAST: RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORIES WITH THE USHMM

Wednesday, Jan. 28 | 5:30 - 6:45 pm

Zoom Webinar

This event, held in recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, will introduce attendees to the work that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum does to help people research family members who were affected by the Holocaust. Susan Evans, Ed.D., will present an overview of the Museum's Research Services, including background information about the Bad Arolsen archives, examples of digitized documentation, and how individual inquiries regarding victims who perished – and those who survived – are processed. She will also explain how those who wish to initiate such research can submit a personal inquiry. A case study from a community member in New Hampshire will show how this process can unfold.

This webinar is co-hosted by the Cohen Institute, the KSC Archives, and the Jewish Federation of NH. It is open to everyone, but advanced registration is requested.

To learn more and register, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/familypast>



In the Community

Winter Family Events at Etz Hayim

We welcome the cold of December and January with the warmth and joy of family time. Etz Hayim Synagogue continues its monthly family programs, including Sunday Family Camp and Friday Family Pizza Shabbat.

Our monthly Sunday Family Camp during these months will be held on Sunday, December 14 with the theme of Hanukkah, and on Sunday, January 11 to learn about Tu B'shevat. The sessions are held from 10:00 AM to Noon and are generally geared toward littles ages 4-6. We will enjoy music, art and learn Hebrew letters associated with these holidays. Please RSVP to sarahjohnplater@aol.com to ensure we have enough materials for artwork. Visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/grades-0-1 to learn more about Sunday Family Camp.



During December and January, our monthly Family Pizza Shabbat continues on Friday, December 5 and Friday, January 9, at 5:15 PM. Families will enjoy free pizza (potluck desserts,



please!), storytime with our Book Bubbe Leslie Kirshman, music with Irina Rubenshteyn, and Shabbat service led by Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. All are welcome. Please RSVP to office@etzhayim.org.



THE BEST WINES FOR CELEBRATING CHANUKAH.

We carry a variety of kosher and mevushal wines to help celebrate Chanukah - from traditional favorites to contemporary brands.

For over 90 years the New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet has been providing the community with access to high quality wines! Whether you're gifting a bottle of wine or searching for yourself your local outlet carries our complete selection of kosher and mevushal wines. Find the same great products and more at LiquorandWineOutlets.com/wine/kosher

May the coming year be healthy and prosperous!



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*Some restrictions apply. Exclusive and last chance items not included. Please drink responsibly.

In the Community

Warm Welcome for New Members at Temple Israel

By Dov Yellin

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — November 9, 2025 — Forty-nine members, prospective members, and leaders of the Temple Israel community gathered on Sunday for the annual New Member Lunch, a warm and lively event organized by the Membership Committee.

The afternoon began with welcoming remarks from committee co-chair Helen Hanan, followed by words of prayer and song from Interim Rabbi Rosalind Glazer, setting a joyful tone for the day. Attendees enjoyed a delicious kosher deli lunch catered by Larry Levine's Meats & Deli of Peabody, MA, generously sponsored by Temple Israel. For many, the authentic kosher fare was a special treat rarely found locally.

After lunch, guests took part in a friendly round of the game Four Corners, a fun way to mingle and get to know fellow congregants. The room buzzed with conversation and laughter as members discovered shared interests and life

experiences.

The event captured what Temple Israel is all about — connection, community, and warmth. The gathering drew participants from all ages and stages of life, from young professionals to retirees, with board members and committee chairs on hand to answer questions and share ways to get involved.

Several prospective members who attended have already expressed interest in joining, a testament to the welcoming spirit of the congregation.

The Membership Committee—Helen Hanan, Dov Yellin, Margie Wachtel, Rachel Burdin, Marc Hiller, and Jennie Dinnerman—plans to follow up with smaller social gatherings throughout the year to continue building connections.

For more information about Temple Israel and upcoming events, contact the Membership Committee at membership@templeisraelnh.org or the Temple office at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org / 603-436-5301 x10, or check out our website at www.templeisraelnh.org.

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Virtual Information Session:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10: 7:00

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CAMPAPALOOZA

NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH SUMMER CAMP FAIR

Beat the winter doldrums with a taste of summer camp — indoors! Meet the people who make Jewish summer camp magic happen, and learn about grants to make camp affordable.

MORE INFO SOON!

WINTER 2026
SEACOAST, NH



ACTIVITIES:

- Arts & Crafts
- Bounce House
- Camp Games
- Temporary Tattoos
- Friendship Bracelets
- and lots more!



THIS WAY TO **BFFS**.
THIS WAY TO **INDEPENDENCE**.
THIS WAY TO **TRADITION**.
THIS WAY TO AN **UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER!**

For more details, visit www.jewishnh.org/community-calendar or contact Dinah at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org.

BHC Brings Light to the Little Town of Bethlehem

Each Chanukah since 2019, members of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation have gathered in front of the Bethlehem Town Hall to light our community chanukiah. Former fire chief Jack Anderson (now retired), who is responsible for lighting the town's Christmas tree each year, made the suggestion that there should be a menorah as well as a tree, and the members of our congregation thought that was a terrific idea.

We dedicated our community chanukiah to the memory of Sue

Friedman, wife of former BHC Vice-President and Bethlehem Town Selectman Harold Friedman. A hardy bunch of BHC members and town friends brave the cold each night of Chanukah to screw in the next lightbulb and sing both traditional songs and knock-offs like "Feliz Chanukah."

Anyone who is in the area is welcome to join. We meet at 5:00 pm each evening of Chanukah (4:00 pm on Friday evening), December 14-21, in front of the Bethlehem Town Hall at 2155 Main St., Bethlehem.



Etz Hayim Synagogue Annual Giant Menorah Lighting & Shabbat Service

On Friday, December 19 at 7:15 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue will continue its annual tradition of lighting its giant outdoor electric menorah. The menorah was constructed by Jay Madnick with his son Aaron and is electronically controlled to display its festive colors for the community to enjoy. Join us for the 6th night of Chanukah and Shabbat Services, as we join in prayer and song. The community is encouraged to bring their menorahs with seven candles (including the shamash), as we light up the synagogue



bringing light to our world. Jelly donuts will be served in remembrance of the miracle of oil. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org.

CHABAD OF NEW HAMPSHIRE & SHEPLER FINANCIAL
PROUDLY PRESENTS...



CHANUKAH
at the
PALACE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025
6:30 PM

AMERICA'S MASTER MENTALIST JON STETSON
COMEDY VENTRILOQUIST MARC RUBBEN
MUSICAL CANTOR ADI ZIV

IT'S A NEW HAMPSHIRE TRADITION!
TICKETS: 13 YEARS AND UP \$18, 4-12 \$12, 3 AND UNDER ARE FREE
CALL FOR TICKETS: 603.668.5588



Wishing you a joyous
season of light surrounded
by family and friends!

Kelly A. Ayotte

Governor Kelly Ayotte

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

Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

Chanukah Book Recommendations for 2025

For the youngest readers, let's take a look at some great books for the holidays.

First up is *Banana Menorah*, written by Lee Wind and colorfully illustrated by Karl West: When a family goes on vacation during Hanukkah and forgets to bring their menorah, they get creative and make menorahs out of all kinds of interesting objects. Thinking outside of the box this will get your family thinking about different ways to make a menorah.



Another book about homemade menorahs is *Ava's Homemade Hanukkah*. Geraldine Woberg wrote this story and Julia Seal created the drawings. In Ava's family, everyone comes over to light candles and celebrate Hanukkah



with their personal menorah. All the menorahs have a story. Ava wants to create her own personal menorah. What will she come up with?

The Hanukkah Magic of Nate Gadol, written by Arthur A. Levine and illustrated by Kevin Hawkes, tells the story of a Jewish family and an Irish family who are neighbors, living through the difficult winter of 1881.



Nate Gadol (*nes gadol* - a miracle) can miraculously make something last longer than it should, like the medicine needed for the O'Malley's sick child - also, the chocolate treats for the Glaser children on Hanukkah. See how Nate Gadol makes everything work out for the best that cold winter.

Then there is *A Snowman in Jerusalem*, written by Aaron Zvy and with pictures drawn by Jeric Tan. In this book, eight-year-old Pnina is growing up in Israel.

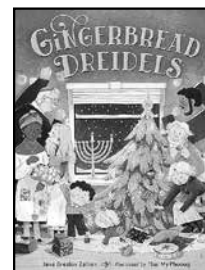
Her father grew up in Canada and talks about building snowmen as a child. Then one night the family drives to Jerusalem to see the snow. Pnina is very excited as people are out in the street watching and touching the snow. This book uses simple Hebrew vocabulary perfect for younger readers.



What to wear on Hanukkah can become a difficult dilemma and Ruthie finds a solution in *Hanukkah Pajamakkahs*. This story is written by Dara Henry, and the delightful pictures were drawn by Olga and Aleksey Ivanov. When Ruthie wants to wear the same Hanukkah outfit for all eight days of Hanukkah, she and her parents find it not so easy to keep them spotless.

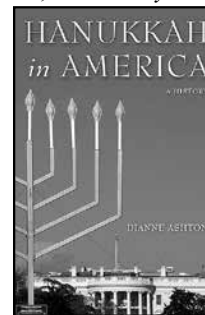


The next book I'll recommend is *Gingerbread Dreidels*, by Jane Breskin Zalben and illustrated by Thai My Phuong. This is a beautiful story about how to celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah when they overlap. Sophie and Max's family are used to celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas on separate nights. This year is different, and all the grandparents are coming together. Max and Sophie figure out how to blend the two holidays sharing both Jewish and Christian traditions together. The true beauty of the season and every holiday within that season, after all, is all about being together.



Now, here are some additional suggested family books to share, featuring short stories and details on Chanukah customs:

Hanukkah in America, a History explores the ways American Jews have reshaped Hanukkah across the country. Different states add their own local twists to the holiday celebrations. Jewish tradition in America has become a mix of



practices, resulting from being such a religious minority in the United States. Author Dianne Aston shows how we have grown the simple holiday of Hanukkah into something grand, as the Jewish festival has bloomed alongside the Christian dominated December holidays.

"Knock, knock. Who's there? Noah. Noah who? Noah a good Hannukah joke?"

- This is just one sample of what you'll find in *The Best Kids Hanukkah Jokes Ever!*, clearly the book to get if you love a funny (read: sometimes corny) joke. Along with many jokes for Hanukkah, menorahs, latkes and dreidels, there are also some jokes to cover other Jewish holidays, Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot and Rosh Hashanah. It was compiled for Highlights Publishing by Rabbi Judy Greenberg, Senior Jewish Educator at Hillel at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Sydnie Ciment, Director of Early Childhood Education, Temple Sinai. Many illustrators have also contributed their artistic work to this fun book.



Finally, I'll make one recommendation for adults in search of a Chanukah read - a romance, to be specific. Check out *The Eight Heartbreaks of Hanukkah*. This is the newest novel by Jean Meltzer, author of quite a few Jewish romance novels, and this is the newest of her collection. She has taken the genre by storm and built a wonderful following, including having captured my attention with her delightful novels. This particular book is a take on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, with Meltzer bringing eight ghosts to her workaholic protagonist, Evelyn. Evelyn is visited by eight ghosts in the time leading up to the TV special she is producing. At the same time her ex-husband has shown up to work on the show she is producing. The flame was never truly extinguished and now she and David are reconnecting... can she see the error of her ways before the end of Hanukkah, and rekindle the candles of true love?





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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Author Sharon Kurtzman to Visit New Hampshire for Holocaust Remembrance Month

Set in Vienna in 1946, *The Lost Baker of Vienna* follows Chana Rosenzweig, who, along with her mother and younger brother, is finally free after the war—but freedom comes with its own challenges. By night, Chana secretly bakes her late father's recipes while navigating a dangerous love triangle and the daily pressures of survival.

The novel explores survival, loss, love, and the far-reaching effects of war, affirming the unbreakable bonds of family and shining a light on the courage of WWII refugees.

Sharon Kurtzman will visit Keene, Manchester, and Nashua this January to share her debut novel through readings, Q&A sessions, and book signings. The book is an excellent choice for local book clubs seeking a thought-provoking discussion about history, family, and resilience.

"*The Lost Baker of Vienna* affirms the unbreakable bonds of family and the enduring strength of the human spirit," says Kurtzman.

Tour Schedule and Cosponsors:

- Keene: Thursday, January 8, evening – location to be announced shortly; cosponsored by Congregation Ahavas Achim.
- Manchester: Friday, January 9, at The Bookery, 12:30 PM; cosponsored by Temple Israel Manchester and The Bookery.
- Nashua: Saturday, January 10, Kiddush Shabbat luncheon at Temple Beth Abraham; cosponsored by Temple Beth Abraham.

Each event will highlight Holocaust re-



membrance, resilience, and the enduring power of family, welcoming both the Jewish community and the broader public to engage in meaningful conversation.

About the Author

Sharon Kurtzman pursued her dream of writing after a career in television marketing. She earned her MFA in fiction from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and an undergraduate degree from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications. Inspired by the experiences of her Holocaust-survivor family, Kurtzman's debut novel tells a moving story of survival, courage, and hope. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and two adult children.

This New Hampshire tour provides a rare opportunity to meet Sharon Kurtzman, hear her insights, and reflect on history, memory, and resilience. Stay tuned for updates on the Keene location and other event details.



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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: The Jersey Tenors Deliver 'Magical Night,' Raising Over \$24,000 for the Meredith Altrusa Club

The Inter-Lakes High School Community Auditorium was the scene of a magnificent evening on October 25, 2025, as The Jersey Tenors brought their captivating blend of music to a packed auditorium for the final "We Care" concert of 2025. The event achieved a phenomenal success, raising over \$24,000 for the Meredith Altrusa Club.

The Tenors didn't just perform - they hosted a 1970s revival, thrilling the audience with show-stopping performances and sparking energetic sing-alongs to classics from a diverse selection of iconic



artists like John Denver, Queen, Elton John, and even Frank Sinatra. Their unique approach took the music into the crowd, with the singers engaging attendees



directly and bringing fans onstage for unforgettable, shared moments.

The Meredith Altrusa Club is dedicated to making local communities better through leadership, partnership, and service. All proceeds from the We Care concert will be used to fund the club's various charitable endeavors in the Lakes Region.

"This We Care concert was truly extraordinary, both in the quality of the performance and the incredible outpouring of community support," said Stu Needleman, We Care Committee Chair. "The Jersey Tenors didn't just put on a show; they created a shared, joyful experience that directly translated into funding. We are profoundly grateful to the Tenors, the Inter-Lakes High School,



and every single person who attended, making this a rewarding night for the Meredith Altrusa Club."

We Care thanks its generous sponsors: Audi Nashua, Interlakes Family Dental, Miracle Farms Landscaping, and The Platinum Group of RE/MAX Bayside Realty and advertisers in the TBI Lakes Region Business Directory.

We Care is already planning another spectacular year, kicking off with the highly anticipated Elton John tribute band, Yellow Brick Road, on Saturday, May 23, 2026. This exciting event will directly benefit the Laconia Police Relief Association. We Care is proud to announce that Laconia High School is supporting this community effort by offering the use of their auditorium, ensuring a spectacular setting for this crucial fundraising opportunity. Tickets are on sale now at <https://tbinh.org/we-care-concerts/>.



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

By Randi Gelfman

Dear friends,

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
rsgelfman@gmail.com



December Hadassah Update

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah attended the Hadassah Walk for Women's Health at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. They joined over 170 people who were registered to walk and over \$80k was raised. It was a beautiful sunny day, energy was in the air, music played throughout the day. There was an Acapella group, the Zamer Chorus, and Klezmer entertainment. Children had fun with two clowns, and enjoyed face painting. Snacks were given out and everyone left with a swag gift. Save the date, plans for next year's walk on Sunday, October 18, 2026 have begun.

On December 6 and 7, members of the chapter will attend the Hadassah Northeast's Region Heart & Soul Retreat at Publick House Inn in Sturbridge, MA. It promises enriching experiences designed to foster self-care, inspiration, and re-

newal. It will be a wonderful opportunity to come together to connect as a Hadassah community, to nurture hearts and souls, recharge and, build resilience.

The chapter's next meeting schedule will be listed on the JFNH Community Calendar. All are welcome to attend.

Here is an opportunity to donate to HMO Pediatrics and have your pledge tripled. Now through December 31, 2025, Hadassah members can triple their impact for HMO Pediatrics! A generous anonymous donor will match up to \$1 million in new gifts for HMO's underground operating rooms, and the Rady Family Foundation will match up to \$10 million for HMO Pediatrics projects. That means new gifts designated for underground operating rooms used for Pediatrics will be tripled: a \$100 gift becomes \$300, a \$1,000 gift becomes \$3,000!

Israel's most advanced rehab center, the Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO)

Gandel Rehabilitation Center had its official inaugural ceremony on the Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus campus. It was attended by hundreds of supporters from around the globe. Among the Israeli officials and dignitaries were Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Herzog.

More than 2,000 soldiers and civilians have already regained their physical and emotional health because of the center's sophisticated facilities, advanced therapies, and compassionate and highly trained staff. Many of the center's patients came to the center after receiving life-saving care at one of Hadassah's two hospitals, Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, on whose campus the Gandel center is located, and Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, both in Jerusalem.

Recognizing Israel's acute shortage of rehabilitation beds, the HMO began construction of the Gandel center several years ago, accelerating the opening after

October 7, 2023. The first wing opened just three months after the terrorist attack, offering wounded soldiers access to the most comprehensive and advanced treatments available.

Acknowledging the significant financial contributions of Hadassah members all over the United States, Prime Minister Netanyahu quoted his father, the late historian Benzion Netanyahu, who once told him that "women can be a pivotal force. Just look at the women of Hadassah!"

Yoram Weiss, MD, Director General, Hadassah Medical Organization, said that it is due to the staff's dedication and relentless commitment that the Gandel center's patients have been able to "begin their new lives strengthened, prepared for the challenges ahead and in a spirit of victory and determination."

For additional information about Hadassah or any of the above events, please contact Michele.bank@gmail.com.

Israel Leadership Mission: A Cultural and Educational Journey

By NH Representatives James A. Spillane and Brian D. Cole

From October 25 through October 31, we participated in a week-long educational mission to Israel, coordinated by the American Friends of Judea and Samaria (AFJS). The program brought together state legislators and community leaders from across the United States for an immersive experience exploring Israel's history, culture, communities, and landscapes. The trip focused on understanding the region through guided tours, meetings with local leaders, and visits to historical and contemporary sites of significance.

Arrival and Orientation

We arrived in Jerusalem on October 25 and settled into the Inbal Hotel. The delegation gathered for an informal welcome dinner, where AFJS organizers and representatives of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs outlined the week's itinerary and the cultural and historical themes that would guide our experience.

Exploring Historic and Contemporary Communities

Over the following days, our group visited a variety of communities throughout the country. In the hill regions north and east of Jerusalem, we toured areas known for biblical narratives, archaeological research, and long-standing agricultural traditions. At several viewpoints, we learned how geography has shaped local life for millennia, from ancient trade routes to



modern-day settlement patterns.

A highlight of the agricultural portion of the trip was a visit to Tura Estate Winery, where we were introduced to the process of cultivating grapes and olives in the region's distinctive climate. We also sampled local dates grown in the Jordan Valley and heard from farmers who shared insights into their growing techniques and innovative approaches to working with the land.

At the ancient site of Shiloh, we toured excavations that preserve layers of Jewish history. A holographic reconstruction helped us visualize the appearance of a



temple believed to have stood there thousands of years ago. Throughout these visits, guides presented archaeological findings, historical interpretations, and cultural traditions connected to the area.

Jerusalem: A City of Living History

Our day in Jerusalem was especially meaningful. We visited the Temple Mount, walked through the City of David excavations, and experienced the powerful memorials at Yad Vashem. The scale of the archaeological work underway in the City of David was striking, particularly the discovery of deep ancient cisterns and underground structures.

At Yad Vashem, we spent time in the Hall of Names and learned about ongoing efforts to document the lives of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The museum's educational focus and commemorative mission left a lasting impact.

We later visited the Knesset, where Speaker MK Amir Ohana and MK Amit Halevi welcomed our group. The Speaker

invited us to observe a portion of the day's session, offering us a unique perspective on Israel's parliamentary life and the daily workings of its democratic institutions.

South to the Gaza Envelope

One of the most poignant parts of the trip was our visit to the southern communities near the Gaza border. In the town of Kfar Aza, we met with residents and members of the IDF who shared their experiences from the October 7 attacks. We were given a respectful and somber tour that focused on the human impact of the tragedy and the ways communities are rebuilding.

At the Nova Festival memorial site, we heard the firsthand story of a young survivor who recounted her escape. Her testimony emphasized both personal resilience and the need to remember those who were lost.

Cultural Heritage in the Hebron and Gush Etzion Regions

In Gush Etzion, our delegation was welcomed by local community representatives, and together we planted an olive tree—offered to us as a gesture of friendship and hope for future connection.

We then toured the archaeological site at Ancient Susiya, where excavators have uncovered a historic synagogue with preserved mosaic floors and intricate stonework. Beneath the site, we explored a network of ancient caves once used for a variety of communal purposes.

Mission continued on page 22

Recent Events

Dr. Nicole Freeman Hired as First Education Director for Holocaust Museum Boston

BOSTON – Dr. Nicole “Nikki” Freeman, of Salem, Mass., has been hired as the Education Director of Holocaust Museum Boston, which will be the first Holocaust Museum in New England and is set to open in late 2026.

Dr. Freeman’s approach to Holocaust education brings together a commitment to historical truth with empathy and reflection, honoring survivor voices, and helping young people see how the lessons of the past can guide their moral and civic choices today.

“My goals center on making Holocaust education meaningful, relevant, and accessible to learners of all ages. I want visitors and students to see the Holocaust not as distant history, but as a collection of human stories that help us understand both the past and ourselves,” Freeman says. “Our programs will connect the lessons of the Holocaust to the challenges we face to-

day, helping students recognize antisemitism, think critically, and act with empathy and moral courage. We’re committed to removing barriers so Holocaust education can reach every learner. In addition to students and teachers, we plan to engage professionals across a range of fields—including law enforcement, the military, journalism, politics, medicine, and business.”

Before joining Holocaust Museum Boston, Dr. Freeman worked in the department of the Senior Historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. and served as Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, where she played a pivotal role in developing its new Education Center, expanded educational programming, and built partnerships with schools and cultural institutions across South Florida.

A dedicated educator, she has taught



Dr. Nicole “Nikki” Freeman. Photo credit: Stephen Sedman

courses on the Holocaust, World War II, and European history at both the secondary and university levels and has led professional development workshops for teachers. She is licensed to teach history and social studies in Massachusetts.

“We are excited to welcome Nikki to our team,” says Holocaust Museum Co-founder and CEO Jody Kipnis. “Education is the Museum’s first priority, and Nikki brings exceptional expertise and passion to this role. A historian and museum educator, she transforms Holocaust scholarship into meaningful learning experiences that inspire empathy, critical thinking, and civic understanding.”

Dr. Freeman is an historian and Holocaust educator who earned a B.A. in History and Secondary Education from Salem State University, and went on to earn her Ph.D. in History from The Ohio State University.

Her research has been supported by prestigious fellowships and grants from Fulbright-Hays, Yad Vashem, the National Academy of Education/Spencer

Foundation, the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, the Auschwitz Jewish Center, and the American Jewish Archives. She has shared her scholarship widely across the United States, Europe, and Israel, contributing to international conversations on Holocaust history and education.

For Dr. Freeman, her role at Holocaust Museum Boston is more than a professional milestone; it is a homecoming. As a Massachusetts native, she has recently returned to reside in Salem and is dedicated to helping build a museum that will serve as a vital educational resource for the region while advancing Holocaust education worldwide.

About Holocaust Legacy Foundation:

Holocaust Legacy Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. The organization is dedicated to honoring and preserving the memory, lessons, and legacy of the Holocaust through educational initiatives, transformative programs, and widespread outreach. For more information, visit: www.holocaustlegacyfoundation.org.

About Holocaust Museum Boston

Opening in late 2026, Holocaust Museum Boston will be the first museum in New England solely dedicated to Holocaust education. Through immersive exhibits, survivor stories, and cutting-edge technology, the museum will honor the legacy of Holocaust victims and survivors while confronting the pressing issues of antisemitism, hate, and bigotry. Located in Boston’s historic district, the Museum, operated by the Holocaust Legacy Foundation, will serve as a place for learning, reflection, and community connection. Drawing on the city’s legacy of civic engagement, it will inspire future generations to recognize the fragility of democracy, confront hatred and intolerance, and act with moral courage.

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

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Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

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

To get involved, contact thereporter@jewishnh.org

OBITUARIES

Janet Pollack 1943 – 2025

Janet (Bekritsky) Pollack, 81, of Delray Beach, Florida, and Moultonborough, New Hampshire, passed away peacefully at her home on October 25, 2025 after fighting Parkinson's Disease.



Born on November 13, 1943, in Revere, Massachusetts, Janet was the daughter of the late Edward and Anne Bekritsky. She attended Chamberlayne College in Massachusetts and went on to have a diverse and successful career. Janet started her career as a buyer for Jordan Marsh children's clothing where her outgoing personality and fondness for fashion were combined. She then went into the jewelry business first working in Boston's jeweler's building with some of the top designers and then for Richters Jewelry in Londonderry, NH. She finished her career as the office manager in her husband Stan's insurance business.

She was a Jewish woman who loved the rich traditions it brought and she loved her family above all else. Janet was the beloved wife of Stanley Pollack, whom she married on July 8, 1990, in Peabody, Massachusetts, after Dani and Debbie convinced each of their parents to tie the knot. And while they might have technically had a blended family, the strength of their relationships and love they had for each other and their kids was all anyone could see. As a testament to her strength, her Baahston accent survived 35 years living with a New Yoahkah.

Janet was an amazing person, and all that knew her will remember her warm smile and hearty laugh. She didn't take herself too seriously and was the first to laugh at herself. In fact, she missed the early signs of Parkinson's as she chalked it up to her being a klutz. She would always ask how you were doing, and was quick to lend a hand. She loved the beach, travelling the world, and her weekends on the boat she shared with Stan at Lake Winnepesaukee. Janet and Stan even got a summer house near the lake to enjoy their retirement years. The fact that they were snowbirds made the world an even better place, since she brought her smile and warmth to twice as many people. Janet and Stan had a great time with their friends in Florida and also at the lake and they would travel from town to town on their jetskis. She would laugh every time Stan would wear his t-shirt

which on the back read "If you can read this t-shirt, then Janet must have fallen off". They would spend time sitting out on the dock and telling stories, and she would unabashedly play card games like Cards against Humanity (with their adult kids). Janet was fearless and truly enjoyed life, and their marina antics could be described if this wasn't supposed to be PG-rated.

Janet and Stan enjoyed travel and went to some amazing places. Whether it was an Alaskan cruise, a visit to family in North Carolina or a trip to Europe or Israel, Janet would make friends with people along the way. And wherever they were going, she was the fearless navigator on road trips with Stan behind the wheel. She didn't love to read a map, but she was great at pointing out the oncoming traffic or a missed exit.

She was also an adoring mother, step-mother, and grandmother, and it brought her joy to spend time with all of them. She spent a lot of time on the floor at grandkid level playing games and joking around. She loved spending time with them, but we secretly thought she was a big kid at heart. Some of the fondest memories are of Janet just being silly with her grandkids while doing a craft or walking through a park. Even though she wasn't a skier (as Stan can attest), she didn't hesitate to take the kids to their ski lessons and get out there in the cold and snow with them. And the little ones weren't the only ones with a sweet tooth. Janet will also be remembered for her recent love of sweets, especially chewy cherry candy and fudge. Even after she had a hard time chewing, she could be found enjoying tiny bits of Twizzlers.

Speaking of food, Janet loved trying new food throughout their travels and had a fondness for Mexican food. She would convince Stan to go every once in a while and enjoy an order of fajitas with a margarita. She would even drink a margarita through a straw when it was difficult for her to hold a glass (shh, don't tell her doctor). Even before her diet was restricted to blended foods, Janet preferred her food all mixed together "a little of this and a little of that" she would say, (ok, she wouldn't really say that). This is a habit that was shared with her family, especially while enjoying her brisket. For those who don't know, Janet made a mean brisket, and yes, it does taste better when you mix the brisket with mashed potatoes and carrots.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Stanley Pollack; her children, Adam Levenson (girlfriend Beth), Dani Barnes (husband Mike), and Debbie Pol-

lack DePasse (husband Greg); her cherished grandchildren, Rhiannon, Rebecca, Ben, Eddie, Paul, and Sophie; her sister, Linda Siegel (husband Alan); her niece, Kim Dooks (husband Neil); her nephew, Todd Siegel; her great-nephew, Josh Dooks (wife Ali); her great-niece, Jessica Reinstein (husband Eric); and her great-great-niece, Bonnie Lynn Dooks. Janet was predeceased by her stepdaughter, Lisa Pollack.

Family and friends are invited to attend services at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, New Hampshire on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Shiva will be held on Thursday from 5 pm - 8 pm at the DePasse Household in Londonderry.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Parkinson's Foundation at <https://www.parkinson.org/>. The Davis Funeral Home (One Lock St., Nashua) has been placed in charge of arrangements. An online guest book is available at www.davisfuneralhomenh.com. "ONE MEMORY LIGHTS ANOTHER."

Sol Rockenmacher September 13, 1938 — November 8, 2025

Sol Rockenmacher 87, of Bedford, NH passed away on November 8, 2025.

Sol was born on September 13, 1938 in Brooklyn, NY, to parents Samuel and Sadie (Berger) Rockenmacher. He grew up in Brownsville-East New York, Brooklyn, NY. He moved to Redondo Beach, CA as a teen, and earned his diploma at Redondo Union High School. Sol graduated from Dartmouth College and studied for two



years at Dartmouth Medical School. He completed his M.D. at Harvard Medical School and began a fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology at Children's Hospital in Boston. Sol spent 16 years as a pediatrician at Dover (NH) Pediatrics. After returning to Boston to complete his training as a pediatric cardiologist, first at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, then in Manchester. In his field, he published a number of articles and received numerous honors. He was particularly proud of his work expanding pediatric cardiology in New Hampshire, and establishing the Strafford Learning Center and Strafford Guidance Center in Somersworth. He treasured hearing from former patients and colleagues in his retirement.

Sol served as a pediatrician at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, MD. He was a dedicated member of Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester, where he remained involved in the Brotherhood, the New Hampshire Jewish Federation, and the minyan at Temple Israel in Manchester. He was an avid Boston sports fan. The Boston Celtics had a special place in his heart.

Sol is survived by his wife, Linda Rockenmacher; three daughters: Rachel Rockenmacher and spouse Emanuel Mederios of Medford, MA, Karen Foney and spouse Robert of Lancaster, MA, Lisa Rockenmacher and spouse Jeffrey Mather of Exeter, NH; and five grandchildren: Eliana Mather, John Foney, Ethan Mederios, Hannah Mather and Emily Foney, and many loving nieces, nephews and in-laws, and many close and long-time friends.

He is predeceased by his parents, sister Rose Mitnick and brothers Morris Rockenmacher, Robert Rocke and Joseph Rocke, and niece Anne Schlesinger Podell, with whom he grew up.



Mission

continued from page 19

In Hebron, we visited the Cave of the Patriarchs (Machpelah), a site deeply meaningful within Jewish tradition. Exhibits there explored themes of ancestry, continuity, and historical memory.

Delegation and Program Structure

The mission brought together a diverse group of legislators, journalists, and community leaders. The itinerary blended educational briefings, cultural encounters, and historical site visits intended to broaden participants' understanding of daily life in Israel and the richness of its heritage.

Personal Reflections

The week offered a multilayered view of Israel—its ancient past, its modern society, and the experiences of the people who live and work in each of the communities we visited. Walking through archaeologi-

cal sites, meeting residents, and hearing personal stories from individuals across the country brought depth and humanity to each location.

The trip provided an opportunity to learn directly from educators, historians, local officials, and community members. Their hospitality and willingness to share their experience enhanced our appreciation for the cultural and historical complexity of the region.

Conclusion

Our time in Israel was meaningful, educational, and unforgettable. We are grateful to the organizers, guides, hosts, and residents who welcomed us throughout the week. The experience offered a deeper understanding of the land's historical significance, the diversity of its communities, and the many ways in which heritage, memory, and daily life intersect across Israel today.

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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