



SUMMER CAMP



Image Credit: Jen Shish/Unsplash

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Planting the Seeds of Summer

February may feel like the heart of winter, but in Jewish life, it's already summer. This is the season when families start talking about camp, about bunks and buses, color wars and camp songs, lifelong friendships and first tastes of independence. Jewish summer camp has a unique magic: It's where joy and Jewish identity meet, where kids learn who they are while having the time of their lives.

For generations, camp has been one of the most powerful builders of Jewish connection. It's immersive, it's joyful, and it sticks. Campers come home more confident, more curious, and more rooted in Jewish community. In a world that often pulls us in a thousand directions, camp offers something increasingly rare: A place where being Jewish isn't something you explain — it's just how life works.

Erik Martin

**JFNH
Executive
Director**

Federation is deeply committed to making those experiences accessible to families across the state. Through camp scholarships and community support, we work to ensure that finances are never the reason a child misses out on a summer that could shape the rest of their life. Every camper who boards a bus or walks through a camp gate carries with them the collective investment of our community.

That spirit of shared responsibility comes into sharp focus on **Super Sunday**,

February 1st. Super Sunday is more than a fundraising event—it's a day when volunteers across New Hampshire come together to make personal connections, share stories, and ensure that Jewish life here remains strong. When you answer the phone or make a call on Super Sunday, you're helping fund camps, programs, and services that touch lives year-round.

And while we're thinking ahead, the Jewish calendar gives us plenty to look forward to. March brings the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, a chance to gather, reflect, and see our stories on the big screen. In June, we'll come together again for our Yom Ha'atzmaut Festival—a joyful celebration of Israel, community, and shared pride. These moments, like camp, remind us that Jewish *Seeds of Summer* continued on page 3

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

Rabbi 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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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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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



February 6	4:47 PM
February 13	4:57 PM
February 20	5:06 PM
February 27	5:15 PM

A Region Reborn: Reflections on Hope, Resilience, and Our Granite State Community

By Jeremy Berger, Board Chair of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

As we welcome this New Year, I find myself reflecting on the profound shift in the world around us. Two years ago, if I were sitting down to write this, my pen would have been heavy with the weight of the atrocious and inhumane terrorist attacks by Hamas. I would have been writing about a world darkened by grief. Instead, as I look toward 2026, I am writing about a region reborn. I am writing with a sense of hope that felt nearly impossible just a short time ago—a hope for a truly peaceful and stable future.

The Middle East is changing at a rapid pace. If only Yahya Sinwar could see the legacy he actually left behind: Not the destruction of Israel, but the systematic dismantling of the terror proxies he championed. From Hamas and Hezbollah to the influence of Syria, Yemen, and Iran, the "Ring of Fire" is being extinguished by its own aggression.

As of this early January, Iran itself is in flames. Massive protests have broken out across the country, but these are not the state-sanctioned rallies of the past. These are the voices of the Iranian people demanding liberation from the Ayatollah and the Islamic Theocracy. They are not protesting against Israel; they are protesting for their own future. Will we finally see the fall of the world's greatest state supporter of terrorism? Will a democracy rise from the ashes of the theocracy? Only time will tell, but the impact on Israel's security and the world's stability would be monumental.

Closer to Israel's borders, we see historic shifts. With the assistance of the United States, Israel and Syria have established a mechanism to share intelligence and seek economic ties. While not a formal peace treaty, this mutual pact is a vital step toward regional growth and trust. Meanwhile, in Lebanon, Hezbollah has been significantly weakened. While

the Lebanese Army claims to have disarmed the group, we know the truth is more complex. The IDF continues limited, surgical strikes to ensure Hezbollah's long-range capabilities remain neutralized. And in a bold strategic move, Israel's recognition of Somaliland has secured a military foothold in the Horn of Africa, ensuring safety along the critical Gulf of Aden.

Bringing Every Soul Home

This past October, our community's dreams were realized as we watched living hostages finally released from the tunnels of Gaza. This was followed by the somber, yet necessary, return of the remains of those murdered on October 7. Today, our hearts remain with the family of Ran Gvili, the last hostage still held.

Ran, a 24-year-old sergeant in the Yasam Volunteer Police unit, was a hero who left his home in Meitar to fight on that dark Tuesday despite having a broken shoulder from a motorcycle accident. He told his father, "I won't let my friends fight alone." He saved nearly 100 people at the Nova festival before falling in battle at Kibbutz Alumim. A fragile ceasefire remains in Gaza, which is now physically divided by the "yellow line"—one side managed by Israel and international partners, the other still gripped by the remnants of Hamas. We will not stop speaking his name until he is home.

A Stronger Federation for a Stronger New Hampshire

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire has never been more active. Our strength is measured by the community that shows up, and your response has been overwhelming.

- PJ Library: Our programs for young children continue to grow, fostering Jewish identity from the earliest ages in partnership with communities across the state.

create something far greater than any single program: We build belonging.

As winter slowly loosens its grip, I'm grateful for a community that's already thinking ahead to summer, to connection, and to the next generation. May we continue to invest in experiences that bring joy, deepen identity, and ensure that Jewish life in New Hampshire doesn't just endure, but thrives.

- Antisemitism Workshops: Facilitated alongside the Israeli-American Council (IAC), these workshops have been so successful that we are bringing them to Keene and Portsmouth in the coming months.
- Cultural Outreach: We were proud to host author Sharon Kurtzman for her *The Lost Baker of Vienna* tour. Her story of a Holocaust survivor rebuilding a life in post-war Vienna resonated deeply in Manchester, Nashua, and Keene.
- Mark your calendars: On Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 PM, we will host Gil Hoffman at the Seacoast Chabad Jewish Community Center. As the Executive Director of *HonestReporting* and a 20-year veteran of the Jerusalem Post, Gil will provide an insider's look at "Peace, Politics, Antisemitism, and Propaganda." This is a crucial event for anyone looking to navigate the complex media landscape surrounding Israel today.

Security and Solidarity

We must also address the shadows. Antisemitism and anti-Israel hatred have surged across the country, and New Hampshire is not immune. In recent months, our Shuls have faced bomb threats, Jewish-owned businesses have been vandalized, and Israeli flags have been torn from private lawns. We have seen fringe extremist groups attempt to intimidate our neighbors.

Please know that the Federation is working tirelessly behind the scenes. We are currently forming a Security Committee comprised of active and former law enforcement and military professionals to oversee the safety of our institutions.

For every Federation event, we conduct a full security analysis and employ professional protection when necessary. If you see or hear something, please report it to us. Your vigilance is our best defense.

Granite State Pride

If I could summarize my feelings today in one word, it is PROUD.

When a local Jewish business owner was targeted by extremist protesters on Elm Street in Manchester, we didn't just post on social media—we acted. Alongside our partners, we organized a massive show of support. Over 200 people showed up, forming a line a block long. People drove from as far as Boston to buy a sandwich, a coffee, or a gift card. The business sold out within hours. To see our community stand up so forcefully against hatred was a moment I will never forget. We owe a special thank you to Congressman Chris Pappas, Manchester Mayor Jay Ruais and Police Chief Peter Marr for their unwavering support during that week.

However, we must also confront the "Jew against Jew" hatred that surfaced during that protest. It was painful to see two or three Jewish individuals among the protesters attacking a Jewish business. As Board Chair, I want to be clear: the Federation will never remain silent while a Jew attacks another Jew. I stand firmly against the silence of certain local institutions that have failed to condemn these divisive actions.

We are a community defined by our light, not by the darkness that tries to surround us. Together, we are building a safe, vibrant, and hopeful future for every Jew in the Granite State.

Seeds of Summer

continued from page 1

life is meant to be lived together.

What connects all of this, camp, Super Sunday, film festivals, community celebrations, is people. Volunteers, donors, parents, and partners who believe that Jewish life in New Hampshire matters. When we show up for one another, we

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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.

Sunday, February 1

Support the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire on Super Sunday!

10:00 AM Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, Bedford, NH. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH) is seeking community support for its annual campaign to strengthen Jewish life and ensure the safety of the state's Jewish institutions.

What Your Gift Will Support:

- **Vital Programs:** From the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival to PJ Library, we're enriching Jewish life for all ages.
- **Holocaust Remembrance & Education:**

Partnering with local organizations to honor our past and educate future generations, including programs like L'Dough V'Dough and 6 million Steps.

- **Israel Advocacy and Solidarity:** Hosting events and discussions and organizing the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.
- **Security & Community Support:** Ensuring our community remains safe and strong in times of increasing antisemitism.

How to Help:

Donations of any size support these initiatives and help build a resilient future. You can contribute during the upcoming **Super Sunday** event or donate directly online. For more information contact Erik Martin at erik.martin@jewishnh.org.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Tu B'Shevat Seder Family Program

10:00 AM, Etz Hayim Synagogue will hold its annual Tu B'Shevat Seder all ages. We will decorate pots and plant parsley for Passover and have a "fruit" seder. All are welcome to participate in this free event! Join us to celebrate the Jewish New Year of the Trees! We are located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Contact office@etzhayim.org with questions.

Monday, February 2

Tu BiShvat: Jewish New Year for the Trees

Friday, February 6

Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Pizza Shabbat

5:30 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue will hold its monthly Family Pizza Shabbat for all generations. A free pizza dinner will be followed by an intergenerational service for everyone. There will be kids' activities while adults enjoy a sermon with Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. Bring a nosh for our potluck one! Join us to share in the mitzvah of L'Dor V'Dor, transmitting Jewish heritage and values across generations. RSVP by February 5 to office@etzhayim.org if you are joining us for pizza. We are located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH.

Thursday, February 12

Book Discussion

7:00 PM, Zoom

Zoom discussion of book

-The Anatomy of Exile; A Novel by Zeeva Bukai. Led by Dr. Nona Fienberg

For more information contact T.A.Y. Meyers at office/administrator@etzhayim.org or at 603-669-5650 or at office@taynh.org.

Etz Hayim Synagogue Presents: Scams and Identity Theft

Lee Jason Goldberg and Antonia Tello are a consumer law attorney and consumer law paralegal, respectively, at 603 Legal Aid. As scams become ever more prevalent, Lee and Antonia will discuss the most common scams and how to avoid them. They will also explain how to prevent and address identity theft. Join us to learn about this pervasive violation and betrayal of trust that are ever-present in today's world. We are located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. 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.

Sunday, February 15

Shavua Tov Story Time – Purim

8:00 AM, On Zoom

A program designed for families with children ages 2-5. 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. Email the office at info@jewishnh.org with questions.

PJ Library Chocolate Story Time

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

Family event sponsored by Temple Beth Abraham in partnership with PJ Library New Hampshire. Join us on Sunday, February 15th at 4pm. Put on your coziest pajamas, grab a favorite blanket, and get ready to snuggle in for a wintery story time and craft. Warm

up with a make-your-own cup from our allergy-friendly hot chocolate bar and learn all about Jews and chocolate with PJ Library and Temple Beth Abraham. Free event; donations welcome. Please look at your email for any weather-related update.

Sponsor: Temple Beth Abraham

Movie Club

"Albert Brooks: Defending My Life" Film Discussion

3:00 PM, On Zoom

Join Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival for a Movie Club film discussion of "Albert Brooks: Defending My Life". "Albert Brooks: Defending My Life" is a documentary directed by Rob Reiner about the comedian and filmmaker Albert Brooks. The film features interviews with Sharon Stone, Larry David, James L. Brooks, Conan O'Brien, Sarah Silverman, and Jonah Hill. Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will not be hosting a film screening; participants are invited to watch the film in advance—perhaps with a friend—on HBO or Max before joining us for a film discussion. No access to HBO Max? See options below for joining a watch party! Free event. RSVP requested. For more information contact Pat Kalik at filmfest@jewishnh.org.

Sponsor: NH Jewish Film Festival and JFNH

Thursday, February 19

"Peace, Politics, Antisemitism and Propaganda"

7:00PM, Join JFNH on February 19th at 7pm for "Peace, Politics, Antisemitism and Propaganda: An Insider's Look at the Fight for Israel on the Military and Media Battlefields - and what you can do to help. We will hear from Gil Hoffman, an Israeli-American journalist and political correspondent who serves as executive director of HonestReporting. He was previously chief political correspondent for the Jerusalem Post. Gil Hoffman is the executive director of HonestReporting.com. Previously, he served as chief political correspondent and analyst for The Jerusalem Post for nearly 25 years. Well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian leaders, he has interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum, has been interviewed by top media on six continents and is a regular analyst on CNN, Al-Jazeera and other news outlets. He was raised in Chicago, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northwestern University's School of Journalism, and wrote for the Miami Herald and Arizona Republic before moving to Israel. A reserve soldier in the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, he has lectured in every major English-speaking country in the world, more than half the Canadian provinces, and recently made history in Hawaii by becoming the first speaker to have lectured about Israel in all 50 US states. He lives with his family in Jerusalem. Free Program | Registration Requested | Donations Appreciated. Contact Jewish Federation of New Hampshire at info@jewishnh.org with questions or see our community calendar to register.



PJ Library Chocolate Story Time

Put on your coziest pajamas, grab a favorite blanket, and get ready to snuggle in for a wintery story time and craft. Warm up with a make-your-own cup from our allergy-friendly hot chocolate bar, and learn all about Jews and chocolate with PJ Library and Temple Beth Abraham.

Jewish Education Center of Nashua

Temple Beth Abraham

5 Raymond Street, Nashua

February 15, 2026 at 4:00 PM



Scan QR to RSVP
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bit.ly/TBAchocolate



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



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Gratitude, Giving, and Community

Families came together on November 22nd at Temple Beth Abraham for an afternoon of gratitude, giving, and community! From creating Kindness Bean Soup bags to building kindness kits, our youngest mensches practiced *Hakarat Hatov*—recognizing the good—and *Hoda'ah*—giving thanks for what we have. The event concluded with a shared pasta dinner and Havdalah, leaving hearts full and spirits lifted. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Nashua Food Pantry and helped make a difference!



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Highlights from JFNH's Seniors Forever Young Chanukah Party!



The Human Tree

Tu BiShvat is often called the New Year for Trees, but it is really a day about people. The Torah compares a human being to a tree, and when you stop to think about it, the comparison feels deeply accurate. A tree is not just what we see above the ground. Most of what keeps it alive is hidden its roots, spreading quietly beneath the surface, drawing nourishment and holding the tree steady through wind and storm.

People are the same way.

There are parts of us that no one sees: the values we absorbed as children, the faith that steadies us, the convictions that guide our choices even when no one is watching. Like roots, these things often go unnoticed, but they determine everything. When life shakes us, it is our roots that decide whether we bend or break.

Above the ground stands the trunk. This is the part everyone sees how we live day to day, how we speak, how we treat our families, our neighbors, and



even strangers. A tree grows slowly, ring by ring, year by year. So do we. Growth doesn't come from dramatic moments alone, but from small, consistent choices repeated over time.

And then there is fruit.

Fruit is never for the tree itself. It is meant to be enjoyed by others. In our lives, fruit is the impact we have, the kindness we show, the time we give, the seeds we plant in other people's lives. Often, we don't even realize the fruit we produce until years later, when someone tells us how much a moment, a word, or an example meant to them.

I once heard a story about an elderly man planting a tree. A passerby laughed and said, "Why bother? You'll never live to see it bear fruit." The man smiled and replied, "Others planted for me. Now I plant for those who will come after."

That, in many ways, is the essence of Tu BiShvat.

Each of us leaves a shadow in this world. Some shadows pass quickly, barely noticed. Others last for a time and then fade. But a tree casts shade steadily, offering comfort and shelter to anyone who stands beneath it morning,


noon, and evening. A meaningful life is one that consistently provides shade, nourishment, and strength to others, no matter the season.

Tu BiShvat reminds us that life is not only about being busy, successful, or accomplished. It is about growing something that lasts. Strengthening our roots. Living our values openly. And making sure that our lives bear fruit that will nourish others long after we are gone.

May this Tu BiShvat inspire us to live like the human tree rooted, growing, and giving.

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www.jewishnh.org

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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




THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

PEACE, POLITICS, ANTISEMITISM AND PROPAGANDA

A NIGHT WITH GIL HOFFMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HonestReporting




Thursday, February 19, 7pm
Seacoast Chabad Jewish Center, Newington, NH

**FREE EVENT
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ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Gil Hoffman is an Israeli-American journalist and political correspondent who serves as executive director of HonestReporting. Hoffman is the former spokesperson for the IDF and a frequent contributor to the Jerusalem Post, where he served as Chief Political Correspondent for over 20 years.

REGISTRATION:



Questions? info@jewishnh.org

In the Community

Temple B'nai Israel's Adult Education: The Ritchie Boys – The Unsung Heroes of World War II

On December 6, 2025, the Adult Education Committee at Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia hosted an illuminating presentation about “The Ritchie Boys,” a remarkable group of primarily Jewish young men who escaped Nazi-occupied Europe, found refuge in America, and then enlisted in the U.S. military to return to Europe to undertake perilous missions behind enemy lines during World War II. This event offered a rare, personal window into their courageous stories through the expertise of Aimee Gagnon Fogg, a local researcher with a profound family connection to the topic.

The Ritchie Boys used their native language skills, cultural knowledge, and intelligence training to gather critical information on the battlefield. Many had fled persecution only to return in uniform to aid the Allied effort. Their unique backgrounds allowed them to excel in interrogation, psychological warfare, and covert operations, often operating at great personal risk. Despite their significant contributions, their stories have often remained little known, overshadowed by more famous military narratives.

Fogg, the great-niece of PFC Paul M. Lavoie—a Ritchie Boy interred at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium—shared not only historical facts



but also personal insights. As the founder of the Facebook page, “They Speak: Voices of Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery,” she is dedicated to preserving the memories of the nearly 8,400 soldiers buried there through personal stories and photographs. Her work highlights the importance of remembering individual sacrifices amid the vast scope of history. Recognized with the Daughters of the American Revolution Women in American History award, Fogg fuses scholarship with heartfelt passion into her storytelling.

This presentation was a special opportunity to connect with the past through a local lens. It reminded attendees that history is composed of real people with complex journeys and profound courage. As we reflect on the contributions of the Ritchie Boys and the legacy preserved by voices like Aimee’s, we gain deeper appreciation for the resilience and sacrifices that shaped the world we live in today. Aimee has published three books, available on Amazon, telling the stories of the soldiers interred in Henri-Chapelle from New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine.

During the session, Aimee shared intimate details that brought the Ritchie Boys and their families vividly to life, connecting history with human experience. The warmth of the gathering was evident when, afterward, TBI’s Adult Education team expressed gratitude with a bottle of Israeli wine and a homemade Challah, freshly baked by Kurt



Iske. Kurt was particularly moved when during the discussion, he realized his own uncles, youthful immigrants from Germany to the US in the 1930s, might have been Ritchie Boys, a discovery and connection that felt truly beshert—meant to be.

This presentation was not only a tribute to brave young men who fought against tyranny but also a reminder of the power of storytelling to foster understanding and remembrance. To stay informed about future TBI Adult Education programs, meaningful conversations with Rabbi Andy Bachman, and upcoming services or holiday celebrations, community members and non-members alike are encouraged to subscribe via <https://tbinh.org/contact/>.

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

In the Community



Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates a Festive Chanukah Weekend

A festive Chanukah weekend was enjoyed by all at Etz Hayim Synagogue. On Erev Shabbat December 19, Jay Madnick lit his giant outdoor menorah (from his iPhone!) and led a wonderful lay service with Israeli dancing, and prayers accompanied by Stan Chamrin on guitar. Many thanks to Dunkin' Donuts on Crystal for once again providing jelly donuts for our Chanukah oneg, and to Midge Goldberg for the gluten-free Chanukah cookies, as well as Sarah Finne-Sandler for her weekly gluten-free challah.

The next evening we enjoyed a fun and fabulous Chanukah Party, chaired by Deb Eisner and Leslie Kirshman. Bob Messier cooked delicious kosher hot dogs, Jill Pelunis led us in prayer as participants lit their menorahs, and Irina Rubenshteyn engaged the children in song. Our resident Book Bubbe Leslie Kirshman read a chil-

dren's story and provided a multitude of creative carnival-style games throughout the building, while Steve Soreff managed the cookie-decorating station. Abraham Kamzan, Mike Schloss, Jay Madnick and Milt Zweig took turns operating our new popcorn machine, and Mike Schloss streamed beautiful music. Barry and Bonnie Leshin shared their ever-present culinary skills with delicious homemade chicken soup and matzo balls. A special thank you to Zayden Madnick for his vacuuming skills, particularly around the new popcorn station. And of course, latkes were provided by our in-house Latke Crew and Stan Chamrin brought his legacy prize-winning latkes to share.

An event of this nature brought all generations of our community together. *L'dor V'dor!* A happy and healthy new year to all.



Etz Hayim Synagogue Makes Latsa Latkes

Once again, the Etz Hayim Latke Ladies (and gent!) slaved over a hot stove and Cuisinarts for six hours to lovingly fill orders for their "de-latka-ble" delights. Laurie Medrek, Winter Royce-Roll and friend Siri, Debbie Eisner, Dina Chaitowitz, Jennifer Cerino and her son Santino, made a "grate" team, working

like a "well-oiled" machine to create over 400 latkes. How "latke" we are for our neighbors at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration loaning their terrific kitchen for this annual tradition. In remembrance of the miracle of oil, we say *today rabah* to all who participated. See you next year!



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Latkes & Laughter at TBI's Annual Hannukah Party

TBI members and guests stepped into the warm embrace of Laconia's Temple B'nai Israel (TBI) during their annual Hanukkah celebration, where the inviting aroma of crispy latkes and savory chicken instantly welcomed guests of all ages. This festive gathering, a harmonious blend of tradition, community, and joy, offered more than just a meal—it offered an experience filled with light, music, and meaningful connection.

The evening began with a reflection on Hanukkah's rich history and the ceremony of Havdalah, seamlessly bridging the sacred moments between Shabbat and the holiday. As the menorahs flickered to life in the hands of TBI members and attendees, gentle melodies of Hanukkah tunes filled the room, setting an atmosphere of

warmth and joy. This luminous ritual not only brightened the room but also illuminated the shared spirit of perseverance and hope intrinsic to the festival.

Adding a spark of friendly competition, Holiday Committee Programming Chair Debbi Finkelstein hosted an engaging trivia contest, rewarding correct answers with delicious chocolate gelt. Meanwhile, the culinary delights curated by Food Chairs Leslie Aronson and Linda Green-Darish truly elevated the celebration. Beyond the quintessential latkes and delicious chicken, the feast featured a vibrant salad alongside a tempting array of desserts: rich chocolate challah, flaky baklava, velvety chocolate babka, light donut holes (sufganiyot), decadent brownies, cookies, and popcorn coated in both white

and dark chocolate with crunchy peanuts. Such an abundant spread catered lovingly to diverse tastes and ages, making the evening all the more memorable.

Ultimately, TBI's Hanukkah party was a joyful tapestry woven from tradition, laughter, and communal spirit. It offered attendees a chance to savor not only deli-

cious food but also treasured moments beneath the glowing menorahs. Celebrations like these remind us of the enduring power of light—both in candle flames and in the laughter shared among friends and family—illuminating our lives with meaning and togetherness well beyond the holiday season.



Summer Camp

A Summer Camp Spark of Their Own

Happy New Year! One of my kids is parked on the couch with the latest illness, binge-watching TV. Another is eating whatever she can grab, leaving a sticky trail behind her. Somewhere in the mess is my laptop, open to the color-coded spreadsheet of summer camp deadlines and backup childcare plans. My car is stuck in the driveway, and I have a sinus infection. This is fine. We're all fine.

In these monthly articles, I've shared the ups and downs of parenting Jewishly in New Hampshire — raising three adorable, somewhat neurospicy gremlins in, well... today (*gestures broadly at the world*). My Chanukah article touched on that slightly crazed desperation, exhaustion, and powerlessness — and the spark we find in small, ridiculous, creative acts of defiance. Kids feel that tension too. We can't shield them completely, but we can give them something powerful: **the gift of stepping aside**. Permission to leave the rules of everyday life behind, to discover who they are and how to cope on their own terms, away from "real life" and the expectations of those who "know them best."

Cue Jewish summer camp — the answer to the question you didn't know you were asking — every Jewish community's Fairy Godbubble, arriving to beckon our children and cure winter doldrums with the promise of salvation, mosquitos, personal discovery, sunburns, and glitter. Camp is about embracing absurdity and contradictions—structure within chaos, freedom

From PJ Library: 10 Fantastic Books About Summer Camp: This list features books about camp for kids of all ages with a bonus parent recommendation thrown in too.



Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



within structure, Jewish values within play. Children learn leadership (*manhigut*), responsibility (*achrayut*), and independence (*atzmaut*) through bunk life, late-night songs, and shared laughter.

PJ Library and PJ Our Way get this. Camp shows up in their stories as a space

to try, fail, and discover, where leaning into the uncomfortable and chaotic is not only allowed, but essential. Recommended titles include *Camp Wonderful Wild* by Laurel Snyder, *I Love Camp* by Todd Parr, and *Sami's Sleepaway Summer* by *Summer Camp* continued on page 15

THIS WAY TO JEWISH JOY

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 Sunday, July 26
 10am-3pm

Girls



Learn s'more + RSVP!

Call 781.489.2070 or visit:
cohencamps.org/try-camp



Summer Camp

You Can Go Home Again - Redux

By Ira Kittrell, Camp Jori staff

My name is Ira, and I am a campaholic. If you aren't familiar with the term, that's fair—I just invented it. But if camp has ever stayed with you long after summer ended, you may recognize yourself in the description.

A campaholic is someone whose love of camp borders on the obsessive. Someone who thinks about camp all year, stays involved long after their time as a camper or counselor, and builds lifelong relationships rooted in the camping experience.

Jewish camp is in my blood. My par-

Home Again continued on page 15



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SUMMER 2026

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Summer Camp



Summer Camp Packing List

Hello campers and welcome to Camp _____, _____
ADJECTIVE NOUNS

We hope you're ready for a jam-packed _____ full of _____, singing
SEASON ACTIVITY
_____ songs, and making _____ friendships that will last a lifetime.
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE

To be sure you're fully prepared for camp, here are some essential items to pack in your bag. Don't worry,
we have an onsite store with _____, _____, _____ supplies, and
PLURAL NOUN TYPE OF TOILETRY ACTIVITY
much more.

Packing List:

Two bottles of _____
LIQUID

SPF _____ sunscreen
NUMBER

Five pairs of _____
ITEM OF CLOTHING

_____ shirts
NUMBER

Five pairs of _____
DIFFERENT ITEM OF CLOTHING

_____ to sleep in
TYPE OF CLOTHING

Towel for _____
SPORT

Extra _____ for writing letters home
PLURAL NOUN

_____ for _____
PLURAL NOUN ACTIVITY

_____ sanitizer
BODY PART

Shampoo and _____
NOUN

_____ for sharing
PLURAL NOUN

Sheets and _____
NOUN

**Please remember to wear _____ attire while at camp. Be sure to avoid any _____
ADJECTIVE ADJECTIVE

_____ or clothing with _____ messages while at camp.
ADJECTIVE TYPE OF CLOTHING ADJECTIVE

Please do NOT bring your _____ or _____ or any other pet to camp on
ANIMAL ANIMAL
opening or closing days. We do have camp _____ on the property.
ANIMALS

Can't wait to _____ you later this year!
VERB

To learn more about PJ Library and sign up for
free Jewish storybooks, visit pjlibrary.org



In the Community

Etz Hayim Synagogue: Family Pizza Shabbat

Etz Hayim Synagogue in Derry will hold its monthly Family Pizza Shabbat for all generations. A free pizza dinner will be followed by an intergenerational service for everyone. There will be kids' activities while adults enjoy a sermon with Rabbi Jonathan Biatch.

The Pizza Shabbat has been bringing families together since 2023, and throughout that time has been generously sponsored by an anonymous donor who notes that the earlier Shabbat time should incorporate not only family dinner but community time as well. This special time unites our youth and elders



and everyone in between. Our youngest enthusiastically gather for storytime with our Book Bubbe Leslie Kirshman, and all enjoy the wisdom of Rabbi Biatch and the musical talents of our Religious



School Director Irina Rubenshteyn.

Join us to share in the mitzvah of *L'Dor V'Dor*, transmitting Jewish heritage and values across generations, and bring a potluck nosh to share for oneg!



RSVP by February 5 to office@etzhayim.org if you are joining us for pizza. We are located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org.

Home Again

continued from page 13

ents met at a Jewish overnight camp. I attended day camp as early as they would let me, then overnight camp from age eight through my teen years, working as a counselor and specialist in canoeing, rafting, and Israeli dance. As an adult, I directed a Jewish day camp for children with special needs. When my own children were old enough, I returned to overnight camping as Assistant Director, Program Director, and Recruitment Coordinator at Camp JORI in beautiful Wakefield, Rhode Island.

Why Camp JORI? I loved everything about it. The campus spans 75 acres surrounded by conservation land on the largest lake in Rhode Island. It includes a state-of-the-art, air-conditioned theater; the largest kosher kitchen in southern New England housed in a 400-seat dining hall; two pools; arts and crafts;

sports; ropes courses; and so much more.

But what truly sold me was Camp JORI's philosophy and history. Founded as the summer "trip" program for the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island (yes, we still call our sessions "trips"), Camp JORI has always believed that every child should be able to attend Jewish overnight camp—regardless of financial circumstances or individual needs. That belief allows us to maintain an accessible price point for families while offering significant scholarship support for those in need. At Camp JORI, inclusion isn't a slogan. It's a way of life. Brothers in the bunk. Sisters for the summer.

My children grew up at camp. My therapy dog lived with me there. My wife became the go-to person whenever we needed a last-minute supply run for evening programming. We lived and breathed camp year-round. Over time, life pulled me in other directions, and I stepped away from the camping world.

So why am I back?

I'm back because I believe deeply in Camp JORI's mission and guiding principle: TaCEO—Take Care of Each Other. It runs through everything we do, from programming to counselor training to daily camper life. It's not just something we say—it's something we practice every day.

I'm back because Camp JORI is where tradition meets innovation. Camp songs, cheers, Olympics, Israel Day, campfires, sock wrestling, and candy call exist alongside rock climbing, low ropes, leadership programs, and immersive Jewish culture experiences. Our historic roots blend seamlessly with our modern facili-

ties and forward-thinking programs.

Most of all, I'm back because Jewish overnight camp matters. Jewish camp builds and strengthens connection to Jewish identity and community in a way that nothing else can. It is the place where the counselor who teaches you to take a jump shot just led the Motzi at lunch, and the one who taught you to make a friendship bracelet ran the Shuk on Israel Day.

This campaholic is back, and I'd love to welcome your child to Camp JORI for a summer of magic and a lifetime of memories. If you'd like to learn more or schedule a tour, please reach out to us at info@campjori.com. TaCEO!

Summer Camp

continued from page 11

Jenny Meyerhoff. Middle schoolers can enjoy *OyOMG* by Amy Fellner Dominy, *Chunky Goes To Camp* by Yehudi Mercado, *The Sun Will Come Out* by Joanne Levy or *13 and 3/4* by Lisa Greenwald.

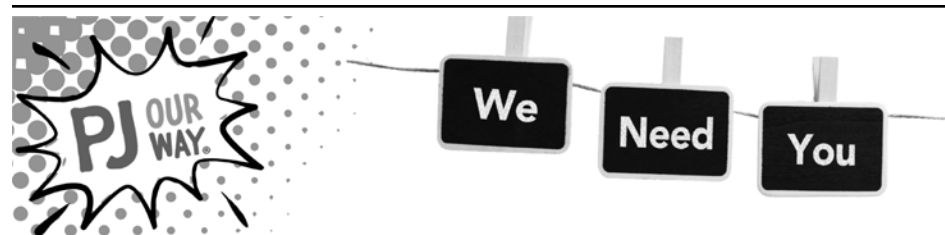
For younger children, the gift can start small: Backyard "play camp" or a week at Grandparents Camp. Some camps offer Family Camp, trial weeks, or sleep-over weekends so kids can test camp life without committing to a full session. It's a chance to practice bravery, chaos, and independence.

Of course, there's parental panic: "How will I ever afford this?" Add to that all the forms, deadlines, and lice checks, but... (*deep breath*) it's worth it. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire can

help—browse camp options through our community directory and apply for a campership grant through jewishcamp.org. Learn more at jewishnh.org/camp.

This year, Kira heads to her second year at Camp Moshava, Cayden will do a combination of camps including a trip with his grandparents, and Rayna will hopefully take long naps during her week of Grandparents Camp. I relinquish worry and responsibility, trusting they'll come home a little stronger, braver, and more themselves—having kindled their own spark through the gift I gave them. Space to explore, experiment, process, and cope.

We'll be fine.



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?

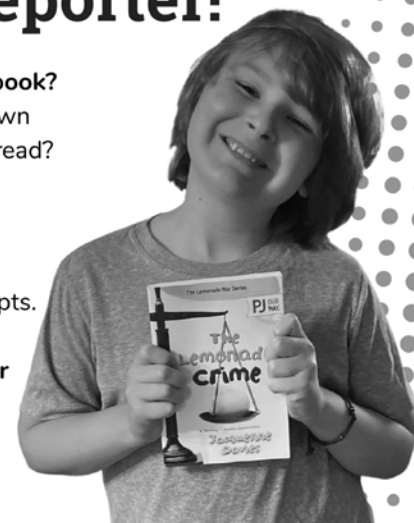
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Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

A Complete Fiction by R.L. Maizes

R.L. Maizes has written another book, and this one is even better than her other terrific novels and short stories, like *Other People's Pets* and *We Love Anderson Cooper*. In her newest novel, *A Complete Fiction*, Maizes brings us into the world of publishing, also into the life and mind of the writer.



I could not help wondering throughout the novel if this scenario has ever really happened to an author, or if it is a problem that worries writers when they send in a script to a publishing house. In a quite entertaining way, Maizes also

covers the very serious subject of the #MeToo movement: Talking about sexual abuse and how it affects the victim and also, by extension, the family of the abused. The subject is the topic that propels the plot forward, with two authors writing a story of someone being abused in the workplace. Each story portrays a different type of victim and response to the sexual abuse, but there is one theme that is the same in both novels – the viewpoint of the attacker.

The book follows R.J. Larkin, who has written a novel based on her sister's personal experience. She has made the rounds of publishers but has not been accepted for print, and she finds out that George Dunn, who read her manuscript, has written a similar book—so she accuses him of plagiarism on social media. The internet blows up with opinions

both for and against each author in a back and forth that threatens to unravel each person's life and their book deals.

The book examines the subject of #MeToo and ponders who has the right to tell someone's story. How far should an author go to have their work published? It is something to wonder about when you read a book – is this story autobiographical? Have the names and circumstances been altered enough for anonymity? Then there is the world of publishing, from how much of an advance publishers offer, to what the legal ramifications are about plagiarism accusations, much less making sure the facts are correct if accusations are made. At the end of this fast-paced, entertaining novel, know that authors, friends and family all come out having learned incredible lessons.

Maizes's humor pieces have appeared in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *The New York Times*, *The Belladonna*, *Electric Literature* and elsewhere. Her debut novel, *Other People's Pets* (Celadon Books, Macmillan), won the 2021 Colorado Book Award in Fiction and was a Library Journal Best Debut of Summer/Fall 2020. She's also the author of the short story collection *We Love Anderson Cooper* (Celadon Books).

Her story, "The Infidelity of Judah Maccabee," aired on National Public Radio, and she received a 2024-2025 fellowship grant from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture for her novel-in-progress, *Beanie*.

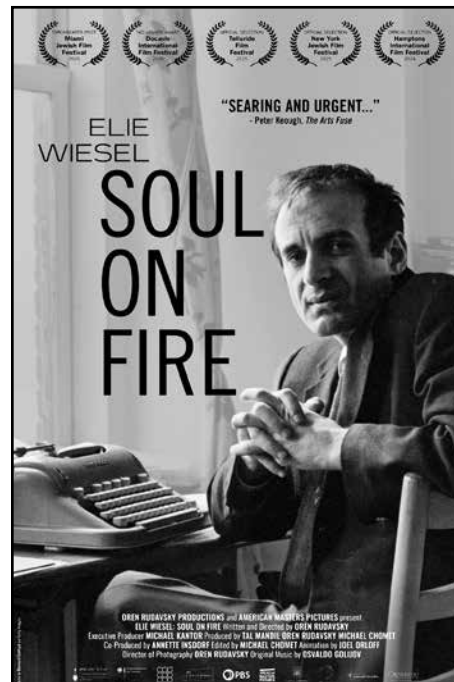
A native of Queens, New York, she now lives in Boulder County, Colorado, with her husband, Steve, and her dog Rosie.

Opening & Closing Night Events of the 18th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

The New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival will return on Sunday, March 15th for its 18th year of providing the best films in Jewish and Israeli cinema for Granite Staters. Full details about the Festival will be included in the March edition of *The Reporter*, but in the meantime, we are excited to announce our opening and closing night films.

On Sunday, March 15 at 7 PM at The Rex Theatre on Amherst Street in Manchester, we will screen the documentary *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*. A new release, the film details the life of acclaimed au-



thor, academic, and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. Born to a Jewish family in Romania in 1928, Wiesel spent over a year in Auschwitz until it was liberated in April 1945. Eventually, he was reunited with two of his three sisters in a French orphanage. His parents and his sister Tzipora did not survive.

Following a decade in France, where he began many of his writing projects,



Wiesel made his way to the United States and married Marion Rose, who translated many of his works. His novels, predominantly nonfiction about the Holocaust and World War II, earned critical acclaim worldwide, as did his lectures and courses at Boston University. If you'd like to learn more about Wiesel, whether you've read any of his works or not, this deeply touching examination of his life is an excellent way to kick off our Festival.

Prior to the screening, there will be a ticketed reception at the Singer Center for the Arts, just a few doors down from The Rex, at 5:00 PM. Come celebrate the start of our 18th year! Tickets for the reception will be \$18 and include hors d'oeuvres and wine. Ticketing for the 7 PM film is separate and costs \$14.

We will close our Festival once again at Red River Theatres in Concord on

Sunday, March 29 at 3:30 PM. The Israeli film *The Ring* will be screened and followed by our Festival Wrap Party. A ticket for the film will also give you access to the Wrap Party and costs \$18.

The story of a religious man who has a strong bond to his mother, a Holocaust survivor, *The Ring* details protagonist Arnon Noble's travels to his mother's native Budapest to search for a mythological ring that supposedly saved her life in the past. He turns for help to his estranged daughter and offers for her to go on this journey together. A heartwarming "dramedy" about three generations and the family history that reconnects them, it is based on writer/director Adir Miller's Holocaust survival story.

Films will be announced on February 1 and tickets can be purchased starting February 15. In the meantime, we hope you will consider joining us for one or both of these events!



Movie Club Event – Albert Brooks: Defending My Life

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee

If you're looking for some good movies ahead of the 18th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival in March, the Movie Club has a great opportunity for you later this month! On Sunday, February 15 at 3 PM, we will have a Zoom discussion about the documentary *Albert Brooks: Defending My Life*. Now available to stream on HBO Max, it is part of a package of films available to subscribers in remembrance of director Rob Reiner and his wife Michele Singer Reiner, who died by homicide in December.

Released in 2023, the film traces Albert Brooks from his childhood as the son of a comedian and an actress through his comedic and directorial successes, all the way to finding love and starting a family later in life. Directed by Reiner, who sits down with Brooks for a good chunk of the film, the 88-minute piece is tight and detailed, revealing aspects of Brooks' life that are likely lesser known.

Reiner and Brooks attended Beverly Hills High School together and were close friends for over 60 years, which adds a special layer to their amicable conversations over cheesecake as the camera rolls. Watching the two of them has both an endearing and fun vibe, as well as a palpably melancholic one. It makes you want to join them at the table even as you realize that Reiner is no longer with us after his life was cut tragically short.

What stands out about this documentary is the way its subject delves so deeply into his personal life. At times, we've seen similar features that mostly trace the career of the subject at hand. While this one does a great deal of examining Brooks' early career and unconventional comic chops, his turn to writing and directing, and his extensive voiceovers, it focuses quite evenly on the man himself. Revelations about his comic father, his family name of Einstein (and the weight of being named Albert), his family's deep ties to showbusiness, and finding love with his wife Kimberly in his 50s enhance the narrative greatly. Brooks himself appears very kindhearted and likeable, which is also not always how documentary subjects come off, even when their portrayal is sympathetic.

Ahead of the February 15 conversation, folks will be able to watch this film on their own time or with a group of friends via HBO, the HBO Max app, or another streaming service where it is available to rent. The Zoom discussion

will, as usual, be very open-ended and last about 45 minutes to an hour.

You can sign up in the flyer attached to

this edition of *The Reporter*, via the Federation's e-blasts, or by calling the Federation office. The cost is free, but dona-

tions toward the Film Festival are encouraged and appreciated. See you at the "virtual" movies!



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

NEW HAMPSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MOVIE CLUB

ALBERT BROOKS: DEFENDING MY LIFE

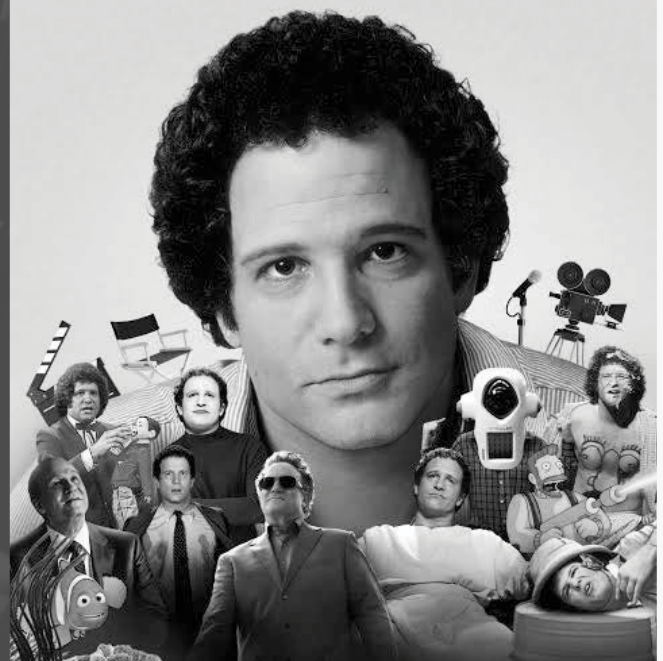
Film Discussion
via Zoom Only

SUNDAY
FEB 15, 2026
3PM

A documentary directed by Rob Reiner about the comedian and filmmaker Albert Brooks. The film features interviews with Sharon Stone, Larry David, James L. Brooks, Conan O'Brien, Sarah Silverman, and Jonah Hill.

There will be no in-person screening; participants are invited to watch the film in advance—perhaps with a friend—on HBO or Max before joining us for a film discussion.

ALBERT BROOKS DEFENDING MY LIFE



603-627-7679



<https://bit.ly/NHMovieClubFeb2026>



filmfest@jewishnh.org



Sharon Kurtzman Brings The Lost Baker of Vienna to Communities Across New Hampshire

This January, communities across New Hampshire gathered for a meaningful and memorable series of programs featuring author Sharon Kurtzman, celebrating the release of her debut historical novel, *The Lost Baker of Vienna*. Over the course of three days, Sharon visited Toadstool Bookshop in Keene, The Bookery in Manchester, and Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, where a Kiddush luncheon was hosted in her honor. At each stop, audiences came together not only to learn about a book, but to engage deeply with history, memory, and storytelling.

Throughout the tour, Sharon grounded her presentation in her own life as the child of a Holocaust survivor. She spoke movingly about growing up with fragments of her mother's story—glimpses shared sparingly, often without context—and how those partial memories lingered with her for decades. That experience, she explained, ultimately shaped both her journey as a writer and her desire to explore what came after survival for Jewish families like her own.

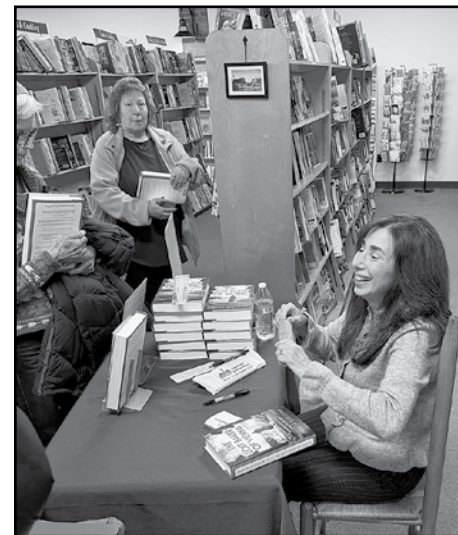
From that personal foundation, Sharon expanded outward to the historical heart of *The Lost Baker of Vienna*. Set in the immediate aftermath of World War II, the novel focuses on Jewish refugees navigating life in Displaced Persons camps across Europe. Sharon provided audiences with essential historical context, highlighting a lesser-known chapter of Jewish history marked by uncertainty, danger, and resilience. Many attendees were

struck by her reflection that liberation did not signal the end of hardship, but instead the beginning of a new and complicated struggle to rebuild lives in a shattered world.

These themes carried into the question-and-answer portion of each program. Audience members engaged Sharon in thoughtful conversation about her research process, the emotional responsibility of writing fiction rooted in lived trauma, and the challenges of balancing historical accuracy with storytelling. Each presentation concluded with book signings and photographs, creating space for personal connections and continued dialogue beyond the formal program.

The success of this three-stop tour was made possible through the partnership and support of many dedicated community organizations. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire extends sincere thanks to Congregation Ahavas Achim, Temple Israel Manchester, Temple Adath Yeshurun, and Temple Beth Abraham for co-sponsoring this program and helping bring it to communities across the state.

We are also deeply grateful to our venue partners, Toadstool Bookshop in Keene, The Bookery in Manchester, and Temple Beth Abraham, for welcoming us so warmly and creating spaces that fostered reflection, dialogue, and connection. The Kiddush luncheon hosted by Temple Beth Abraham offered a particularly meaningful opportunity to honor Sharon's visit while gathering together in community.



Finally, we extend our deepest thanks to Debbie Berger, whose thoughtful planning and careful execution ensured the success of this multi-location program. From coordinating logistics to nurturing partnerships, her work behind the scenes made it possible for these events to run seamlessly and reach diverse audiences

across New Hampshire.

Above all, we thank Sharon Kurtzman for sharing her story, her work, and her time so generously. Her visit served as a powerful reminder of the enduring importance of storytelling—to preserve memory, illuminate history, and bring communities together in meaningful ways.

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American Jewish Music Multimedia Presentation in Nashua

On Sunday, February 22nd, Temple Beth Abraham welcomes Hal Slifer for a lively interactive musical journey celebrating the Jewish musical soundtrack of our lives. The program begins at noon with a light lunch followed by Slifer's presentation. Slifer is the radio host of Chagigah, which airs Sunday mornings from 7 to 10 on WERS, 88.9 FM.

This enjoyable 60 minute multimedia presentation features 15 unforgettable songs by Jewish singers and composers - from Al Jolson to Debbie Friedman and Leonard Cohen—brought to life with rare videos, fascinating backstories, and plenty of audience participation. Laugh, sing, and reminisce as we proudly explore the rich musical heritage that is our

American Jewish Music.

This event is sponsored by the Alan Green Restricted Fund, formed in honor of Alan Green Z"L, which supports programs related to Jewish music, gardening or interfaith work. In addition to his many roles as a respected physician and mohel, Alan was a talented musician who played the clarinet and saxophone. He was also a founding member of the Raymond Street Klezmer Band and always enjoyed opportunities to share his love of music with others.

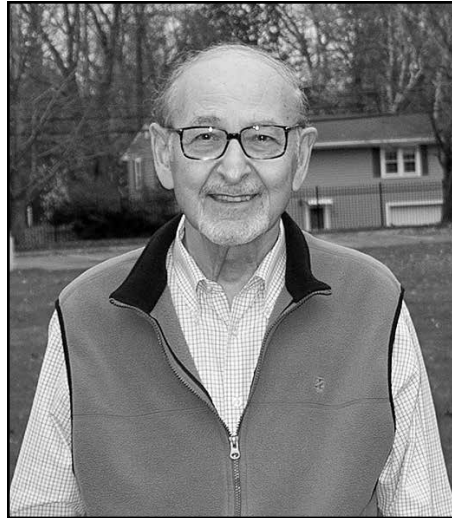
Registration is required. Donations are appreciated. Temple Beth Abraham is located at 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/44d9f9yc>



Mitzvah Volunteers serve Manchester community

Temple Adath Yeshurun volunteers continued their Brotherhood's annual tradition of delivering food to local police and fire stations on Christmas Day and staffing the information desk at Elliot Hospital on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. About three dozen people carried out this community service known as the Christmas Mitzvah (good deed) in honor of the program's longtime chair, Dr. Sol Rockenmacher, who passed away Nov. 8, 2025. Sol, and his wife, Linda, led the program for many years.

Mitvah Volunteers continued on page 20



Sol Rockenmacher



HOLIDAY SPIRIT – Margot, Quinn and Todd Kramer delivered a deli platter and rolls to Manchester Fire Headquarters Station 1 at 100 Merrimack St. in Manchester on Christmas Day. They participated in the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood's Christmas Mitzvah, an annual tradition for more than 40 years. Photo courtesy of TAY Brotherhood.



DELIVERY CREW – Maxine Mosley, left, and D.G. Krasner delivered holiday meals to local police and fire stations on Christmas Day as part of the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood's Christmas Mitzvah program. Photo courtesy of TAY Brotherhood.



CHRISTMAS MITZVAH – From left, Simon Ratino, Rabbi Beth Davidson, Alix Ratino, Nicole Leapley, and TAY President Eric Ratino, participated in Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood's Christmas Mitzvah program. Volunteer drivers from the synagogue brought food to local police and fire stations on Christmas Day. Attached to the food platters is a note: "Happy Holidays from your friends in the Jewish community. Thank you for all you do!" Photo courtesy of TAY Brotherhood.



GOOD DEED – Volunteering at Elliot Hospital on Christmas Day as part of Temple Adath Yeshurun's Christmas Mitzvah are from left, seated, Reva Rovner and Bob Katchen, and standing, Dave Katchen and Judith Jolton. Volunteers from the Jewish community relieved regular hospital staff of information desk duties so they could enjoy the holiday on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Photo courtesy of TAY Brotherhood.



HOSPITAL HELPERS – Temple Adath Yeshurun Christmas Mitzvah volunteers, from left, Gail Ellis, Ed Schoen, Ruth Kleinfeld, and Judith Jolton relieved regular staff of information desk duties at the Elliot Hospital so they could enjoy the holiday on Christmas Day. Photo courtesy of Brotherhood.

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 kid-



ney 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

Don't know whom to turn to?

JFNH can help.

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

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



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

All calls and assistance are confidential.



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mitzvah Volunteers

continued from page 19

This year, the Mitzvah volunteers also brought pies and cookies on Christmas Day for veterans living in the Commu-



FOOD PLATTER – Manchester Firefighter Cole Lodi, left, and Lt. Kevin Holdredge accept a food delivery at Manchester Fire Station 10 from Ruth Kleinfeld, who helped with the Temple Adath Yeshurun Brotherhood Christmas Mitzvah. Volunteer drivers from the synagogue brought food to local police and fire stations on Christmas Day. Attached to the food platters is a note: "Happy Holidays from your friends in the Jewish community. Thank you for all you do!" Photo courtesy of TAY Brotherhood.

nity Living Center at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Manchester. Participating in this year's Mitzvah were Rabbi Beth Davidson and Cliff Lopate, Temple Adath Yeshurun President Eric Ratinoff and Nicole Leapley, Simon and Alix Ratinoff, Jake and Jonah Berry, D.G. Krasner, Maxine Mosley, Ruth Kleinfeld, Rick and Annette Kurman, Hazel Ali, Norm and Andrea Kushner, Mark Bilech, David and Lisa Schechtman, Marty Warshaw, Todd Kramer, Elliot Berry and Campbell Harvey, Jerry Ellner, Shawn Ellner, Alan and Ellie Rudnick, Dick Lutsk, Bob Katchen, Dave Katchen, Reva Rovner, Judith Jolton, Ed Schoen and Gail Ellis, Debra Garlin, Denis and Marsha Paiste, and Alan and Ellie Rudnick.

The Temple Adath Yeshurun Christmas Mitzvah Program, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, organized by the TAY Brotherhood, has been in existence now for over 40 years. It is a fine example of how members of our Manchester Jewish community have been giving back to their non-Jewish neighbors, with enthusiasm, feeling, and caring.

Temple Adath Yeshurun is a Reform Jewish congregation serving Manchester and surrounding communities. Brotherhood is the men's social and service organization that provides Jewish programming as well as community service events for adults and children.



Relationships are our greatest strength against threats to community safety

By Mark Atlee, Communal Security Initiative at Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Recent years have presented the Jewish community, locally here in New Hampshire and globally, with acute and unprecedented challenges. Notably, incidents of antisemitism are on the rise, along with fear for personal and communal safety. Throughout this shift, relationship-building has proven one of our most valuable strengths in developing layers of protection against these threats.

Greater Boston's Federation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), established its Communal Security Initiative (CSI) in 2016 and has grown to provide security guidance and expertise to 275 Jewish organizations in Greater Boston. In 2025, CSI expanded within New England to support 100 additional partner organizations in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont—including the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH).

Throughout our years of collaboration, we've woven a strong social fabric to wrap around one another, proactively protecting ourselves and equipping our community to respond to emerging needs. We've held training sessions, visited synagogues and universities, and established collaborative working relationships with interfaith allies and law enforcement in municipalities across the Granite State.

Beside their geographic proximity, the New Hampshire and Massachusetts Jewish communities have much in common. Members of the Greater Boston Jewish community are increasingly moving into suburban communities, some in New Hampshire. The state is also home to several large Jewish summer camps, which are places many within CJP's catchment area are fond of. Our strategy, in partnership with JFNH, has been developed to address the unique demographics of our shared region.

A critical component of CSI's support

work involves providing and supporting the acquirement of grant funding for improved physical security. In fact, last year CSI awarded a total of \$1 million in CJP security grants and helped more than 50 organizations access over \$3.3 million in state and federal security grants.

CSI also focuses on four mutually reinforcing communal security pillars known as PACT: Physical security infrastructure, Access to consultations and incident response support, Cyber threat preparedness and response, and Training to help partners balance being open and welcoming with creating a safe and secure environment.

When incidents arise, we are equipped to respond. In September 2025, we were notified of a shooting at Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua during which witnesses reported the shooter shouting "Free Palestine." Because of our proactive relationship-building efforts and experience collaborating on prior incidents, we were immediately in contact

with Nashua law enforcement to stay updated on the situation as they investigated. Our partnership relied on each other heavily to share timely, accurate, and clear communications to those we serve. It was later determined there was not an additional threat to the Jewish community.

Meanwhile, we've conducted Countering Active Threat Trainings in New Hampshire and neighboring Vermont and Maine, provided cybersecurity workshops, and continued establishing the relationships critical to our success.

Through 2027, our services are available to CJP's expanded service area at no cost through the Jewish Federation of North America's LiveSecure grant program. Together, we can support a thriving Jewish community and inspire a relationship-driven culture to enhance safety for all.

To access support and explore training offerings, visit <https://ma.cjp.org/communal-security-initiative>.

Recent Events

February 2026 Hadassah Update

By Michele Bank

Within an hour of the Bondi Beach ambush in Sydney, Australia, trauma experts at the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), the Jerusalem hospital system owned by Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA), made the following statement:

"Our hearts are with all who gathered to celebrate Hanukkah at Bondi Beach and with the entire Jewish community of Australia as we mourn yet another devastating terrorist attack targeting Jews. We grieve the murder of 11 innocent lives and extend our deepest condolences to their families. We also pray for the full recovery of all who were wounded. May the memories of the victims be a blessing."

HMO held a briefing for Australian physicians and mental health professionals. Among the most important information the Israeli doctors shared were the lessons they had learned when treating more than 1,000 victims of the October

7, 2023, Hamas attack.

Even in the months prior to the attack, the HMO team has been providing training in trauma care to members of the Forum of Jewish Therapists in Australia, a professional network created in response to the country's rising number of antisemitic incidents. The Israeli physicians have advised the Forum's members on disaster preparedness, early intervention and developing a community-wide trauma response.

Amichai Ben Ari, MD, an HMO rehabilitation psychologist specializing in acute trauma, led the session, focusing on crisis intervention for victims and their families, support for first responders and medical professionals, and strategies to address the broader community impact. Dr. Ben Ari and his colleagues shared detailed written protocols, including guidelines for community therapists that focus on the importance of quickly identifying people who need urgent psychological care.

Dr. Ben Ari held another briefing on

Monday, this one for roughly 100 Australian family physicians who are helping the community cope with the shock of the attack, the loss of life, and the visible and invisible injuries.

Hadassah International, the global fundraising arm of Hadassah, The HWZOA, and Hadassah Australia, have played a critical role in coordinating the briefings. "The staff of the HMO stands with people of goodwill around the world all of whom are deeply shaken by this murderous assault," said Yoram Weiss, MD, chief executive of the hospital system. "Our trauma experts are at the disposal of Australia's Jewish community and the clinicians caring for its members just as they have been since antisemitic attacks began multiplying in Australia."

"Our hearts go out to the victims and their families and to Australia's entire Jewish community," said Carol Ann Schwartz, national president of Hadassah, The HWZOA. "We are horrified by the attack's brutality and inspired to see our doctors sharing their expertise with colleagues in

Australia who are working to help their community deal with this tragedy."

Other examples of Hadassah answering the call include: Hurricane Melissa when a pediatric emergency team joined a delegation to Jamaica organized by the Israeli Ministry of Health; burn unit members were part of a crisis response delegation to provide medical assistance to burn victims in North Macedonia; in 2025, the Hadassah Foundation achieved an 80 per cent increase in grantmaking over the last three years to advance gender equity in the US and Israel.

Hadassah's mission is: 'We believe that each of us has the power to heal the world. For us, that means bringing healing – in every sense of the word – where it is needed most, in the US, Israel and around the globe'. Hadassah stands firmly against all forms of violence and hate and in unwavering solidarity with Jewish communities everywhere.

For Hadassah information or to donate, go to Hadassah.org or email at Michele.Bank@gmail.com.



JFNH Tributes

Received by January 10, 2026

Allyson Guertin PJ Library Fund

Mark Berch in honor of Dinah Berch.

Rebecca & Aaron Goldberg in honor of Dinah & Joshua Berch and family

Robert Brinbaum in honor of Asher Lapis and brother.

Gail Ellis in honor of her grandchildren Emma, Meredith, Colin and Madigan.

Tamar Caceres in honor of John Caceres on your 21st birthday.

Evellyn Schumacker in honor of her grandfather Wilton Martins.

Campaign

Stephen and Lillian Singer in honor of Harry Shepler

Film Festival

Gail Herman in honor of Pat Kalik

Gail Herman in honor of Ross Fishbein

Kushner-Tumen Family Children's Fund

Andrea and Norm Kushner in memory of Fran Short's brother, John Collins

Andrea and Norm Kushner in memory of their friend Michael Bornstein

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.

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

JFNH Tribute Cards: A Double Mitzvah

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

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

All tributes will be listed in The Reporter.

Amount of Contribution:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$18 ☐ \$36 ☐ Other \$_____

Designated to the following fund:

- ☐ Annual Campaign
- ☐ Friends of the Reporter
- ☐ NH Jewish Film Festival
- ☐ PJ Library
- ☐ Senior Programs
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Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH
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Jewish Federation
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SUPER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

10AM - 4PM

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

Your generous support helps Jewish Federation to provide:

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

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