



SUMMER FUN

Meet Guy Ben David – New Hampshire's New Shaliach!

In just a few weeks, Ra'anana will set off on his next journey, and New Hampshire will prepare to welcome our newest Shaliach: Guy Ben David. Read some fun facts about Guy below and join us at the JFNH Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 13th for your first chance to welcome him to New Hampshire!

Q: Where in Israel do you live?

Guy: I live in a small village near Jerusalem, called Anatot. Beautiful place with great views and brooks around.

Q: What will people find most surprising about you?

Guy: My first time in the US was only four years ago.

Q: What is your favorite Israeli food?

Guy: Definitely Koobeh, but not just any Koobeh – my grandma's. Koobeh is a meatball surrounded by soft semolina, inside a delicious soup.

Q: What is your favorite Israeli song? American song?



Guy: Israeli – שוב הדיסקו כאן - which means "the disco is here again", pronounced "Shuv Hadisco Kan." American – Movin' Out by Billy Joel.

Q: What are you most excited to see/do/visit/eat/explore/experience in New Hampshire?

Guy: I can't wait to take a long hike in the White Mountains. I've seen just a bit

of it, and I want to explore all of it. Also, I really want to visit all the diners in New Hampshire, I just love the concept and the food. I'm into kayaking too, so I want to experience some kayaking over here.

Q: What do you most want people to know (or understand) about Israel?

Guy: That it's completely different from what you see in the media. It's not a crazy-chaotic place. People just live their life, and we like to have fun all the time. It's the best place in the world to hang out with amazing people.

Q: What do you feel you can teach us (New Hampshire Jews) about Israel?

Guy: Israel, beyond its big cities, has also a beautiful countryside. Amazing views, lakes, brooks, springs, and country roads (not as nice as West Virginia though). That fact reminds me a lot of New Hampshire: a small place with so many nice views, away from city life. There are a lot of amazing Jewish com-

munities in the countryside, and it's always fun to hang out there and see how they live.

Q: What do you hope to learn from our community?

Guy: I'd like to learn a different aspect of Judaism. To see different customs, traditions, and services. Also, I'd love to learn how Israel looks from the eyes of an outside viewer. I believe it can teach me a lot about my country.

Q: What parts of Israel do you most want to share with children?

Guy: The 1st place – the holiest city in the world and the place I grew up in – Jerusalem! It has a feeling that you can't find anywhere else in the world. You can find amazing food, lots of history, beautiful areas to walk through, really nice people and fun activities for everyone. The 2nd place – the lowest place in the world – The Dead Sea! A small lake, super salty, in the

Guy Ben David continued on page 3

What's Inside

Federation Voices	3
Calendar	4
Your Federation at Work	7
In The Community	12
Arts & Entertainment	19
Book Review	19
Film Review	20
Kids' Corner Coloring Page	21
Jewish Journeys	22
Israel News and Events	24
Recent Events	25
Tributes	26
Business & Professional Services	27
jewishnh.org	

Farewell, New Hampshire!

Ra'anana de Haas

JFNH Shaliach



beginning was tough – people were still coming out of Covid, and it was hard to get to know people over Zoom but slowly, we got to know each other. Just last month I got to spend the afternoon with 150 of you at our

Farewell continued on page 4



CONGREGATIONS

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

AMHERST

CONGREGATION BETENU

Dena Glasgow (Rabbinic Intern)
5 Northern Blvd., Unit 1, Amherst
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 886-1633
www.betenu.org

Services: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services at 7:30 PM

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum
39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(603) 869-5465
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
davegoldstone1@gmail.com
Services: Contact for Date/Time Info
President Dave Goldstone - (516) 592-1462
or Eileen Regen - (603) 823-7711
Weekly Services: July through Simchat
Torah Friday: 6:30 PM; Saturday: 10 AM

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

Rabbi Robin Nafshi
67 Broadway, Concord
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 228-8581
www.tbjconcord.org
office@tbjconcord.org
Services: Friday night - 7 PM
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Peter Levy
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM, Sat 9:30 AM
followed by Torah Study
Family Service Fridays 6:30 PM (2nd Fri of
Month)
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar
for optional Zoom link.

DURHAM

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

Rabbi Berel Slavaticki
72-1 Main Street, Durham
(603) 205-6598
Rabbi@JewishSeacoast.com
www.JewishSeacoast.com

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

Rabbi Moshe Gray
19 Allen Street, Hanover
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 643-9821
www.dartmouthchabad.com
chabad@dartmouth.edu

Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services
and Dinner
Shabbat morning services
Call for times

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Mark Melamut
Roth Center for Jewish Life
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover
Nondenominational, Unaffiliated
(603) 646-0460
www.uvjc.org
office@uvjc.org
Services: Friday night Shabbat service at
6 PM
Saturday morning Shabbat service at
10 AM

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Reconstructionist, Affiliated JRF
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org
office@keenesynagogue.org
Services: Regular Friday night services at
7 PM
Weekly Shabbat Torah study at 9:30AM.
Shabbat morning services on the 2nd
Saturday of each month at 9:30AM.
Meditation and Pirkei Avot study on the
4th Saturday of each month at 10:30AM.
All services are in-person and online.
Check the website for schedule changes
and Zoom links.

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Jan Katz
210 Court Street, Laconia
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 524-7044
www.tbinh.org
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

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

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan 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 Kaya Stern-Kaufman
200 State Street, Portsmouth
Conservative, Affiliated USCJ
(603) 436-5301
www.templeisraelnh.org
templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org
Services: Friday, 6:00 PM
Saturday, 9:30 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed
M-F preschool.

The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter

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Tammuz-Av 5783

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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)

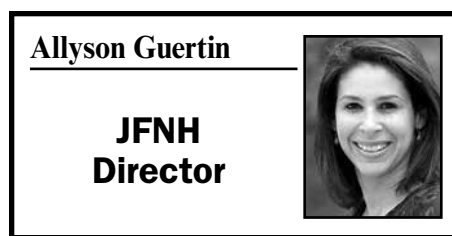


July 7	8:08 PM
July 14	8:05 PM
July 21	7:59 PM
July 28	7:53 PM

Embracing the Summer Hustle: A Season of Transition and Growth in the JFNH Office

For many, summer typically ushers in a season of tranquility. For the JFNH office, meanwhile, the summer months are always abuzz with activity. As we gear up for another exciting year ahead, I wanted to share with you some highlights of what lies on the horizon at Jewish Federation of New Hampshire!

Welcoming our New Shaliach: It is with great excitement that we await the arrival of our new shaliach Guy Ben David to the New Hampshire community. The shaliach (emissary) serves as a bridge between our local community and Israel, bringing a wealth of cultural, educational, and communal experiences. Their role encompasses fostering connections, promoting dialogue, and



Allyson Guertin

**JFNH
Director**

enhancing our understanding of cultural society. We are excited to introduce Guy, who will undoubtedly enrich our community and foster even stronger ties between New Hampshire and Israel. Guy brings with him a fresh perspective and his own unique skills. He will be arriving at the beginning of August so if you would like to host him for a meal during his first few weeks here, please

reach out to Allyson at allyson.guertin@jewishnh.org about scheduling.

In-Person Annual Meeting: After three years of virtual gatherings, I am thrilled to announce that our upcoming annual meeting will be held in person with a virtual option! This long-awaited event is an opportunity for us to come to reconnect, reflect on our accomplishments, and discuss our vision for the future. Together we will celebrate the Shem Tov winners, meet our new Shaliach for the first time, and vote in our incoming Board of Directors.

A Fresh Fiscal Year: As we step into a new year, I invite you to join us in embracing the energy and momentum that lies before us. Your support to the

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire allows us to create a thriving community where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered. Your active participation and support is instrumental in shaping the future of our Jewish community.

In the spirit of a fresh beginning, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of our new shaliach, the joy of gathering in person at our annual meeting, and the limitless possibilities that await us in the new fiscal year. We embark on this new journey with optimism and a renewed commitment to our shared values.

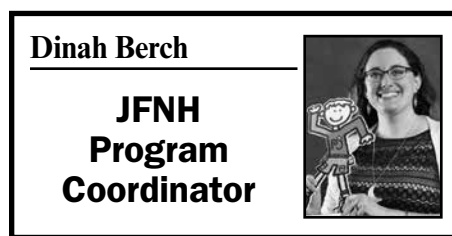
Thank you for being an essential part of our vibrant New Hampshire Jewish community.

Summer Mensch Training

When I was a little girl, I convinced my elementary school principal to let me sing “Shalom, Chaverim” over the intercom on the last day of school. I loved the word “*l’hitraot*” – not goodbye, but “until we see each other again.” It seemed like magic back then – a wish, a promise. This sentiment eased the bittersweetness and confusion I always felt on the last day of school, excitement for summer blending with anticipation of missing my school friends. I didn’t know, but I had identified the Jewish value of *dibuk chaverim*. *Dibuk chaverim* means “bonding with friends” or “being a good friend,” and I was honoring this value by promising that I would remember my friends over the summer and keep in touch.

I’ve been on a bit of a Jewish Values journey this month, inspired by the PJ Library International Conference in May. I’ve never intentionally tried to imbue our family activities with Jewish values. I hadn’t thought of using summer fun to help my kids become mensches (now, of course, the “You Can Be A Mensch” song by Lisa Litman starts playing in my head).

What’s Jewish about summer anyway? Turns out, quite a bit. PJ Library has wonderful books about practicing Jewish values and how to be a mensch. Check out *Estie the Mensch* by Jane Kohuth, or *Do Unto Otters* by Laurie Keller. For older kids there’s *How to be a Mensch* by Catherine Newman. Summer is the perfect time to practice many Jewish values. Kids excel at *dybuk chaverim*, *re’ut* (friendship) and *b’yachad* (inclusion). They see other children at the playground



Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**

of roughly the same height and they are instant best friends. They don’t even know each other’s names.

Summer is often when we make time to see and value our family – *mishpacha*. My family loves a good water balloon fight – we treat each other with *kavod*, respect, while developing our sense of *hakarat hatov*, recognizing the good. Of course, on those days that are too hot to play outside, *shalom bayit* or peace in the home is a bit of a challenge. Even with the PJ Library playlists on Spotify or the PJ Library podcasts (we recommend Beyond the Bookcase!). Maybe this summer we’ll finally use our deck of PJ Library Kindness Cards for “Menscharades” – pantomiming an act of kindness from the cards while cousins try to guess. The cards can also be used to play Mighty Mensch (a twist on “Old Maid”) or, for younger kids, Mensch Match (memory).

My kids are always asking if we can have people over for dinner now that it’s warm enough for bonfires and outdoor dinners. That’s *hachnasat orchim* – welcoming guests. Tending a community garden or cleaning up trash at a beach is an act of *shmirat ha’adama* – taking care of the earth. Holding a lemonade stand to raise money for charity is *tzedakah*. Setting up a box with water bottles and

snacks for delivery people is an act of loving kindness – *gemilut chasadim*. I’m a big fan of random acts of kindness. Hiding dollar bills among grocery produce. Putting smiley stickers in weird places, just because. Chalking sidewalks with rainbows and hearts. Leaving bags of snacks and small toys on friends’ doorsteps without a note (my kids call this “fairy-ing” people).

But this Jewish value might be my personal favorite: try different ice cream flavors throughout the summer and you’re practicing *ta’am hachayim* – appreciating life’s many flavors!

I stumbled across this great PJ Library “Summer Fun Checklist” created by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington that encourages Jewish values through summer activities. As I plan summer Popsicles in the Playground events and other meetups and story times, I’m starting to note how low barrier programs that didn’t feel Jewish at all

express values that are very Jewish. I feel a little like I just tricked my kids into eating spinach. Am I secretly stuffing normal, everyday activities with Jewish values? Or were these values there all along and I’m just noticing and learning the labels? If running the bubble machine and encouraging my kids to give away free ice pops to anyone who looks hot can be considered Jewish, then I’m rocking this Jewish parenting thing! My kids will be mensches by fall. “Presto! Change-O! You Can Be a Mensch!”

Here’s to a summer of fun, mensch training, and (un)intentionally practicing Jewish values. I hope to see you at an upcoming event, and reach out if you have ideas!

*Listen to PJ Library
Playlists on Spotify*



*Summer Fun Checklist
from PJ Library*



Guy Ben David
continued from page 1

middle of the desert, that you can come to even in the coldest day of the year and have a nice hot day. At night, the weather is chilly and the water is warm, so it’s a great place to stay for the night and watch the stars with zero light pollution! As for the 3rd place – the city that never sleeps – Tel Aviv! A colorful city with so many things to do. You can go to the beach, travel in the city’s most special streets, go to great coffee shops, or just sit and chill at Yarkon Park.

Q: What will you miss most from home?

Guy: I’ll miss my whole family and my friends. Although we’ll be in touch, I’ll miss hanging out with them in person. I’ll miss Jerusalem, the place that has been my home for 26 years. And most importantly – I’ll miss Israeli root beer. The best drink in the world!

Q: What special items are you bringing with you that you can’t leave behind in Israel?

Guy: I’m bringing all four of my guitars with me. It’s just impossible to leave them behind. Hopefully I’ll find the time to play some Israeli masterpieces for everyone!

Statewide Calendar of Events

DISCLAIMER: Events are submitted weeks in advance of publication, and are subject to change. For information on format changes, rescheduling, and so on, please contact the event's host.

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

Thursday, July 6

White Mountain Jewish Film Festival – Armageddon Time

6:00PM – 9:00PM, Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem
Cost \$10/PP

The 2023 White Mountain Jewish Film Festival returns to the Colonial Theatre this summer for five more films focusing on the Jewish experience in America, Israel and throughout the world. Filmgoers can again enjoy the magic of watching great theatrical presentations on the big screen of Bethlehem's historic Colonial Theatre, one of the oldest continuously operating movie theatres in the country. As always, your ticket includes our festival's famous patio parties beginning at 9PM with complimentary refreshments and an assortment of beverages. At 6:30PM the evening's guest speaker will introduce the film and then stay for a Q&A as the houselights go on at the end of each film.

Movie Time – All Films: Box office opens: 5:30PM/
Patio opens: 6:00PM/ Guest Speaker: 6:30PM/
Film: 7:00PM.

Tickets are sold at the door or purchased online.
General Admission: \$10/ BHC and JFNH Members:
\$9/ Season Pass (5 Films): \$40

Armageddon Time– An exquisitely detailed and deeply emotional etching of a time and place: Queens, 1980. Set against the backdrop of a country on the cusp of ominous sociopolitical change. **Armageddon Time** follows Paul Graff (Banks Repeta), a sixth grader who dreams of becoming an artist. At the same time that Paul builds a friendship with classmate Johnny (Jaylin Webb), who's mercilessly targeted by their racist teacher, he finds himself increasingly at odds with his parents (Jeremy Strong and Anne Hathaway), for whom financial success and assimilation are key to the family's Jewish-American identity.

Guest Speaker: Rick Winston

Patio Host: Nancy and Geoff Fages

To register online: <https://www.catamountarts.org/show/details/armageddon-time/>

Sunday, July 9

Welcome Brunch for Rabbi Marc and Valerie

11:00AM – 1:00PM, Temple Israel, Manchester
Please join Temple Israel Manchester for a brunch to welcome their new rabbi Marc and his wife Valerie to their Temple Israel community. Contact Christine Dame 603-622-6171 or office@templeisraelmht.org

Friday, July 14

Sounds in the Sanctuary

5:00PM – 7:00PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem
Cost \$25

Presenting our 10th Season of outstanding performances by nationally and internationally

acclaimed artists.

Tickets: \$20 BHC Members, \$25 General Admission; Season Pass: BHC Members \$60, \$75 General Admission Available at the door. Program details and information: <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/concert-series-2023>

Sunday, July 16

Marimba Concert

10:00AM – 11:00AM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Instructor Tchukki Anderson will present a marimba concert with her students in the Temple Israel Social Hall. <http://www.templeisraelnh.org> or contact Heather Tomlinson at 603-436-5301

Popsicles in the Playground

10:30AM, Early Learning Center playground at Temple Israel, Portsmouth
PJ Library is teaming up with the Early Learning Center for a morning of fun on the playground! We invite families with children ages 2-5 (siblings welcome) to meet other families with Preschool aged children and cool down with a popsicle treat during Popsicles at the Playground! Join us for activities, fun and of course a popsicle snack! Free program, registration required; in-person only. Email PJ Library Coordinator Dinah Berch at [dinah.berch@jewishnh.org](mailto:berch@jewishnh.org) with questions. Register online: <https://bit.ly/pjplaygroundpopsicles>

Thursday, July 20

White Mountain Jewish Film Festival – Plan A

6:00PM – 9:00PM Colonial Theatre, Bethlehem
Cost \$10

The 2023 White Mountain Jewish Film Festival returns to the Colonial Theatre this summer for five more films focusing on the Jewish experience in America, Israel and throughout the world. Filmgoers can again enjoy the magic of watching great theatrical presentations on the big screen of Bethlehem's historic Colonial Theatre, one of the oldest continuously operating movie theatres in the country. As always, your ticket includes our festival's famous patio parties beginning at 6:00PM with complimentary refreshments and an assortment of beverages. At 6:30PM the evening's guest speaker will introduce the film and then stay for a Q&A as the houselights go on at the end of each film.

Movie Time – All Films: Box Office Opens: 5:30PM/
Patio Opens 6:00PM/ Guest Speaker 6:30PM/ Film 7:00PM.

Tickets are sold at the door or purchased online.
General Admission: \$10 / BHC and JFNH Members
\$9/ Season Pass (5 Films): \$40

Plan A -1945, A group of Jewish holocaust survivors planned to poison the water system in Germany. The film tells of the dangerous and bold secret operation which was called Plan A.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kate DeConinck

Patio Host: Mark Mendelsohn and Jesse Knapp
To register online: <https://www.catamountarts.org/show/details/plan-a/>

Friday, July 21

Seacoast Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Service

6:30PM – 7:30PM, Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth
Please Join Temple Israel at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth for three summer outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat services led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Bring a dairy/pareve/vegetarian picnic dinner and your own lawn chair. Services will be live streamed on the Temple Israel Facebook page. In case of inclement weather, services will be held in the sanctuary and accessible via the usual Zoom link. Summer dates June 30, July 21, August 18, 2023, templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org

Saturday, July 22

PJ Library Tot Shabbat Hop

10:00AM – 11:00AM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
PJ Library's JBaby and Early Education Initiative invite families with children 0-5 years (siblings welcome) to celebrate Shabbat morning together. Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush. Contact Dinah at Dinah.berch@jewishnh.org or 603-627-7679 with questions. Registration required <https://bit.ly/totshabbattip>

Sunday, July 23

Museum Visit to Ogunquit, Maine with Temple Israel Portsmouth

12:00PM – 3:00PM

Join congregants and members of Temple Israel's Arts Review Team for a summer outing to the Barn Gallery in Ogunquit, Maine. Let's walk, eat a picnic lunch together, and review the works on display! This event will take place rain or shine. Bring a picnic lunch and a chair. Parking is available on site or attendees can meet a Temple Israel, Portsmouth, and carpool. Please contact the temple office to indicate an interest in carpooling. Heather Tomlinson at 603-436-5301 or templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org

Popsicles in the Playground

10:30AM, Concord, NH

PJ Library NH invites families with children ages 2-5 (siblings welcome) to meet other families with Preschool aged children and cool down with a popsicle treat during Popsicles at the Playground! For security purposes the park location will only be shared with those who are registered. Register online: Register online: <https://bit.ly/pjplaygroundpopsicles>. An email will be sent to registered families on Thursday, July 20th (check your junk mail if you do not receive an email). Email dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions. See you there!

Monday, July 24

JFNH Book Club: Bari Weiss's How to Fight Anti-Semitism

11:00AM -- 1:00PM, JFNH Community Room, Bedford

Farewell, New Hampshire

continued from page 1

amazing Yom Ha'atzmaut event: that number wouldn't have been possible two years ago! I got to meet hundreds of new friends who will always have a place in my heart.

With my transition back home my role is shifting, I am no longer the Israeli Emissary to New Hampshire but the New

Please join us for a discussion of Bari Weiss's book *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*. The first 24 People to register will receive a free copy of the book, available for pick up at the JFNH Office. Bari Weiss's book can be purchased on Amazon using this link <https://www.amazon.com/how-to-fight-anti-semitism-bari-weiss/dp/0593136055> The book club discussion will be held at the JFNH office in our community room and will include coffee and pastries.

This will be a free event. Please register at <https://bit.ly/BariWeissBook>

Wednesday, July 26

Temple Israel Tisha b'Av Gathering

8:00PM – 9:00PM, Temple Israel, Portsmouth
Please join Temple Israel Portsmouth for a Tisha b'Av Gathering in the Temple Israel Courtyard (or indoors in case of rain). At Tisha b'Av, we recall the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, and we grieve for the many losses endured by the Jewish people throughout the ages. The destruction of the Temple also represents a rupture between God and the people and between the people and one another. Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman will lead us in songs, chants, and readings, including traditional chanting from the book of Lamentations as we acknowledge both ancient and contemporary "destructions." Please register through the temple website to receive updates. <https://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/tisha-bav-service2.html> Bring a flashlight or cellphone and a blanket or chair to sit on.

Friday, July 28

Sounds in the Sanctuary

Cost \$25

5:00PM – 7:00PM, Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation, Bethlehem

Presenting our 10th Season of outstanding performances by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

Tickets: \$20 BHC Members, \$25 General Admission; Season Pass: \$60 BHC Members, \$75 General Admission available at the door. Program details and information: <https://www.bethlehemsynagogue.org/concert-series-2023>

Hampshire Emissary to Israel, sharing with everyone I meet this small, hidden gem in the US.

In Hebrew, there isn't really a word for "Goodbye." Israelis either say, "LeHi-traot," meaning "see you later" or "shalom," which more often means "hello" and "peace." So, on that note — this isn't a goodbye, this is definitely a "see you later," because you now all have a new friend in Israel.



JFNH Board Spotlight: Board Member of the Month

Meet Jay Madnick from Derry, New Hampshire.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Everett, Massachusetts. My family attended a medium-size conservative synagogue. I joined AZA (Bnai Brith) as a teen and that's how I met my wife, Rhonda. She's from Winthrop, and I met her when my brother asked me to give a few of the girls a ride to a dance. Shortly after, we started dating and got married after college. We eventually moved to Derry and have been here 36 years. We have two boys, Aaron and Daniel. We also have a wonderful daughter-in-law, Samantha, Dan's wife, and two grandchildren, Zayden (four) and Ari (two). We love to travel and have been to the Caribbean, parts of Europe, and Israel. We were founders of Etz Hayim in Derry.

Why did you join the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire Board of Directors?

I think the JFNH does a great job promoting Jewish life in NH. I feel each one of us has an obligation to help and to



lead, so I've been taking my turn and doing my best to help.

What committee(s) do you currently volunteer on?

I'm the board secretary and chair of Super Sunday.

What do you love most about JFNH?

The friends we've made and the cultural programs JFNH brings to New Hampshire.

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- ☐ Learn a new Hebrew word or phrase
- ☐ Plan a Get Together with friends
- ☐ Support a local business
- ☐ Plant something
- ☐ Unplug and rest
- ☐ Take an Imagination Vacation
- ☐ Plan a family volunteer day
- ☐ Make a tambouritza to play Ladino music
- ☐ Help recover something that was lost



- ☐ Recommend a book to a friend

- ☐ Make something yummy together
- ☐ Look at the stars tonight
- ☐ Have a dance party



- ☐ Have a Shabbat picnic

- ☐ Plan a roadtrip (or a trip down the street)
- ☐ Go outside and play

- ☐ Write a note or make a call to someone you haven't seen in awhile



- ☐ Go to the library and try to fill out your Reading Bingo card
- ☐ Try Havdalah
- ☐ Take a trip to the beach



- ☐ Create something special

- ☐ Talk about what you're feeling thankful for
- ☐ Get outside
- ☐ Make a meal for someone else
- ☐ Do something nice for your neighborhood
- ☐ Share a cool treat with a friend
- ☐ Smell sweet spices for Havdalah
- ☐ Make hummus and share it with a friend or neighbor
- ☐ Plan a Friday game night with friends

PJ Library Family of the Month: Meet the Corrados!

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

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

Meet the Corrado Family, our PJ Library – New Hampshire Family of the Month.

A little about the Corrado family:

Mike and Sasha married in an inter-faith ceremony in 2018 after a few years of dating. They are both mental health workers who love cooking and being active. Sasha was raised Jewish and has a strong tie to her Jewish heritage and culture. Mike was raised Catholic and has a strong connection to his faith. Mike and Sasha are raising two cats and a wonderful toddler named Julianna. They all love to spend time with their families and believe in upholding the traditions of both of their families' backgrounds.

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

We learned about PJ library from social media and signed up to start receiving library books in 2021 when Sasha was pregnant with Julianna. We've since learned about how much PJ has to offer!

What is your experience with PJ Li-

brary? How has this program (books and events) impacted your family?

Julianna loves receiving her PJ library books and we have been enjoying playgroups and crafts/story times. We have also benefitted from Get Togethers which have really encouraged us to be creative in celebrating holidays in ways that are engaging for children and getting our friends and family who are not Jewish involved. What a great way to connect our little one to her culture.

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

We are glad to have resources to support Julianna in connecting to her Jewishness and celebrating that part of her culture with her friends and family. We know that this will contribute to her feeling pride in her heritage and connection to her family's traditions as she gets older.

What is your child's favorite PJ book?

Julianna has loved *My First Kind Words* by Naomi Shulman since she received it in infancy. She asks to read it all the time!

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

We have all loved hosting Get Togethers at our house. Our Purim costume party was a big hit.

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

PJ Library allows you to feel connected to the Jewish community at whatever level of involvement feels most comfortable for you.

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

While we were waiting for the children in our family to be old enough to find the Afikomen at Passover, the adults have developed quite the competition, coming up with excellent hiding places and sending the whole family out on a high-stakes scavenger hunt.



A gift from the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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

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

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

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Ages 9 through 11
pjourway.org

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Jewish Federation
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Momentum 2023: Trip of a Lifetime

By Beth Lieberman

12 New Hampshire moms journeyed together to Israel this spring, in the Jewish Federation's second Momentum contingent. We came from various towns throughout Southern and Seacoast New Hampshire. Although some of us knew a few others, most of us began this journey as friends yet-to-meet. We received advice from the Federation's first Momentum contingent as we prepared to travel, before discovering for ourselves what makes Momentum so special.

Momentum is a movement that has brought over 20,000 women to experience Jewish sisterhood, build connections in Israel, and renew their own ways of practicing Judaism. Our local group included Jewish mothers and mothers of Jewish children in interfaith families. The timing of our trip coincided with Israel's 75th anniversary of nationhood on Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day), making us even more aware of our "once in a lifetime" experience.

We met the entire Momentum April/May group in Tel Aviv, joining 150 enthusiastic women from the United States and Canada—and another 150 Spanish-speaking Jewish women from around the world. When we all came together for meals and to hear speakers, dancing often broke out! For New Hampshire residents so accustomed to being religious minorities in our communities, this unity inspired great joy.

Momentum's leaders build "unity without uniformity." Our tour group included women from across the religious spectrum, Reform to Conservative to Modern Orthodox, as well as Israeli women recently retired from the Israel Defense Force (IDF), who are known as the Poreshet. During our week together, we supported each other without judgment



over differences of observance. We sat together in a synagogue in Tsfat, danced in the streets of Tel Aviv, and welcomed the Shabbat at the Western Wall — each of us as mothers in a Jewish family.

Our schedule interwove speakers highlighting Jewish values with sightseeing and opportunities for reflection. We began in sunny Tel Aviv, where we observed Yom Hazikaron, the day of remembrance for fallen Israeli soldiers and victims of terrorism. We heard the two memorial sirens, on the evening and morning of the holiday, that wail all over the country. I watched from a balcony above Allenby Street, awed as all traffic — cars, buses, mopeds, bikes, and pedestrians — stopped and stood silently for two minutes in tribute. Our Momentum group visited the Palmach Museum to learn about young fighters who banded together to help Israel's struggle to achieve nationhood after British colonial rule.

We celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut with a tour of prominent public graffiti art in the Florentine neighborhood. We then shed some New England reserve and danced in the streets through Tel Aviv's Rothschild Ave. neighborhood, led by a zany guy in an orange pantsuit, "Guru

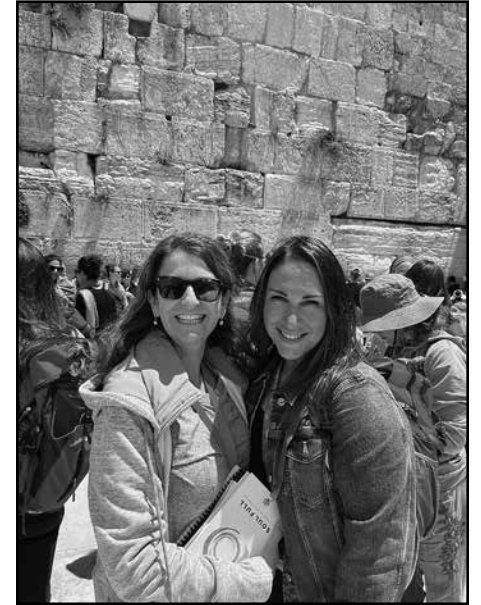
Zuzu." An unexpected spectacle we will never forget.

Our next stop brought us to the northern city of Tsfat (Safed), on a mountaintop in the region near *Yam Kinneret* (Sea of Galilee). Drumming and singing greeted us as we arrived on a deck overlooking green mountains. Here we learned about mikvah rituals and descended far below street level to a recently unearthed mikvah



dating to ancient times. We also visited a Kabbalist artist whose prints give visual form to the non-visual: translating shofar blasts into intricate columns of color blocks, for instance. Peaceful Tsfat itself impressed us with its distinctive, blue-painted buildings, including an old synagogue, where the blue mirrored the sky above the narrow streets.

Momentum continued on page 10





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 Julia Preis through the JFNH Office at 603-627-7679



THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

New Hampshire Couple Opens Doors to Israel Experience for Local Teens

By Mara Fahl

Israel is a house with many doors. That's how Daniel Palestrant, a physician-turned-entrepreneur, describes the 75-year-old Jewish state. He shared that there is something that every person can connect to, from religion to art, from architecture to nature. Now, to help more teens find the right door to develop a healthy connection to Israel, Dr. Palestrant and wife Dr. Deborah Palestrant, have sponsored a tuition grant for New Hampshire students attending Jewish National Fund-USA's Alexander Muss High School in Israel.

Deborah and Daniel believe that New Hampshire and Israel share many common themes from a love for adventure (especially outdoors) and a fierce commitment to individual liberty



Palestrants celebrating their son Jacob's Bar Mitzvah in Israel last summer.

and Democracy. Despite the distance, they believe the two communities have much in common and will benefit from a tighter connection that includes people of all faiths.

Alexander Muss High School in Israel is widely considered to be one of the premier college preparatory study abroad

experiences, offering semester, "mini-semester," and summer sessions. Students keep up with their home academics while exploring Israel as a living classroom. After his own formative high school in Israel experience, Dr. Palestrant is certain that any New Hampshire teens who attend will return home more confident in themselves and their Jewish identity. He also believes that New Hampshire teens, particularly, will find much to relate to in Israel, saying, "There's a local culture here of self-sufficiency, of passion for the outdoors, passion for liberty, and I find those traits are so similar in Israel. There's a lot in common between the New Hampshire mentality and the Israeli." He shared that this makes it easy for local teens to find a deeper connection to the land and people of Israel, all while participating in top-notch educational programming.

Speaking about the grant, Israel Programs Admissions Director Dana Klein said, "This is an incredible opportunity for New Hampshire teens to have the experience of a lifetime. Our alumni say that their time at Muss instilled them with a sense of pride and confidence that changed their lives forever and cemented their Jewish identity as core to their sense of self."

Dr. Palestrant agreed, adding, "If one student from the community goes to Israel and comes back with a matured perspective of their own identity and a deeper long-lasting connection, I'll consider it a resounding success, and I have no doubt that we will achieve far more than that."

For more information, contact Dana Klein at 617.423.0999 x484 or dklein@jnf.org or visit amhsi.org

Momentum

continued from page 8

From Tsfat we traveled to Jerusalem, arriving with the song "Jerusalem of Gold" playing on the bus's sound system as we entered the magnificent ancient city. From our hotel we walked to the Old City through towering Jaffa Gate. We viewed the *Kotel* (Western Wall) and Temple Mount from a rooftop before walking down to the open square and praying in the women's section. Many of us brought notes from family and friends to leave in cracks between the stones. I placed my hands on the *Kotel's* smooth surface, grateful for moments of peace at this holy place. Around me women from all races and countries prayed in quiet solidarity. Above us soared a striking blue sky, open to receive prayers from women and men in the square. Here I felt divinity not inside a sacred building, as in ancient cathedrals, but in the vast sky above this sacred wall.

Later, as Shabbat arrived, we gathered again at the *Kotel*. Several of us said the mourner's kaddish with a friend from the Illinois Momentum group. Then amid growing crowds we clasped hands in a circle, sang songs in Hebrew, and welcomed shabbat with Momentum women, Israeli teenagers, and visitors caught up in our celebration.

For shabbat lunch, we walked to the apartment of an American woman who hosted us through the Shabbat of a Lifetime program. She told us about making *aliyah*, her commitment to Zionism, and the current debate within Israel over judicial reform (protests we witnessed near our hotel in Jerusalem). That evening we



met IDF soldiers and learned about their experiences, including "Lone Soldiers" who come from abroad to serve (as some Americans do). We ended the night on a rooftop, singing a musical *havdala* while overlooking the Temple Mount aglow with light.

Next, we drove into the Judean desert, where we rode camels and made pita over a fire at Eretz Bereshit. Here, two of our group received Hebrew names for the first time, explaining the significance of the name they chose. We drove along the western side of the Dead Sea to Masada, exploring the fortress known as a symbol of Jewish resistance to oppression. At the Dead Sea's shore, on an all-women's beach, we floated (quite buoyantly) in the saline waters.

Back in Jerusalem, we spent a day memorializing Jews lost to the Holocaust and wars, visiting the wrenching exhibits of Yad Vashem, and walking among the graves of Israeli leaders, visionaries, and soldiers at Har Herzl. We stopped by one



On the last night, our closing celebration echoed a vibrant bat mitzvah, with all 300 participants sharing the spotlight. Our Momentum group savored our experience in Israel as part of the larger "sisterhood." We bonded through communal feelings of awe, sadness, and delight. We left with gratitude and the hope that we might return to Israel again ... *l'Hitraot* (until we see each other again).

We thank the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and its supporters for making our journey possible, especially Tracy Richmond, Allyson Guertin, and Ken and Bertha Litvack. Your vision and generosity impacted us all. Special thanks to our Momentum leaders Amy Lester and Becky Abrams for their organization and high spirits. *Todah rabah!*

Popsicles At the Playground



**PJ Library invites you to come
hang out with us for a
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Two Opportunities!

**Join us in Portsmouth or
Concord this summer.**

**Park location will be sent to
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**Enjoy a cool treat with
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Don't forget the sunscreen!



**July 16th, 10:30am -
Portsmouth**

July 23rd, 10:30am - Concord

RSVP

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Questions contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org



PJ Library



**Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Temple Israel Manchester Embraces a New Rabbi with Open Arms

Temple Israel Manchester warmly welcomes our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Marc Philippe. His arrival marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the temple's history.

Rabbi Marc Philippe brings with him a wealth of knowledge, experience, and a deep commitment to fostering connections within the community. He eagerly anticipates collaborating with our congregation on various programs and initiatives. He is passionate about our future and is poised to guide our community towards a vibrant future of growth, connection, and spiritual exploration.



Rabbi Marc Philippe will lead his first service at Temple Israel on Saturday July 1st at 10:00 AM. Also, Temple Israel has planned a special welcoming breakfast on Sunday July 9th at 11:00 AM. We encourage all our members, friends, and well-wish-

ers to join us at 66 Salmon Street, Manchester, to celebrate and embrace Rabbi Marc Philippe as our spiritual guide.

The selection of Rabbi Marc Philippe is a testament to the dedicated efforts of the Rabbi Search Committee. Their commitment and wisdom in finding an exceptional spiritual leader brought Rabbi Marc Philippe to our community.

Sephardic Dinner and Shabbat at Nashua's Temple Beth Abraham

On Friday evening, April 21, Congregation Ahavat Olam of North Andover, MA joined Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, NH for "Sephardic Shabbat Unplugged – A Journey into the Music of the Sephardic Tradition." Shabbat services featured the Ahavat Olam ensemble led by founding rabbi/cantor Idan Irelander. The "Sephardic Shabbat Unplugged" is part of Rabbi Idan's Shabbat Olam series, "Shabbat Around the World." The program reflected the distinctive musical traditions of diverse Sephardic Jewish communities from Spain, Portugal, Africa, and the Middle East.

Rabbi Idan's Sephardic ensemble is comprised of professional musicians from Arab countries, the Americas, and Israel. Using the liturgy of the Friday night service, Rabbi Idan's compositions include original arrangements for familiar prayers and songs, such as "Sh'ma," "Shalom Aleichem" and "L'cha Dodi."

Rabbi Idan Irelander started his musical journey in Israel when he was 15 years old. He performed with well-known musical groups and singers and arranged several albums for Israeli musicians. He

left Israel in 1997 after receiving a Berklee College of Music B.E.S.T. scholarship to major in composition and film scoring. After completing his studies in Boston with high honors, Idan received the Berklee College of Music Award for Composition Excellence and the Berklee College of Music Award for Achievement in Film Scoring.

That evening, 120 people gathered to honor the late Ben Freedman's love for the community, his passion for cooking traditional meals from around the world, his warmth and good humor. We were delighted to see so many people gather together on a Friday night. Our dinner menu featured Jewish ethnic foods and desserts from Sephardic traditions. This event was conceived by Ben, who was an active member of TBA, where for 35 years, Ben held many leadership positions. The program was delayed three years because of COVID-19. Sadly, Ben passed away on June 20, 2020.

This event was sponsored in part, by a grant from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, and TBA's Benjamin Freedman Fund for Cultural Enrichment.



Temple Israel Portsmouth: Come to Our Summer Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Services!

Please join Temple Israel at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth for summer outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat services led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. These outdoor services began as a response to Covid isolation and have become a treasured summer tradition. Bring a dairy/pareve/vegetarian picnic dinner and

your own lawn chair. Services will be live streamed on the Temple Israel Facebook page. In case of inclement weather, services will be held in the sanctuary and accessible via the usual Zoom link.

Upcoming dates: July 21, August 18, 2023. Questions? Please contact the Temple Israel office.

Temple B'nai Israel of Laconia: The NH Jewish Food Festival Offers 2023 Menu at 2022 Prices - Order Online through Sunday, July 9th

The New Hampshire Jewish Food Festival opened for online orders on Sunday, June 11th without increasing the 2022 prices of the items on the 2023 menu. "Although our costs have increased, we are trying to help beat back inflation by holding prices at 2022 levels," according to the Food Festival committee chair, Stu Needleman. This was welcome news for both returning and new customers and that has been reflected in the flurry of sales over the first three weeks of orders.

This is the last week of online ordering which will continue through Sunday, July 9. Visit the Temple B'nai Israel website: www.tbinh.org. Orders will be ready for pick up by appointment the weekend of July 21.

The 26th annual NH Jewish Food Festival was built on 19th-century recipes that have met 21st-century technol-



ogy including an online ordering system and curbside drive-through pickups. The technology that drives the ordering system was first developed when the Food Festival committee created a

way for their members and longtime Jewish Food Festival patrons to pre-order the foods they desired in the quantities they wanted. When the pandemic hit, this computerized ordering system was adapted and expanded to enable the festival to continue through the pandemic years and beyond. After making selections from the online menu, customers will be able to choose the day and time to pick up their order at the temple in Laconia. All orders will be ready for curbside drive-through pickup on July 21st or 22nd. Visit <https://tbinh.org/food-fest-menu/> to see this year's menu, at last year's prices, and place orders before Sunday, July 9th.



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Manchester Hebrew Cemetery remembers and honors Memorial Day 2023

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, as has been done every year since 2014, our now traditional Manchester Hebrew Cemetery Memorial Day Service was observed.

Three days before the service, American flags were placed at the graves of the 137 veterans who are buried in the Cemetery, our Temple Israel-Temple Adath Yeshurun community Cemetery. Once again, David Rosenzweig organized the flag-placing crew, which consisted of himself, Barry Scotch, Bob Katchen, Al Halpern, Mark Granoff, Denis Paiste and Ed Schoen.

At the event, Dr. Sol Rockenmacher welcomed the attendees. Eagle Scout Ryan Rosenberg, holding a USA flag, led us in the pledge of allegiance. Sol then introduced our speaker, Lt. Cmdr. Alan Kaplan, MD, a proud veteran of both the United States Army and Navy, and the IDF as well. Alan has practiced both internal medicine and cardiology in his civilian life, with involvement as a camp



Rabbi Gary Atkins discusses the planned monument at NH Veterans Cemetery.

physician and as an active participant in Manchester Community Players and has been a significant contributor in many ways to Temple Adath Yeshurun and the Jewish community in general. He spoke very touchingly about the challenges facing those returning from combat and those who have passed on.

Rabbis Beth D. Davidson and Gary Atkins then led us in a prayer service, "A



Memorial Day speaker Dr. Alan Kaplan.

Service of Thanks and Remembrance." The names of the 60 Jewish servicemen and women who died in the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan were read by Rabbis Beth and Gary. Following them were Mike Litvin and Jeff Klein, who read the names of the 137 veterans buried in the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery. Rabbi Atkins told us about the proj-



Mike Litvin reads names of veterans in the Cemetery.

ect to create a monument to the Jewish men and women who are buried in the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. The program concluded with a poignant playing of "Taps."

In summary, it was a special program highlighting the obligation to remember, and to be thankful and to honor—for country, for community and for courage.



Dr. Alan Kaplan addresses the audience.



Jeff Klein reads names of veterans buried in the cemetery.



Rabbi Beth D. Davidson leading a prayer.



Sol Rockenmacher begins the program.

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

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TOT SHABBAT HOP!

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

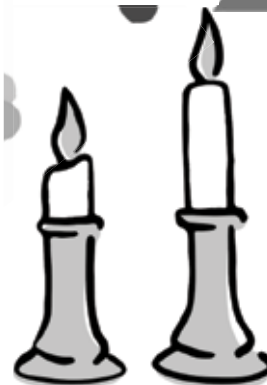
Stories, Singing, and Blessings followed by a Kiddie Kiddush



Saturday, July 22nd
10AM
Courtyard of Temple Israel,
Portsmouth

Registration Required

Scan QR code or
<https://forms.gle/rLzBRgmc8hC9x5Kv6>



PJ Library

Jewish Federation
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Temple Israel
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Walk the Land for Yom Ha'atzmaut

On Sunday, May 21st, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire along with six synagogues from around New Hampshire came together for "Walk the Land," a celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Over 150 community members gathered together in honor of Israel's 75th birthday to celebrate with food, dancing, and activities for children and adults. The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and collaborating synagogues—Temple Adath Yeshurun (Manchester), Temple Beth Abraham (Nashua), Temple Beth Jacob (Concord), Temple Israel (Manchester), and Temple Israel (Portsmouth)—presented on different Israeli cities, Chabad Center for Jewish Life in Manchester served delicious Israeli food, community members Aimee

and Eli Levy led Israeli dancing, and community organizations Israeli American Council and Jewish National Fund's Alexander Muss High School in Israel shared information and hosted activities.

We look forward to making this an annual community tradition!



Your Federation at Work

Walk the Land for Yom Ha'atzmaut, continued



Yom HaShoah at Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua

Yom HaShoah marks a very dark period in our Jewish history. We vow every year to never forget those who suffered, fought, lost their lives, and those who survived against all odds to tell their stories. We also vow to never again experience the horrors of the Holocaust and make a promise to stand up and defend others who are experiencing genocide. To observe Yom HaShoah this year, Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua held three separate events:

On Sunday, April 16, 2023 we hosted a touring group of highly trained New England Dance Ensemble (NEDE.org) members ranging in age from 6-18 for a 40-minute production of "A Child's View of the Holocaust" in the Temple Beth Abraham Social Hall. Artistic Director, Barbara Mullen choreographed the original drama ballet in 1990. The production recognizes the atrocities that occurred towards Jews at the hands of the Nazi army in Germany between 1939 and 1945. Nothing can erase the tragedy of a systematic attempt to exterminate a race, but showing respect for the survivors and regard for the human spirit imparts valuable lessons.

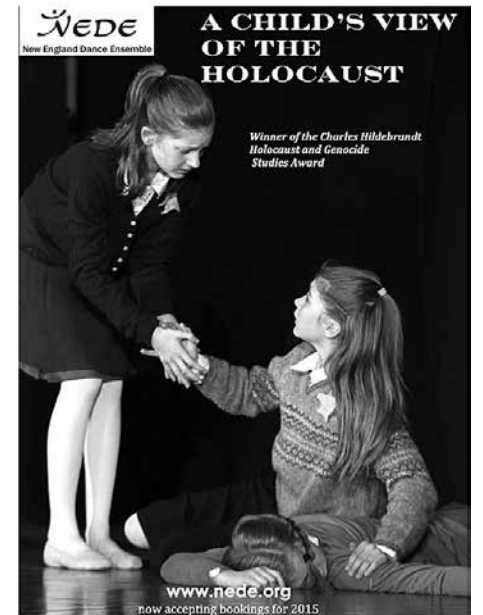
While illuminating historical events,



the production may also be applied to contemporary issues including bullying and prejudice. In 2011, "A Child's View of the Holocaust" was awarded the prestigious Charles A. Hildebrandt Award from the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Keene State College.

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 3:00 pm, we gathered with the greater community at the New Hampshire Holocaust Memorial on Main Street in Nashua, to remember victims and survivors of the Shoah and to reflect on the significance of the Holocaust and all genocides for us today. Locally, we gather in particular solidarity with the ongoing atrocities in Ukraine. We heard from speakers and had an opportunity to be with others and discuss what the Holocaust compels us to do right now.

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm, Temple Beth Abraham and Rivier University invited the public to hear New York Times bestselling author Judy Batalion discuss her book, "The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women



Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos." The author joined us via Zoom, and a Q&A followed.

The event was made possible with support from New Hampshire Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Learn more at www.nhhumanities.org.

Temple B'nai Israel: Honoring All Faith Communities

Temple B'nai Israel takes pride in sharing its Jewish practices and customs as well as pursuing opportunities to welcome and nurture respect for all faith communities. At a recent Friday evening service, TBI was honored to have Rev. Judith Wright of the Unitarian Universalist Church speak to the congregation. Rev. Wright shared her personal relationship with the Jewish faith as well as recounting the beginnings of the Unitarian Service Committee that came about through the efforts of Waitstill Sharp, a Unitarian minister who was involved in humanitarian and relief work in Czechoslovakia and Southern Europe during World War II. In 2005, Sharp and his first wife Martha were named by Yad Vashem as Righteous among the Nations, the second and third of five Americans to



receive this honor. Following Rev. Wright's visit to TBI, Rabbi Jan Katz was invited to address Rev. Wright's congregation in Laconia at a Sunday morning service. Rabbi Katz shared her unique experience from a program she participated in at Attica State Prison from which she "learned directly from the mouths of 22 incarcerated males what we humans all have in common." Both of these sermons are available to read in their entirety on the temple website.

Temple B'nai Israel will continue the outreach of sharing faith on Saturday morning, July 29th when singer-songwriter Kimayo brings her "My Queer Faith Tour" to the sanctuary of Temple B'nai Israel. Kimayo is a folk-pop artist who has been performing in New England since 2019. Coming out as queer in Spring of 2021, her new music explores



self-discovery with an adult contemporary sound. Her authentic and personal songs are relatable and vulnerable. During her unique one-hour event Kimayo invites you into her life and faith journey. Through storytelling and live music, she breaks down walls allowing for solidarity and possibility. Kimayo's songs, humor, and transparency flow together forming a beautiful and sacred experience.

"Kimayo's music is powerful and has the ability to inspire and heal. Her ministry is open and affirming in every way--she meets you wherever you are and helps you and your community grow. I was so happy for the opportunity for my congregation to hear her story and listen to her inspiring music."

-AJ Coppola, Choir Director - Gilford Community Church

The "My Queer Faith" tour was developed by Kimayo to provide a way for her to connect with "Open & Affirming" faith communities as she continues her own faith journey. This allows her to introduce the LGBTQIA+ community to existing open and affirming faith-based safe spaces and to emphasize the need

for and value of those same spaces to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Rabbi Jan Katz will lead the Shabbat morning hybrid service from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. The sanctuary will be re-opened for storytelling and music by Kimayo from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. There will be a catered lunch (\$18 per person suggested donation) and opportunity to meet Kimayo immediately following. Those who would like to stay for lunch are asked to RSVP - Shabbat Morning Service with Special Guest Kimayo | Temple B'nai Israel (tbinh.org)



Everyone is welcome to attend either the Shabbat service, the My Queer Faith presentation, or both. For those who would like to attend the religious service, please arrive at 10:00 AM. For those who want to only attend the My Queer Faith presentation, please arrive at 11:00 AM. Kimayo's presentation contains sensitive topics relating to physical and mental health. It is intended for adults and mature teens, with parental discretion. For more details contact Rabbi Jan Katz, rabbi@tbinh.org.

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Lag BaOmer Field Day at Temple Israel

Congregants and friends of Temple Israel Portsmouth celebrated Lag BaOmer on May 10 with a field day, bonfire, and family picnic organized by Head of School Erik Martin. Almost a hundred people enjoyed picnics, archery, climbing walls, gaga, face-painting, and s'mores on a beautiful afternoon. Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman led the community in song and prayer while friends old and new connected in a wonderful kickoff to the summer season. Thanks to attendees Ron Sher, Tania Tykocinski Duval, and Deborah Levine for sharing their photos!



Etz Hayim - The Sacred Texts: Interpretation with Motion

By Steve Soreff, MD

Etz Hayim's May 19-21 Interfaith Program—supported by the William Einhorn Interfaith Fund—was brought to us by Sasha Soreff, who lives in New York City and is a certified resonant healing practitioner, choreographer, and dance teacher. The program had three components that involved connecting to the divine with movement. Members of the various faith communities participated in each of the three parts of the Program.

On Friday night May 19, Sasha offered a creative D'var Torah on the first chapter of the Book of Numbers, Bamidbar that focused on the census and the order of the Tribes. Sasha's presentation examined the duties of the Levites in caring for and protecting the Tabernacle, and how it showed everyone's life has a purpose. She and the congregants translated purpose into stories and motion.

On Saturday afternoon, May 20, Sasha conducted an experiential workshop at Etz Hayim. Participants journeyed through the metaphorical desert and arrived at the mountains. In the desert, the stories and feeling lost and helpless were translated into movements. At the mountains, folks shared their experiences of connecting to the Divine, and Sasha transformed them into motions. It was very engaging and interactive.

On Sunday morning, May 21, the program was brought to the Church of the Transfiguration in Derry as part of the Eucharist Service. Following the reading of John's description of the Holy Spirit, Sasha linked that idea to the Hebrew word and concept of Ruach, the Spirit of God, breath, and wind. Congregants offered their views of the Holy Spirit and feelings



of being connected to it. These experiences led to motion.

The entire weekend proved enlightening, uplifting, and informative. It added another dimension to one's spiritual experience and journey. As one participant put it, "Sasha turned the Torah portion into motion which became emotion. This was a valuable and meaningful experience." Another person discovered, in their words, "A whole new way to interpret written words, that I very much appreciated."

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Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation Offers Full Schedule of Religious Services and Building Community Through the Arts Events for the 2023 Season

By Eileen Regen (with contributions from President David Goldstone and Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum)

Welcome to Bethlehem! Main Street is coming alive with activities and events. Likewise, BHC is busily preparing for a summer of religious services in our sanctuary on Strawberry Hill and the Building Community Through the Arts Committees have finalized schedules for the Sounds in the Sanctuary Concerts, the White Mountain Jewish Film Festival, and Books of Jewish Interest Group selections for the summer 2023 season.

"Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum from Omer, Israel, will lead religious services every Friday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 10 a.m. Torah study follows the Saturday morning service. All of our services have a sweet end with homemade challah and other delicacies," explained David Goldstone.

"I certainly hope that, in addition to

tasting the cultural and social nourishment that BHC congregants bring forth all summer long, congregants will come to shul to pause, to pray, to thank, to think, to sing instead of talk, to *be* instead of *do*. Or join us on Zoom if you cannot be in Bethlehem. Summer Friday evening services begin at 6 p.m. on June 30. Sabbath morning services begin at 9:30 a.m., and will be followed once again by lively Torah study at 11 a.m." Rabbi Kirshbaum added.

Torah study this season will focus on the psalms. "Isn't it time we stopped paying lip service to the psalms and made them our own? Most everyone takes comfort in Psalm 23 at a time of loss, but what about the other 149 of them? During this summer's study sessions at 11 a.m., Rabbi Kirshbaum will lead an exploration whose destination is the human heart, but whose meanderings will surely include plenty of waysides where food for thought is served...These

lively conversations are open to congregants and friends of BHC. No prior experience with Jewish learning, the psalms, or the weekly Torah portion needed; we'll weave them together as we go," explained Rabbi Kirshbaum.

Building Community Through the Arts celebrates its 10th season this year. Organizers have arranged a compelling lineup of films, concerts, and books. For specific film and concert descriptions, please visit www.bethlehemsynagogue.org and click on Programs.



The White Mountain Jewish Film Festival, created by David Goldstone, opens at the Colonial Theatre, Main Street, Bethlehem, on Thursday, July 6. Each film night begins with a social hour on the Colonial Theatre patio and a guest speaker who will introduce the film. *Armageddon Time*, the opening night film, is a deeply emotional etching of a time and place in Queens, 1980. Rick Winston is the guest speaker for this story of racism and assimilation.

On Thursday, July 20, guest speaker Kate DeConinck introduces *Plan A*, the story of a group of Jewish Holocaust survivors who planned to poison the water system in Germany. *June Zero* is featured on Thursday, August 3 with the story of the execution of Adolf Eichmann in an emotional public trial and the involvement of three characters involved in this historical, nation-defining event. Guest speaker for this event is Martin Kessel. He had just graduated from Hebrew University School of Agriculture and was working for the Ministry of Agriculture. Kessel was living in Rehovot during this trial and sentencing of Eichmann and will give a first-hand account of the mood of the country during the events covered in the film.

On Thursday, August 17, *March '68* presents a dramatic story of romance, history, and politics in 1960s Communist Poland, a hotbed of anti-Semitism. Evan Czyzowski, humanities teacher and theater director at Bedford High School in New Hampshire, is this evening's guest speaker. *A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff*,

featured on Thursday, August 31 is introduced by Alicia J. Rose, director of the film set on Wall Street in 2008, a time of large-scale financial fraud.



Sounds in the Sanctuary Friday Concert Series events begin at 5 p.m., Fridays, July 14, 28; August 11, 25, in the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation sanctuary on Strawberry Hill in Bethlehem. Bernard Rose, piano, and Micki-Sophia Cloud, violin, open the 2023 concert season on July 14 with works by Bach, Debussy, and Brahms. On July 28, Julian Milkis, clarinet, and Maxim Lubarsky, piano, present a variety of compositions including works of Templeton, Dimov, Lushtak, Mozart, and Goodman. The Ariel Quartet with Alexander Kazovsky, violin; Amit Even-Tov, cello; Gershon Gerchikov, violin; and Jan Gruning, viola, perform works of Beethoven and Mendelssohn on August 11. Classical guitarist Nadav Lev closes the season on August 25 with a program of Bach, Arnold, Albeniz, Carlevaro, Villa-Lobos, and Seroussi, as well as his own arrangement of an Israeli folk song.

Books of Jewish Interest Club, organized by Gail Robinson, meets at the Bethlehem Public Library, Main Street, Bethlehem at 4 p.m., Wednesdays, July 12 and 26; August 9 and 23. This year's book selections are all mystery/whodunit stories guaranteed to keep readers guessing. Meetings will also be held on Zoom. For more details please contact Gail Robinson at BethlehemShul@gmail.com. Nancy Fages leads the discussion on July 12 for *The Ritual Bath* by Faye Kellerman. On July 26, Jacki Katzman will steer us through *A Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss. *Friday the Rabbi Slept Late* by Harry Kemelman is the book for August 9. Susan Gellert will lead this meeting. And Eliot Wessler will guide the discussion of *The Kill Artist* by Daniel Silva on August 23.

For more details about Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation's programs and events, please visit www.bethlehemsynagogue.org.



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Book Review

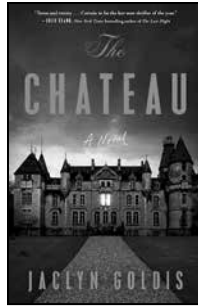
Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Chateau by Jaclyn Goldis and *The Justice Seeker* by Mark Okrant

This month, let's examine two very different novels to read at the beach.

First, *The Chateau* by Jaclyn Goldis. If you are looking for an entertaining novel to transport you from your beach chair to a chateau in Provence, France, this is the book for you. A mystery thriller with twists and turns that leave you guessing until the final page.

The Chateau sees four friends invited back to the chateau they visited during their college year abroad. The Lady of the Chateau, Séraphine Demargelasse, is the grand dame who owns the beautiful property, Château du Platane. Her granddaughter, Darcy, came to France 20 years ago to study—and met friends, Jade and Vix. On vacations, they all came to stay with Séraphine and her housekeeper, Sylvie. Sylvie's granddaughter, Arabelle, also grew up in the house and becomes friends with the three girls when they come to visit. Over



the years, the women stay in touch, staying friends, but also keeping secrets from each other. Séraphine also has many secrets she has kept throughout her life. Now at the end of her life, she wants to let go of her mysteries, and so she invites the friends back for a reunion.

Interestingly, each woman has a hidden reason for coming. As they reconnect and share some fond memories, delicious meals and trips to the market and winery tours, relationships begin to fray and tempers start to flair. When someone turns up dead, the accusations and hidden stories start coming to light.

The Chateau is an intriguing novel that explores how well we know our friends, family, and spouses. The novel is a murder mystery that complicates the murder with some missing artwork, a Holocaust betrayal, deceit, and betrayal. This novel will capture your imagination and keep you in suspense all the way to

the end. The writer, Jaclyn Goldis, has a BA in Economics from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a JD from NYU School of Law. Her debut novel, *When We Were Young*, a historical women's fiction, was published in 2021 by Hachette/Grand Central.

Our second book is *The Justice Seeker* by local author, Mark Okrant, which makes for a very different novel to read while relaxing this summer. This one is a western novel set at the end of the 19th century, when outlaws roamed the west and shootouts between the outlaws and the sheriff was the way justice was settled. This coming-of-age novel transports the reader to Flagstaff, Arizona before it is a state.

Young Tal Wilson is a close friend to Two Feathers, who belongs to the Hopi nation. He is one of the few white people invited to visit the reservation and he becomes an honorary Hopi, given the name, True Arrow. When Two Feathers



is shot by two young men who live in Flagstaff—but are not caught—Tal pledges to seek justice for his friend. He learns to use a pistol. Tal is 14 and is also finding he is interested in a new girl in town, Maryam Green, the Rabbi's daughter. Tal learns about Judaism, Hopi traditions and then goes

to Yale Law School. All these experiences will help him make his decisions about meting out justice.

An interesting novel that explores the idea of good and evil, deciding when an eye for an eye, or a court trial, is the better way to achieve true justice.

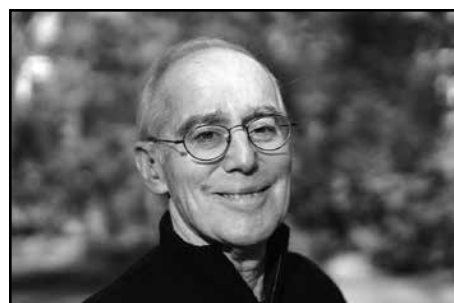
Mark Okrant is the author of 14 books, including the *Kary Turnell* mystery series. He is a professor emeritus of geography and tourism, and past president of the Travel and Tourism Research Association. He has conducted tourism research in New Hampshire and beyond. He is an avid traveler, collects Inuit art, and watches classic westerns.

Introducing 'The Flashing Light: A Medical Mystery Memoir,' a book from Temple B'nai Israel's local author Irving Fox

If you suddenly saw a bright flashing blue light, and could not find your car in a parking lot because you were unable to see on your left side, would you be frightened? I was, when this happened to me more than 50 years ago – as a young physician!

In the fall of 1968, I was 24 years old, happily married, and living the heady and intense life of a medical resident in a Montreal hospital. My future was bright and promising... that is, until a pulsating blue light appeared in front of my eyes. It was the beginning of a terrifying three-month ordeal of mysterious physical and psychiatric symptoms that baffled me and my doctors. I was hospitalized for three months in two facilities in 1968-69, including a psychiatric hospital, and endured a battery of painful tests, medications with mind-numbing side effects, and the uncertainty of diagnosis and outcome. Sick, vulnerable, and helpless, I wondered if I would ever be able to practice medicine again.

Fast forward 50 years. Compelled to understand the bizarre symptoms that



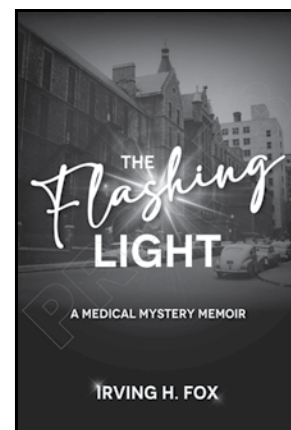
had once threatened to derail my career and upend my family, I embarked on a quest to unearth decades-old medical records and uncover the full details of my illness, treatment, and recovery. *In The Flashing Light: A Medical Mystery Memoir*, I take us on an intriguing journey to rediscover my past. Through the lens of my present medical expertise and experience, I examine the events that transpired and how they shaped my younger self. Finally, my illness had a mysterious but favorable outcome when I was discharged to a normal life by the end of February 1969.

According to the testimonial written by Rabbi Jan Katz from Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia, "Irving intersperses

his saga with simple to understand explanations of complex medical terms, brain processes, and pathologies, with humor and humility."

What was an impact of this severe illness on my subsequent career? As Dr Arnold Aberman commented in the foreword of this book: "Irving is devoted to giving back. He had a highly successful career in academic medicine when, surprisingly to his faculty colleagues, he went to work in the biopharmaceutical industry because he wanted to develop novel therapies to improve the lives of thousands of patients. My own opinion is that this subconscious drive was related to his wanting to give back after recovering from his illness and 'getting his life back.'"

I have been married to my childhood sweetheart Gloria for more than 56 years. We were both born in Montreal, and attended McGill University, where



I graduated medical school in 1967. We have three daughters, three sons-in-law, and seven grandchildren aged nine to 20. We have lived in Wellesley, MA for many years, and also have a home in Meredith: this home led us to join Temple B'nai Israel, where we have continued as active and engaged members. I have served on the Finance Committee of the TBI Board of Trustees for two years, as of this writing, and will soon take on the role of financial secretary.

As a retired physician-scientist, I began writing *The Flashing Light: A Medical Mystery Memoir* during the Covid pandemic, to satisfy my lifelong desire to understand my illness. This book looks to inspire hope of recovery in anyone experiencing a calamitous personal event like what I went through.

The Flashing Light: A Medical Mystery Memoir can be purchased on Amazon.

Film Review

Reviewed by Zach Camenker, JFF Steering Committee Member

Film Reviews from Pride Month: *The Times of Harvey Milk* and *Tell Them Anything You Want: A Portrait of Maurice Sendak*

For many of us, the month of June has a deeper meaning and connection. As the LGBTQ+ community celebrates Pride, it is a reminder of the past struggles for human rights and the continued challenges that people face because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and who they love. It means a lot to me as a gay man, and as someone who has reaped the benefits of those who fought hard for my rights at a time when it was challenging to do so.

As I do each June, I aim to watch some films and television that highlight the LGBTQ+ community, something that is easier and easier each year as more stories feature queer characters than ever before. It is always refreshing to see stories where a character's orientation or identity is just a normal component of the plot. I find it important as well to watch films and TV where the characters' struggles with coming into

their own and/or fighting for rights are a central part of the storyline. Both serve as reminders for how far we've come and how we got here.

I'd like to highlight two outstanding documentary films that could not be more different from each other, one about Harvey Milk, a prolific gay rights activist who broke the glass ceiling in the 70s, and the other about Maurice Sendak, an accomplished and revered children's book writer who led a more secluded life amidst a successful career. Both men were born to Jewish parents in New York City just two years apart.

I'm sure many of you remember the 2008 biopic *Milk*, which starred Sean Penn as the title character. Another outstanding piece that truly captured Harvey Milk as the unapologetic mover and shaker that he was, *The Times of Harvey Milk* documentary from 1984, available on HBO Max and the Criterion Chan-

nel, is an equally compelling portrait of the man himself.

The film briefly traces Milk's upbringing in New York, service in the Korean War, and flare for the rising countercul-

ture movement.

The majority of the piece highlights his time in the Castro neighborhood of San Francisco where he and his partner opened a small camera store in the early 70s. It was there that he

began his political activism, running numerous times for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the city's top council under the mayor, finally winning in 1977. Giving a voice to the gay community through his campaigning, Milk shattered the glass ceiling as the first openly gay man elected to public office in California.

Unfortunately, his career was cut short when fellow Supervisor Dan White shot and killed Milk after confronting and murdering Mayor George Moscone just minutes before. As is widely known among those familiar with Milk's career, he became an even bigger symbol for peace, justice, and equal rights in his death, which is depicted extensively in the film through interviews and retrospective footage.

Milk's pioneering work, audacity, and ultimate sacrifice have led him to become an iconic figure among the LGBTQ+ community, someone who will never be forgotten. Had he lived to see the 1980s, it is incredible to think what work he might have done to fight the AIDS epidemic, or what his life would have become.

While the film does not get into his Judaism too deeply, there have been numerous publications about Milk's religious beliefs, which I intend to explore in the future.

Just two years Milk's senior, Maurice Sendak rose to prominence in the early 1960s with the publication of his most famous children's book, *Where the Wild Things Are*. Some of the final years of his life are traced extensively in the documentary short film *Tell Them Anything*

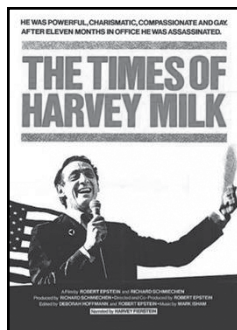
You Want: A Portrait of Maurice Sendak, available on Chai Flicks and through other platforms. Released around 2009, the same year that his most famous book was made into a feature length film, the deeply personal and touching piece is about as intimate as the seemingly reclusive Sendak ever got during his lifetime.

The youngest of three children born to Jewish immigrants from Poland, many of Sendak's family who stayed behind were killed during the Holocaust. He does not get into that at all, though, nor

does he discuss religion. Instead, he recounts a difficult relationship with his parents while growing up, but also notes how the love of his two older siblings was something that always sustained him.

Aware of his sexuality as a late teenager at a time when being gay was incredibly challenging, Sendak appears to have led a quiet life in part because of that. The film, which is only 40 minutes but covers roughly 2003 to 2009, alludes to the difficulties that Sendak faced as a gay man. It is easy to understand why he chose to be private about his personal life as he rose to fame for his extensive work in children's books. Despite his challenges and curmudgeonly aura, Sendak, who died in 2012, appeared happy with his career and those in his life, including his partner of 50 years, Dr. Eugene Glynn, a psychiatrist for the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services who predeceased him in 2007. I learned more about Sendak himself in this short piece, a man whom I admire for his vast contributions to literature.

In watching both films, it's incredible to see how two men of the same era with such similarities went on to lead polar opposite lives. Even though Sendak did live to see some major progress for the LGBTQ+ community, he never lived openly in the way that Milk did. His story is far too common among people of a certain age, but a good reminder nonetheless that society has gotten better, even amidst ongoing struggles. It's an important reminder as well as to why Pride Month exists, giving us a time to celebrate, reflect, find joy, and remember.



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Veronica Ava Conley, ©2023

Judy Batalion, author of 'The Light of Days,' highlights her research on female Holocaust survivors during Yom HaShoa in Nashua

By Sheryl Rich-Kern

Judy Batalion's research project on WWII female resistance fighters happened by accident.

"It was b'shert," she told a packed crowd at Rivier University's Dion Center in Nashua on April 18. (B'shert is a Yiddish term for "fate" or something that is "meant to be.")

Batalion, author of *The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos*, was the featured speaker for the Greater Nashua's Yom HaShoah observance, an annual collaboration between Temple

Beth Abraham and Rivier University. This year's program was funded in part by the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

About 16 years ago, Batalion was in London working on her PhD in art history. She said it was also a chapter in her life where she wanted to explore her Jewish identity. While at the British Library, she decided to learn more about brave Jewish women during the Holocaust.

She conducted a search for "Hannah Senesh," the first well-known Jewish heroine who came to mind. A young Hungarian Jew, Senesh had emigrated to what was then Palestine but later returned to occupied Europe as a paratrooper to fight the Nazis. Senesh was captured and killed early on in her mission and was immortalized for refusing a blindfold in order to glare at her executioners with defiance.

"I was looking for a psychological explanation," said Batalion about her pursuit. She wanted "a more nuanced portrait to understand her [Senesh's] motivation, her desire, her capacity to face danger."

A granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Batalion also wanted to understand how her family's Holocaust trauma shaped how she perceived and reacted to threats.

"I'm an anxious person," she acknowledged to the audience, drawing a contrast to the women she wrote about in her book.



Judy Batalion
Photo credit:
Beowulf Sheehan

The British Library didn't have many books about Hannah Senesh in their collection, so she ordered whatever was loosely related and available.

"I went to pick up my stack of books. One of the books was unusual," she said. "It was an old yellowy book with a blue fabric cover and gold embossed writing."

The book was written in Yiddish. It was titled "Freuen in di Ghetts," or "Women in the Ghettos." What was even more unusual was the fact that Batalion, a young mother of three, speaks and reads Yiddish. She was raised primarily by her Yiddish-speaking grandmother.

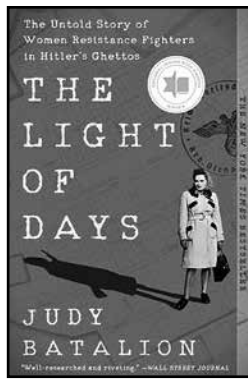
Batalion said she picked up the book and began looking for material about Hannah Senesh. She found it, but only in the last few pages of almost 200. The publication was filled with stories of dozens of other young Jewish women, many of whom were teenagers, who plotted against the Nazis primarily from within the ghettos of Poland. They were jumping off trains, blowing up Nazi hideouts, smuggling grenades and pistols, and acting as couriers from one ghetto to another.

"I had never read anything like this," she said. "I was just so stunned and surprised...and yet I knew this was something I had to work on."

Some of the women Batalion was reading about were killed by Nazis during the war. Others went on to lead ordinary lives. By the time Batalion started to write her book about female resistance fighters, none of the women she was researching were still alive.

To find out more, she sought out their descendants, meeting with at least 20 different families. She wanted to understand how they overcame the traumas of the Holocaust — as if that's even possible — and more importantly, who these women of the ghettos were as people. She also traveled to Poland to experience the country as they had, albeit in another era.

During her talk at the Yom HaShoah event, Batalion highlighted two of the seventeen women she wrote about in her book. One was Frumka Plotnicka, a leader in a socialist, secular Zionist youth group. Raised as an Orthodox Jew, Frumka left her family to travel through-



out the country running seminars, underground schools, secret printing presses and extricating Jews from forced labor camps. She traveled to various Jewish ghettos, hiding her Jewish features with a kerchief and makeup to bring people news, books and hope. She was killed in battle in 1943 in one of the Bedzin bunkers, fighting against the

Nazis.

"I really felt like if I don't tell Plotnicka's story, who will," said Batalion.

Renia Kukielka was also a central figure in the book. Renia, like many Jewish women in Poland, attended public secular schools, unlike the men who were sent to yeshivas. Because of this, female Jewish Poles like Renia could more readily imitate the Christian Polish vernacular and inflections to pass as Gentiles. They also didn't have the Jewish physical markers on their bodies as men did with circumcision.

Only 15 years old when the war began, Renia escaped the Bedzin ghetto and eventually was employed as a maid for a German family. To maintain her facade, she went to church with them on Sundays, nervously kneeling and imitating what other congregants were doing. Later, the underground recruited her to become the main courier between the Bedzin and Warsaw ghettos. Fueled by anger over the murder of her parents, she took colossal risks and was in constant danger. For example, she sewed 22 fake IDs into her skirt; she taped explosives in her undergarments; she hid money in her shoes. She also tried to save Jews, smuggling them out of the ghetto and into hiding.

Renia was eventually caught and sent to a Gestapo prison where they tortured her, not as a Jew but as a Polish Christian with the underground.

"She managed to mastermind her escape out of there" said Batalion. "And I won't tell you any more in case you want to read about it in the book."

However, Batalion did reveal that Renia survived, settled in Israel where she raised a family and spoke little of her wartime escapades.

Batalion discovered in her research that the socialist Jewish youth groups, formed in the periods between the two World Wars, instructed young men and women

how to collaborate, analyze and get things done. Once Hitler invaded, these movements became a training ground for leaders of the ghetto resistance and partisan fighting organizations. Many of these leaders were women.

For a long time, these female narratives were left out of Holocaust history.

"How could it be?" Batalion queried the audience while acknowledging the complexity of an answer.

She mentioned the convergence of two underreported stories. One is of the Jewish resistance in Poland; the other, women's experiences in the Holocaust.

In the fifties, there was trauma fatigue. By the 60s, people began to learn more about the horrors of the concentration camps and that became the focus of Holocaust discussions.

"We're interested in different elements of the Holocaust at different times," she said. "Now we're in a moment where we're more interested in women's histories."

She also noted a few other reasons why these accounts remained hidden. The women who survived didn't talk. Or if they did, they either weren't believed or were accused of sleeping their way to safety. There was this idea that "pure souls perish." They had also left their families to participate in the underground. Their families were killed. They felt tremendous guilt.

They were also very young and needed to start anew. The world they had known didn't exist any more. They were refugees in new countries where they didn't speak the language.

"They wanted to raise their children in a normal, happy environment. So they just didn't tell their story."

Batalion's *The Light of Days* opens a window on elements of the Holocaust long buried. In addition to this New York Times bestseller, Batalion published a *Light of Days* Young Reader's edition.

She hopes that young people understand there are different ways to resist. "Some people shot Gestapo men in the head and some people edited an underground newspaper, and this has to do with one's life conditions and personalities." What's important, she said, is they upheld their convictions of justice.

In the dozen or so years Batalion researched these stories, she was reminded that trauma passes through generations.

"But so does courage, strength and compassion."

Jewish Journeys

Isidor's Story

By Sheryl Rich-Kern

Leaving a German jail at daybreak. Jumping off a train. Walking over mountains to Switzerland. These were some of the stories centenarian Isidore Juda shared with Temple Beth Abraham (TBA) congregants after Shabbat services on May 6.

Isidore moved slowly with a walker, but when he sat down to speak in front of the more than 70 people attending TBA's Lunch & Learn, his voice had the power to transport us back to the neighborhood of his youth.

Isidore is the father of TBA Hazzan and longtime congregant Stan Juda.

At 101 years old, Isidore had a lot of ground to cover. He was born in Vienna, Austria in 1921. As a child, he played the violin and sang in the synagogue choir. "But my first love was soccer," he said. He had lots of friends in school, both Jewish and non-Jewish. After high school, he began taking courses in a business program. Life was fairly normal. That is, until 1938.

He recalled the seminal day on March 6th when the foundation of his world collapsed. He was 16, walking to the subway station after a class.

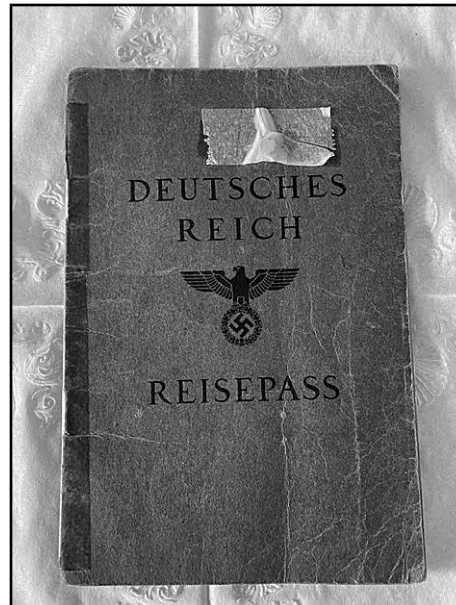
"I was not able to cross one of the main streets in the city," he said. "Adolf Hitler had entered Vienna. There were lines of people cheering a man whose goal it was to take over Austria and the rest of the world."

When he finally reached his home, he saw his mother standing in the doorway, crying that the German Chancellor had invaded her beloved city.

"I know," he told his mother. "I saw him. I was as far away from him as the wall of this room," Isidore said, as he gestured to the back of the TBA social hall.

Isidore didn't have to see Hitler in person to understand Nazi vitriol. He began to hear the word Anschluss, which described Germany's annexation of its neighboring country. For Austria's approximately 200,000 Jews, the Anschluss was a pivotal moment. It meant that Jews would face harsh restrictions and humiliations. Isidore said Jews could only go to Jewish doctors and hospitals. They could only shop at Jewish-owned stores, that is, if those stores hadn't already been vandalized or destroyed by the Nazis.

A week after the Anschluss began, Isidore returned to classes. "I asked my teacher why we have these restrictions. I was told I better not ask and that if I



keep asking too many questions, I will be sent to a work camp." Another week later, Jewish students were not allowed to return to school. "Unfortunately, that was the end of my business school education."

As the days passed, he faced risks for merely going outside. One day he heard yelling, clapping and laughing. From the fourth floor window of a school building, an SS officer was holding a little child by its legs and hitting the child against the outside wall. "After the child was completely bloodied, he dropped it to the ground. That was part of their entertainment."

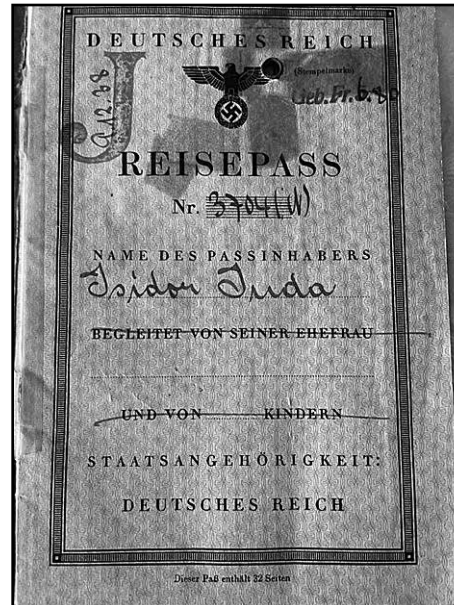
A few days later he learned the Nazis arrested three of his uncles and their families. He never saw them again.

Jewish children did their best to stay away from Hitler youth who were always looking for a fight. A former non-Jewish school friend of Isidore's came by and spit on a young Jewish girl, calling her a Jewish pig and other insults.

"I turned and punched him in the nose and bloodied his face," said Isidore. The Hitler youth growled, "I'll get you, Jew-boy."

Isidore needed to leave Vienna. It was only a matter of time before a paramilitary Hitler youth might beat him to death. His parents and his younger sister were waiting for visas for all of them to go to the United States. They had relatives in New Jersey.

"I knew I couldn't wait much longer," said Isidore, although he also knew his parents would never let him leave on his own. One August evening he told his mother he was going to the Jewish Hospital to have them look at a cut on his head. Before his parents awoke the next



morning, he took some money his father had hidden and left with only the clothes on his back. He had a game plan. He would take the train to Switzerland.

Once at the station, he realized he didn't have enough money for a ticket to Bregenz, the last town before the Swiss border to the west. Instead, he bought a ticket to Salzburg, about 200 miles east of Bregenz, and boarded the train.

"I looked at some of the other passengers and realized I was not the only one leaving." As the train passed the city of Gratz, tears came to his eyes as he registered the thought of never seeing his family again.

When the train arrived in Salzburg, Isidore didn't get off. He remained in his seat, his posture not giving away the fear in the pit of his stomach. All he could think was, I have to get to Bregenz. Luckily and oddly, no one checked his ticket as the train chugged forward. Once it reached the Bregenz station, he disembarked. He approached some people who seemed friendly and they told him about the railroad bridge to Switzerland.

It was nighttime and the city was poorly lit. He started to walk cross the bridge until a voice yelled, "Halt."

He continued walking. Again, he heard, "Halt, or I'll shoot." Two SS were looking him up and down and ordered him to come to the police station. They wanted to know the whereabouts of the rest of his group. He responded honestly: he was alone. One of the men hit him in the face and said, "Don't lie to me, Jew-boy." Again, he replied he was alone. Again, the officer struck him in the face and shoved him in the jail overnight. He asked the SS officer for some water. "You little Jewboy, you get nothing."

The next morning, the officers put him on a train they said was going to Salzburg. Gazing into the eyes of the other passengers, he realized Salzburg was not where this train was going. More likely, he thought, they were being rounded up to go to a labor camp.

The train traveled for about an hour. Then, with no explanation, it suddenly slowed down. Isidore looked around to make sure no SS men were standing vigil.

"I took a chance and jumped off the train," he said. "I had nothing to lose."

He landed in a wooded area and waited for the train to leave. Once acclimated to his surroundings, Isidore realized he had been in this part of Austria on family ski trips. He didn't know the exact route to Switzerland, only that he was close. He knew he had to trek up and over the mountain.

He began walking. Two or three hours later, he came upon a farmer herding his cows and a stroke of luck. In the midst of turmoil, he encountered kindness. Hearing Isidore's plight, the farmer took him to his house where his wife fed him. That evening, he slept in the farmer's barn. The next morning, the farmer woke him very early, gave him breakfast and led him to where his Nazi-occupied homeland crossed into the allegedly neutral Switzerland.

Isidore saw signs indicating the Swiss border, but no barriers. He began his descent. Soon he encountered a Swiss gendarme and told him he wanted to stay in Switzerland. The gendarme took him to the police station and Isidore was declared a political immigrant. Later, the Swiss authorities, seeing that he was in poor physical condition, sent him to a hospital in St. Gallen.

Again, luck prevailed.

During the war, around 300,000 Europeans fleeing the Nazis crossed into Switzerland. Among them were 30,000 Jews. However, unlike Isidore, an estimated 24,500, mainly Jewish civilians, were turned away.

"Until this time my parents had no idea where I was," he said. "From there [the hospital], I wrote them a very carefully worded letter."

Once discharged, Isidore was sent to an immigration camp. He remained in Switzerland for two years, some of that time living in Zurich. Through postal correspondence with New Jersey relatives, a visa was arranged for him to come to the United States.

The Swiss issued Isidore a passport

Isidor's Story continued on page 26



Hadassah Strives for Health, Peace, and Partnership

By Michele Bank

In April, Rabbi Beth Davidson led a special Yom Ha'Atzmaut Shabbat Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester. It was a collaboration of the

Manchester Chapter of Hadassah members and the Sisterhood, who participated in the service and hosted the Oneg that followed. It was a wonderful event celebrating Israel's 75 years of statehood.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 1 PM,

Manchester Chapter members will join other chapters in the second annual walkathon for women's health. The walk will take place at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir in Brookline, MA. No details to date. If you would like to support this

fundraiser by forming your own group, or walk on your own at a place of your choosing, please contact Michele Bank. Everyone is welcome to participate, you do not have to be a Hadassah member.

On the domestic front, the community is asked to urge Congress to recognize the 75th Anniversary of Israel's founding as an independent nation. The US and Israel have a longstanding relationship founded on shared values and interests. Both countries benefit thru mutual security, shared intelligence and collaborating to advance innovation, technology, and medical breakthroughs. Israel offers invaluable contributions to the international community, including humanitarian aid, entrepreneurship, agriculture, water management and more.

The House of Representatives recently passed a resolution marking 75 years of a strong US-Israel relationship, supporting continued security partnerships, and encouraging peace between Israel and its neighbors. The Senate is now considering a similar resolution (S. Res. 188) that celebrates the longstanding and indelible partnership between our countries. Please write your senators today and ask them to support the US-Israel relationship, supporting Senate Resolution 188.

Internationally, Hadassah's Organoid Bio-Bank promises patients more personalized medicine. A recent article in *The Jerusalem Post* spotlights the incredible opportunities open to scientists at Hadassah's Organoid Center, where doctors take tissues from patients and grow them in the lab in such a way that the cells multiply and connect, eventually mimicking the features of tissue in the body.

In 2021, Hadassah established a bio-bank to store the samples and make them available to researchers in Israel and around the world. "I believe our bio-bank will become an essential tool for the industry, especially as we develop it and increase the number of samples," said Prof. Mishani, director of HMO's Research Fund and the head of the Research and Development and Innovation Division.

Today, researchers use organoids to determine how various drugs and treatments will affect the tissues—and finally the individual patient. Not only does this personalized approach save the patient from grueling tests and drugs that may have no effect on disease, but it also reduces the time between the onset of illness and potential lifesaving treatments.

For more information about Hadassah or the Walkathon, please contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

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- 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

Recent Events

ADL New England Announces New Regional Director Rabbi Jonah Steinberg

Boston, MA, June 6, 2023: ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) announced today the appointment of Rabbi Jonah Steinberg as Director of ADL's New England Region. Steinberg will lead the fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Jonah succeeds Robert Trestan as the Regional Director who has been serving ADL as its Western Division Vice President. During his nine-year tenure, Trestan was responsible for overseeing ADL's community relations, advocacy initiatives and program delivery across the region, prioritizing developing community partnerships and initiatives that advocate for justice, equity and fair treatment for everyone. Peggy Shukur has served as Interim Regional Director since October 2022 and will remain as Deputy Regional Director.

Rabbi Steinberg comes to ADL after serving 12 years as the Director of Hillel at Harvard University. In that role, Steinberg transformed the organization into a leading Jewish voice, not just at Harvard, but throughout the community. He did so while facing unprecedented hostility toward Israel and the organized Jewish community on campus. Steinberg has been a bridge-builder and thought-leader, having stood up not only for the Jewish community, but for all members of marginalized communities.

Born in Canada and raised in Toronto and in Vienna, Austria, Rabbi Steinberg received his BA at Brown University and his MA, MPhil and PhD degrees at

Columbia University. He has served as Visiting Instructor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, taught at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies of the American Jewish University, and headed the program in Rabbinic Literature and Civilization at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College before becoming Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College.

"Having grown up in Vienna, Austria, amid a cultural milieu of historic antisemitism, and having more recently experienced the demonization of Israel on campus, ADL's vital mission of combating antisemitism and securing just and fair treatment for all touches my roots and engages my commitment to fostering understanding, amity, and solidarity against hate and prejudice," said Rabbi Jonah Steinberg. "I am inspired by a great forerunner in this role, Lenny Zakim, of blessed memory, who, in a variation of Hillel's famous words, said, 'If we don't speak up for ourselves, probably no one else will, but if we speak up only for ourselves then we are not complete.' I am honored to lead the storied New England office and look forward to the work ahead."

"I am thrilled to welcome Rabbi Steinberg to our team and to entrust this region's important work to his leadership," said Doron Ezickson, Vice President of ADL's East Division. "Jonah is not only a thoughtful and capable leader, but of equal importance, he is dedicated to ADL's mission 'to stop the defamation of

the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.'"

"We welcome Jonah's vision, leadership, experience and commitment to ADL New England at this crucial time as we act to confront the ever-present and ever-changing threat of antisemitism and hate through action, advocacy and allyship," added Peggy Shukur, ADL New England Interim Regional Director.

Steinberg will work closely with the ADL New England Regional Board, chaired by Regional Board Chair Joe Berman.

ADL is the leading anti-hate organization in the world. Founded in 1913, its timeless mission is "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." Today, ADL continues to fight all forms of antisemitism and bias, using innovation and partnerships to drive impact. A global leader in combating antisemitism, countering extremism and battling bigotry wherever and whenever it happens, ADL works to protect democracy and ensure a just and inclusive society for all. More at www.adl.org.

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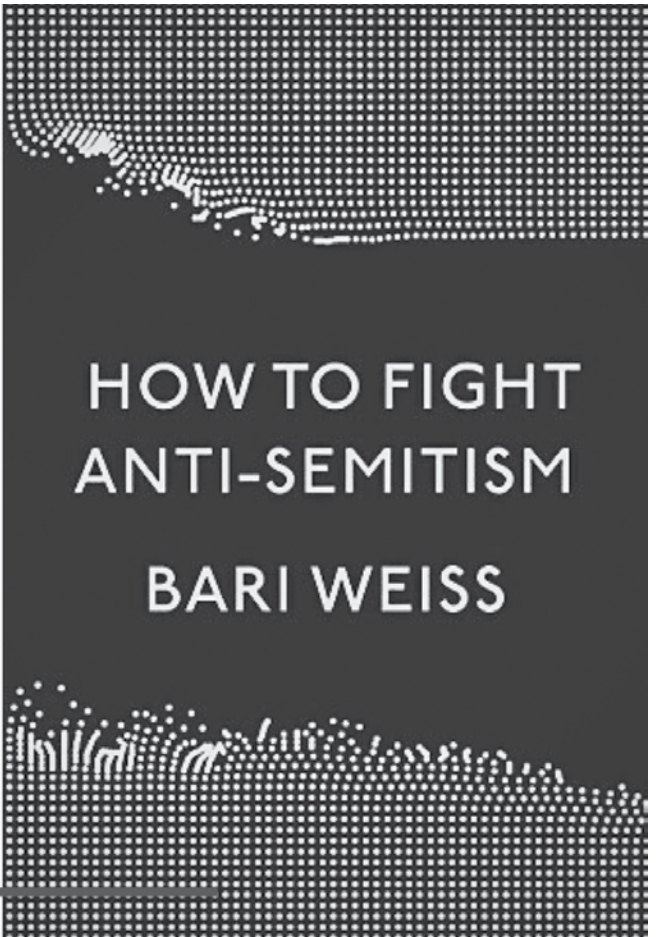
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In appreciation of Ra'anana, and everything the program brings to NH –
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How to submit an obituary

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

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

Isidor's Story

continued from page 23

stamped with a red "J," as per an agreement between the German and Swiss governments. He still has it.

More than eight decades have passed since the then 19-year-old Isidore began the long journey across the ocean on the SS Manhattan to the United States. He remembers clearly his arrival at the New York City port in May of 1940. "I had the best surprise of my life," he said. His uncle, who he expected to greet him, was accompanied by three other people: his parents and his sister. He knew they had received visas, but didn't know they had arrived before him and were already settled in Vineland, New Jersey.

In November 1942, Isidore was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served in the South Pacific and was wounded in the Philippines and then discharged in November 1945. Isidore was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Medal and a

Presidential citation.

Isidore met his future wife Esther at a Jewish singles dance in South Jersey, raised two children there and then moved to Connecticut. Esther passed away in January of 2003.

His son Stan Juda said he didn't know much about his father's escape until the last 10 years or so. "It's all fairly new for us," he said.

Before 1938, Isidore was part of a thriving Austrian Jewish community, one of the largest in Europe. Vienna was its cultural hub with a population of around 170,000. By 1945, only about 8,000 Jews remained in all of Austria.

As the numbers of Holocaust survivors alive today dwindle, Isidore realized the importance of sharing his story.

During his 40-minute narration, Isidore allowed TBA congregants to touch the past in a way that was evocatively human and authentic. For those attending the Lunch & Learn, it was a cherished opportunity.

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.

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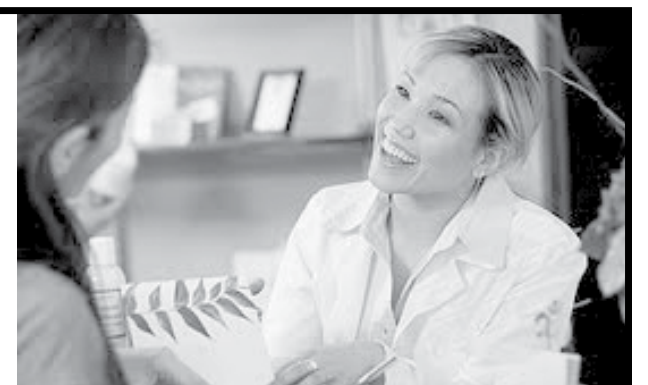


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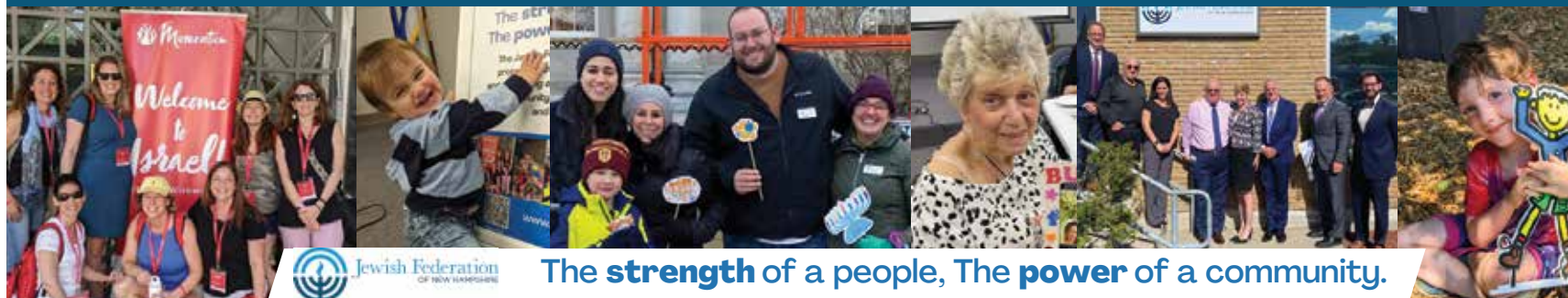
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