

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
Jewish **Reporter**

Published by the
Jewish Federation of
New Hampshire

Volume 46, Number 6

March 2026

Adar - Nisan 5786



NH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

**18TH ANNUAL
MULTI-ACCESS
FILM FESTIVAL
IN THEATERS
AND VIRTUAL**



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**Living the Values of Family, Faith, and Tzedakah:
Robert Singer's Story**

Robert Singer's story is, in many ways, the story of Jewish Manchester itself, rooted in family, faith, business, and a deep sense of responsibility to community. Raised in Manchester in a family of seven children, Singer grew up immersed in synagogue life at Temple Israel and in a home where Jewish living was visible and active. His father attended daily minyan and wore tefillin each morning; Shabbat dinners regularly welcomed 25-30 guests, including people who might otherwise have been alone. His mother built community through Hadassah and the Jewish Community Center. Singer still remembers being the first person to recite Kiddush at Temple Israel when it relocated to Salmon Street more than 60

years ago. From an early age, his parents emphasized four pillars: family, faith, community, and career — values that continue to guide him today.

Those values carried into the family business. After a devastating fire destroyed the family's earlier poultry operation, Singer's father started Merchants Auto in the early 1960s with just a few dozen used cars and a bank loan secured by his life insurance policy. Over six decades, the company grew into one of the largest fleet management firms in the country, managing vehicles for major corporations. Singer ultimately led the company as Co-CEO and President and describes himself in those years as a driven, type-A dealmaker who expected to

work at Merchants for life. Selling the company in 2022 was emotional, but it also opened a new chapter — one increasingly centered on philanthropy.

Much of Singer's giving is deeply personal. The family created Jordan's Dream Fund in honor of his son, who tragically passed away from cancer, to help young sarcoma patients reach clinical trials. Across Manchester, the Singer name appears on projects tied to both memory and hope: healthcare facilities honoring his son and parents, the Jordan Singer Youth Enrichment Center at the Boys & Girls Club, a solar-lit basketball court and expanded facilities at Chabad, and major support for the Palace Theatre and

Robert Singer continued on page 14

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CONGREGATIONS

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

BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM HEBREW CONGREGATION

39 Strawberry Hill Road
PO Box 395, Bethlehem
Unaffiliated-Egalitarian
(603) 869-5465
www.bethlehemsynagogue.org
Weekly services from July through Simchat Torah with Zoom services and Torah study from November to June. Please check our website for service times and event information.

CONCORD

TEMPLE BETH JACOB

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

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Jonathan Biatch and
Rabbi Marcia Plumb (Transitional Rabbis)
1½ Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@etzhayim.org, rabbi@etzhayim.org
Services: Fridays 7:15 PM,
Saturday 9:30 AM.
Torah Study - Saturday 10:45 AM. Check
the website for updates
Monthly Family Pizza Shabbat at 5:30 PM.
Please visit www.etzhayim.org/calendar
for optional Zoom link.

HANOVER

THE ROHR CHABAD CENTER AT DARTMOUTH

Rabbi Moshe Gray
19 Allen Street, Hanover
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 643-9821
www.dartmouthchabad.com
chabad@dartmouth.edu
Services: Friday Evening Shabbat services
and Dinner
Shabbat morning services
Call for times

KOL HA'EMEK UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

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

LACONIA

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

Rabbi Andy Bachman
210 Court Street, Laconia
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 524-7044
www.tbinh.org
info@tbinh.org
Services: Every other Friday
night at 7:30 PM

MANCHESTER

CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

Rabbi Levi Krinsky
1234 River Rd., Manchester
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 647-0204
www.Lubavitchnh.com
rabbi@lubavitchnh.com
Services: Shabbat Services
Saturday morning at 9:30 AM
Sunday morning minyan at 9 AM

TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN

Rabbi Beth D. Davidson
152 Prospect Street, Manchester
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 669-5650
www.taynh.org
office@taynh.org
Services: Shabbat services the first Friday
of the month at 6 PM
All other Friday nights at 7 PM
with some exceptions.
Alternating Shabbat services or Torah
study Saturday mornings at 10 AM

TEMPLE ISRAEL MANCHESTER

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

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

NASHUA

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett
Conservative
(603) 883-8184
www.tbanashua.org
rabbijon@tbanashua.org
office@tbanashua.org
Services (generally):
Every Friday at 8:00 PM
Every Saturday at 10:00 AM
Evening Minyan Monday-Thursday at
7:30 PM
All services are in-person and on Zoom
(check our website for schedule changes
and Zoom links)

NEWINGTON

UNH & SEACOAST CHABAD JEWISH CENTER

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

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

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

PORTSMOUTH

TEMPLE ISRAEL

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

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The objectives of The New Hampshire
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experiences and opinions, and to promote the
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thereporter@jewishnh.org

To submit Calendar items for the print and
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the red "Suggest an Event" button, then fill in
the form with your event information.

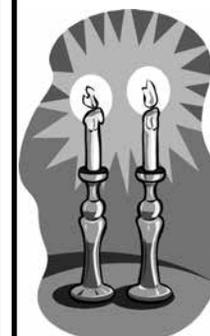
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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



March 6	5:23 PM
March 13	6:32 PM
March 20	6:40 PM
March 27	6:48 PM

Stories That Bring Us Together

March in our community has a special energy to it. The days grow a bit longer, we begin to shake off winter, and we gather for one of the most meaningful cultural touchstones of our year: the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. Film has a unique way of opening windows into Jewish life around the world, into our history, our humor, our challenges, and our resilience. When the lights dim and the screen flickers on, we aren't just watching stories; we're sharing an experience that connects us to one another and to the broader Jewish narrative.

The Film Festival is powerful because it invites both reflection and conversation. A film can challenge assumptions, spark dialogue, or help us see familiar issues through a new lens. Just as importantly, it brings people together in the same room, neighbors, friends, and newcomers, creating community in the most organic way. In a state where Jewish fam-



Erik Martin

**JFNH
Executive
Director**

ilies are spread across many towns and cities, these shared cultural moments matter. They remind us that Jewish life in New Hampshire is vibrant, thoughtful, and connected.

Storytelling, of course, is central to Jewish tradition. We are a people who remember, who pass down, who wrestle with our past and dream about our future. That thread continues in April as our community gathers for Yom HaShoah commemorations. On April 12, Manchester and Portsmouth will each host opportunities for remembrance and learning in partnership with local congregations. These solemn gatherings en-

sure that memory is not abstract; it is personal, communal, and carried forward by the next generation.

From remembrance we move, in the Jewish calendar, toward celebration. On June 7, our community will come together for the Yom Ha'atzmaut "Israel Bazaar" Festival. Where Yom HaShoah asks us to remember what was lost, Yom Ha'atzmaut invites us to celebrate what has been built, a vibrant culture, creativity, and the enduring story of Israel and its people. Music, food, and shared pride transform a simple gathering into a joyful affirmation of Jewish life.

And the summer doesn't stop there. On August 4, Jewish Heritage Night at the Fisher Cats offers another chance to show up proudly and visibly as a Jewish community. There is something wonderfully American and wonderfully Jewish about sitting at a ballpark with friends and family, celebrating heritage in a public, joyful way. These moments send a

quiet but powerful message: Jewish life here is strong, open, and woven into the fabric of our broader community.

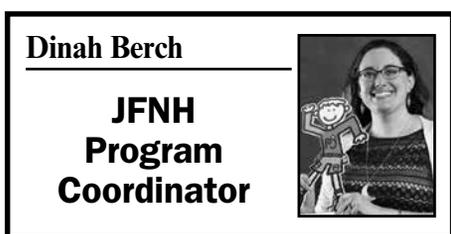
What ties all these moments together is the simple act of showing up and reaffirming our community's place in the tapestry of American life. Jewish Federation exists to help create and sustain these opportunities, but it is your participation that brings them to life. When you attend, volunteer, or invite a friend, you help strengthen the bonds that make our community feel like home.

As we enjoy this year's Film Festival, I invite you to see it as more than a series of screenings. It is the beginning of a season of connection—one that carries us from reflection to celebration, from spring into summer. Each gathering is another chapter in the story we are writing together as Jewish New Hampshire. I look forward to seeing you at the movies, and at the many meaningful moments still to come.

Reel Memories, Real Kehillah: The Shared Screen Gives Rise to Emergent Community

Remember VHS tapes? Hunting for a blank one and panicking when you thought you might have recorded over something. Constant reminders from librarians and video stores to rewind. Watching the same movie over and over until every word was memorized. *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* with Brandy and Whitney Houston. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat's* TV debut with Donny Osmond as Joseph. *The Ten Commandments* with Yul Brynner and Charlton Heston. Scenes, lines, and songs burned into my memories, as real to me as my own childhood experiences.

I adored those rare days at school when we had a substitute and got to watch a movie—clunky tech consoles with giant box TVs that were always pixelated, popcorn spilling into sleeping bags during camp movie nights, and field trip buses with tiny screens and no sound, leaving us to improvise the dialogue. There's something about a group of kids watching a movie together: spontaneous laughter, gasps, and clapping; whispers and giggles at kissing scenes; the intake of breath at scary moments or from too much anticipation. The suspense and hope that there will be a happy ending—even for movies we've seen a thousand times. Kids we'd barely spoken to moments earlier suddenly became our best



Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**

friends, trading popcorn and candy, laughing at lines we'd all heard a hundred times. We became a crew, a *chevrah*.

In a theater, on a couch, or in a box fort, watching a film together has a way of pulling us into the same story. In those moments of shared joy, we become participants in a collective magic that melds our individual reactions into an emergent *kehillah*—community. A calm settles over us as we all step into the movie's world. We come away with an awareness: having experienced it as one, we are now a village.

Of course, it's nice if that village is also mirrored on screen, if the world the movie draws us into feels familiar and comfortable. Very slowly, we're seeing more Jewish representation and new movies: 2023's *You're So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah* and 2025's *David*. I've also seen fascinating articles claiming *Encanto* as a Jewish story, or celebrating Jewish voice actors like Sarah Silverman in *Wreck-It Ralph*. My kids are always asking to have friends over for movie nights. They know

the power and magic films can access—or maybe they just really like popcorn and root beer floats.

This March, I invite youth in our "PJ Our Way" age range (9–12) to join me at Red River Theatres in Concord for a PJ Library Film Festival collaborative showing of *13: The Musical*, about a boy who desperately wants to fit in, to be accepted and celebrated, and to find his *chevrah*—his crew. Register using the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/pjownhnh13> to join. Parents — drop off your 9–12-year-olds and take this opportunity to enjoy



a different film from the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival's lineup! It takes a village.

Want to host your own meaningful movie night? Try "Hollywood & Havdalah" or "PJ, PJs & Popcorn" with friends—and let Harold Grinspoon buy the popcorn! PJ Library Get Togethers offer funding to help you host a Jewish-themed watch party with your community. The process has been simplified and is easier than ever — and can be used five times a year! Apply at pjlibrary.org/get-together or email me at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.

See you at the movies!



Statewide Calendar of Events

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

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

Sunday, March 1

Beth Abraham's Purim Community Celebration

10:00 AM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH
Join us for a Purim Community Celebration! All are welcome, and attendance is free. That way we know how many to plan for. We will be serving a light lunch with Hamantaschen. There will also be a short Megillah reading, a sing-along, and carnival games with prizes! Also, a featured performance with Magic by Bonaparte! For more information contact Rebecca White at 603-883-8184 or at office@tbanashua.org. <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/purim-2026>
Sponsor: Temple Beth Abraham & Southern NH Jewish Men's Club

Purim Patisserie at Hebrew School of the Arts

10:00 AM, Jewish Community Center, 2299 Woodbury Ave, Newington, NH
Step into our Purim Patisserie, where kids become pastry chefs and create beautiful (and delicious!) stained-glass Purim cookies in festive shapes like crowns, masks, and more! A sweet, hands-on Purim experience the whole family will love. Hebrew School Students are free of charge, Non-Hebrew School Students: \$18/child. Register at: jewishseacoast.com/sweet

Monday, March 2

Purim Comedy Night

6:30 PM, Jewish Community Center, 2299 Woodbury Ave., Newington, NH
Get ready for a night of non-stop laughter, great food, and festive Purim vibes! Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring headliner comedian Juston McKinney, bringing his sharp wit and hilarious storytelling to the Seacoast. Open bar,

dinner buffet served, Purim celebration with great company and even better laughs! Come celebrate Purim with laughter, community, and joy—you won't want to miss this one! Tickets: \$54 – Adult; \$36 – Child; \$18 – UNH Students. RSVP: jewishseacoast.com/comedy or email hannah@jewishseacoast.com with questions.

Temple Adath Yeshurun Purim Megillah

7:00PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH
Please ensure that you request access for the 7pm Zoom reading by Friday, February 27th at 4pm to ensure entry online. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information contact the office at office@taynh.org. Sponsor: TAY

Tuesday, March 3

Reckoning with the Past: The Arolsen Archives and Transitional Justice

12:00 PM, Zoom Webinar
The Arolsen Archives (formerly the International Tracing Service) was established in 1948 in order to document the crimes committed by the National Socialists and the fates of the victims. For decades, this organization has helped relatives of victims find answers about the fates of their loved ones, helped survivors establish their eligibility for compensation, and more. Today, the Arolsen Archives contain the largest global collection on victims and survivors of the Nazi persecution. This virtual event will feature two staff members from the Arolsen Archives who will discuss the history of the Archives, the work they do today, and the role that archives can play in transitional justice. For more information contact the Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at coheninstitute@keene.edu. This event is free and open to everyone. Registration required: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JEK5hdwBTegOUlbnTn8g#/registration. Please note that there will not be a video recording of this event. Instead, an audio recording will be available by request after the event. Sponsor: Cohen Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College Archives

Chabad 'Purim in the Wild West'

5:00 PM, Chabad Center for Jewish Living, 1234 River Rd, Manchester, NH. Chabad of New Hampshire invites you to Purim in the Wild West- a rootin'-tootin' Purim celebration for all ages. Dust off your boots, grab your best cowboy hat, and come celebrate Purim Wild West-style with your community! What's in store: mechanical bull, finger-lickin' buffet dinner, cowbell graggers, wanted photo booth, mocktail saloon, cowboy hat required. For more information contact Chanchie Krinsky at 603-674-7076 or at chanchie@chabadofnh.com. RSVP is essential: chabadofnh.com/WildWest

Beth Abraham's Purim Megillah Reading and Dinner

5:15 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH
Join us for dinner, singing, and a spirited Megillah reading. Open to all! Come in costume! 7:30 pm will be a full Megillah reading with Minyan. For more information contact Rebecca White at 603-883-8184 or at office@tbanashua.org or visit <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/purim-megillah-reading.html> to register.

Friday, March 6

Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Pizza Shabbat

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

Join us for a free pizza dinner followed by an intergenerational service for everyone! L'Dor V'dor! There will be kids' Shabbat-related activities and a story by our Book Bubbe Leslie Kirshman, while adults enjoy a sermon with Rabbi Jonathan Biatch. Bring a nosh to share for oneg. For more information and to RSVP for pizza contact the office at 603-432-0004 or at office@etzhayim.org.

Saturday, March 7

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

4:00PM, Temple B'nai Israel, 210 Court Street, Laconia, NH
Join the small and vibrant Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia for our annual Purim Party on for Saturday, March 7, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. This festive event promises an engaging blend of tradition, fun, and family-friendly entertainment, perfect for all ages. The celebration will feature delicious dairy dishes and sweets including Hamantaschen. In addition, guests will enjoy TBI's annual fun Purim Spiel and children will have their share of fun through specially planned activities designed to keep them entertained and engaged throughout the event. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes, adding a colorful and festive atmosphere to the gathering, consistent with Purim customs. Please RSVP to maronson@metrocast.net by February 27 to ensure sufficient food and allow for timely communication in the event of inclement weather. The cost to attend is \$18 for non-members, making this an accessible celebration for the wider community. Contact info@tbinh.org with questions.

Purim Carnival & Spiel

5:00 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue Family Pizza Shabbat 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Etz Hayim is having a Purim Celebration! Join us for a fun-filled celebration for all ages! Games and booths include Esther's crown toss, pin the hat on Haman, make your own grogger, decorate a crown, decorate a mask, limbo, freeze dance, costume parade. At 7:00, the fun continues with "Chaos in the Shul: The Shul with No Rabbi, a Purim Spiel" - a laugh-out-loud parody. For more information contact Kristina Zweig at 603-432-0004 or at secretary@etzhayim.org

Sunday, March 8

Etz Hayim Synagogue Sunday Family Camp

10:00 AM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Etz Hayim Synagogue Sunday Family Camp for ages 4-6. This month's Theme is Purim! March's class will focus on Purim. Children will learn about the Purim story (using an age-appropriate text) and how we celebrate this fun holiday. RSVP to sarahjohnplater@aol.com by Friday, March 6 to ensure we have enough materials. Etz Hayim Synagogue hosts monthly Sunday Family Camp for ages 4-6. Our teacher uses a mix of music, crafts and games to introduce students to the Jewish calendar, prayer, Torah and Hebrew. The program is free, and no membership is required. Visit <https://www.etzhayim.org/learn/grades-0-1> for more information. Sponsor: The L. Lou Schloss Memorial Education Fund

Temple Israel Portsmouth Purim Carnival

10:00AM, Temple Israel Portsmouth, 200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH
Come in costume for games, prizes, Purim songs, a reprise of our Purim Spiel, and hamantaschen

baked by our sisterhood. This event is free and open to the entire community, but please register on our temple calendar. Registration REQUIRED. Email the office at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org with questions.

Thursday, March 12

The History of Etz Hayim Synagogue

7:00 PM, Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH
Jill Pelunis will describe how The Etz Hayim Synagogue ("EHS") evolved out of a Torah Study Group taught during the winter of 1991 into the center of Judaism in the Derry area. She will talk about the Interfaith Campus, building of the synagogue, and the many facets of its spiritual, educational, social, and community involvement growth. All programs are held at Etz Hayim Synagogue. These presentations are part of Etz Hayim Synagogue's Adult Continuing Education Program, Hot Topics and Cool Contemporary Stuff. Please visit www.etzhayim.org/learn/adult-learning for a complete listing of Hot Topics. For more information, please contact Stephen Soreff, MD, at 603-895-6120 or at soreffs15@aol.com. Sponsor: The L. Lou Schloss Memorial Education Fund

Sunday, March 15 – Sunday, March 29

Annual 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

Please join us at the 18th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival in theatres across the state and from the comfort of your home. For more information and film schedule visit <http://www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com> or contact Pat Kalik at 603-627-7679 or at filmfest@jewishnh.org.

Beth Abraham's Sisterhood Open Mic and Fair-Trade Chocolate Night

6:30 PM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua, NH
Join us for a night of delicious chocolate, signature cocktails and fabulous entertainment! Open to all! \$22 per person if you register online in advance, or \$25 per person at the door. <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/sisterhood39s-open-mic-and-fair-trade-chocolate-night1.html>. Sponsor: Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood. Contact office@tbanashua.org with questions.

Monday, March 16

Campapalooza – Virtual Jewish Summer Camp Fair

7:30PM via Zoom
Campapalooza is where families meet the people who make camp magic happen, connect with a vital part of Jewish life across our region, and get answers about camp options and affordability from camps located throughout New England and neighboring states. Visit <https://bit.ly/campapalooza2026> to register for the Zoom link. At least sixteen camps presenting! Email Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions.

Thursday, March 19

Hadassah Meeting

1:00 PM, Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, 273 South River Road, Unit 5, Bedford, NH
Manchester Chapter of Hadassah Open Meeting. For more information contact Michele Bank at 603-488-5657 or at michele.bank@gmail.com.

Calendar continued on page 5



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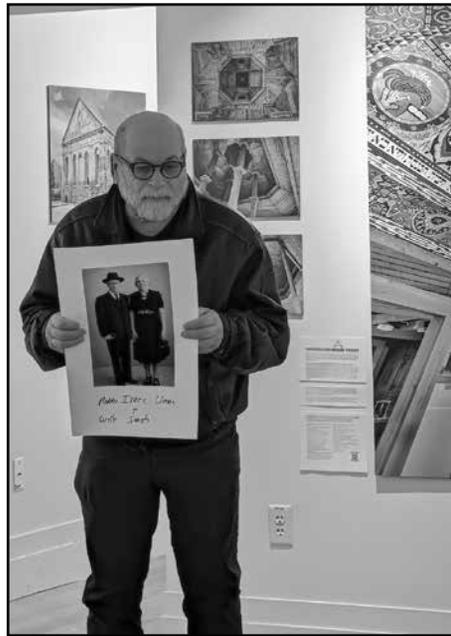
"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."
~ Albert Einstein

Seniors Forever Young Explores SNHU's 'Martyred Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe' exhibit

On Tuesday, February 10th, members of the New Hampshire Jewish community joined a Seniors Forever Young outing through JFNH to explore the "Martyred Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe" exhibit at SNHU, curated by Professor Harry Umen. We enjoyed Professor Umen's talk and viewed the stunning photography capturing these historic synagogues.

The exhibit closed on February 13th, but it may travel to other locations. To be notified about future showings or to reach Professor Umen, email him at H. Umen@snhu.edu.

If you're interested in joining us for future programs or field trips through JFNH Adult Programming or Seniors Forever Young, contact the JFNH office at 603-627-7679 or Dinah.berch@jewishnh.org.



Calendar

continued from page 4

Saturday, March 21 – Sunday, March 22

Temple Beth Jacob Presents: Esther Goes to Wonderland

8:00 PM, Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord, NH

Get ready to jump through the looking glass as the TBJ Purimshpiel cast creatively retells the story of Esther. This year's musical extravaganza is inspired by the zany world created by Lewis Carroll and told in the style and music of Stevie Wonder. True to the spirit of *v'hahafoch hu* (the world turned upside down), this year's theme offers a topsy-turvy takeover as Shushan land becomes Wonderland. This annual event has been playing to sold out audiences for almost 3 decades; come see what the hubbub is all about.

Please join us for an entertaining night. Guaranteed, it will be the Megillat Esther you have never seen before. See "The Temple Beth Jacob's 29th Annual Purimshpiel, Esther Goes to Wonderland: A Wonder-Ful Purimshpiel" Set to the Music of Stevie Wonder, an original script written by Alice and Norm Kinsler. Open bar and snacks. To reserve your seats (\$25/\$20) for the Saturday or Sunday performances, email the TBJ office (office@tbjconcord.org) or purchase tickets online at www.tbjconcord.org/purimshpiel-2026-ticket-page. For more information contact Sue Peterson on 603-228-8581. Tickets for the Livestream of the Saturday evening's performance are available as well.

Wednesday, March 25

Jewish Holiday Library Storytime: Passover

10:30AM, Minot-Sleeper Library, 35 Pleasant Street, Bristol, NH
Join Dinah Berch, PJ Library Program Coordinator

for New Hampshire for a special story time all about the Jewish Spring Festival of Passover!! Dinah will bring books, a small craft project, and some Passover treats to share.

Free Program! Registration not required. Questions? Contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org. Sponsor: PJ Library New Hampshire, Temple B'nai Israel Laconia

Sunday, March 29

Shavua Tov Story Time - Passover

8:30 AM, Zoom

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

link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. For more information contact Corri Wilson at corri.wilson@jewishnh.org, or email the office at info@jewishnh.org with questions.

PJOW Film "13: The Musical"

1:30 PM, Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main Street Suite L1-1, Concord, NH

9-12-year-olds — join PJ Library New Hampshire and New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival at Red River Theatres in Concord for a screening of "13: The Musical"! Film is rated PG. Siblings and parents are welcome — or drop off your 9-12yo and go enjoy a different film! Free program | Popcorn/concessions available for purchase. Registration required: <https://bit.ly/pjownhh13>. Contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions or for more information. Sponsor: PJ Our Way, New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

A gift from the
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire



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

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

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

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



Kol Ha'Emek is starting a Jewish Day Camp in Hanover this summer!

The program debuts August 17-21, 2026 during the "shoulder season" between the end of summer and the first week of school when lots of families are looking to fill the gap in child care coverage. This



day camp will feature activities such as Jewish holiday themed arts and crafts—we will finally have time to make Purim costumes!, Maccabiah games and Jewish board games, Jewish music, Jewish theater, Israeli dancing, Tu Beshvat-themed hikes and nature exploration in nearby Pine Park, Lag B'Omer-themed campfires and s'more roasting, challah and rugelach baking, Israeli cooking, a field trip to a water park, and many other fun things. All of these activities will be infused with Hebrew vocabulary and Jewish values.

The timing is from 8:30 am to 4 pm.

The camp will be led by seasoned camp director Melissa Herman, along with a team of counselors drawn from Dartmouth students and high school students. The campers are currently in Kindergarten through fifth grade, and the cost features a sliding scale starting at \$25 per camper per day, including lunch and snacks.

Please check out our website at www.uvjc.org/camp for more information and registration.



Take your summer to the next level!

Overnight Options
ages 7-16

Day Camp
K-3



Book a tour!



Scholarships Available!
Learn more at CampJori.com
or email: info@campjori.com

In the Community

Temple Israel Portsmouth – Gathering, Growing, Looking Ahead

March at Temple Israel is a joyful, story-filled experience! Our famous **Purim celebration** kicks off on **Sunday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.**, with our Purim Spiel, "The Megillah of Oz" performed by our TIP youth. It is a playful, creative retelling of the Purim Story filled with music, song and humor.

Later in that week, we will continue the celebration at our **Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8 at 10:00 am.** It will be an experience full of games, costumes, and hands-on fun that create wonderful childhood memories. Sign-up is required. Contact the Temple Israel office to register.

Jewish storytelling continues on **March 22** as we help sponsor the **New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival.** This festival reflects our commitment to vibrant Jewish life across New Hampshire. See "Among Neighbors" at 1 p.m. or "Soul of a Nation" at 7 p.m. at Novocure in Portsmouth. To see descriptions of these films, visit nhjewishfilmfestival.com.

Our Hebrew School students will help lead Erev Shabbat services at our **Social**

Justice Shabbat Service on March 20, at 6:30 p.m. Come help support our students as they express their burgeoning practice of Jewish values in real time.

April is Pesach (Passover) season! Join us for our **Second Night Seder at 6:15 p.m. on April 2.** Registration and fee is required, so RSVP early. On April 8, we will hold a service

As we move into April, we look forward to celebrating **Passover** as a community. We invite you to join us for our **Second Night Seder,** beginning at **6:15 pm.** All are welcome, and **RSVP is required.** On Wednesday, **April 8,** we will hold a **morning Pesach Yom Tov service with Yizkor,** led by our rabbinic intern and cantorial soloist, **Reb Sam Tygiel,** offering a unique space for reflection and remembrance in our 199-year-old sanctuary.

Whether you've been part of Temple Israel for years or are just beginning to find your place here on the Seacoast, March and April offer many opportunities to connect. We hope you'll join us!



The Derryfield School



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A close-knit school culture grounded in integrity, curiosity, and mutual respect—where students are truly known, challenged appropriately, and supported as individuals.

ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE

APRIL 9 | THURSDAY, 6:00 p.m.



Join Us! Meet school leaders, faculty, and current families who value close relationships and an exceptional educational experience.

An independent day school welcoming bright, motivated students in grades 6-12

An Advisor You Can Trust



Contact us for a complimentary consultation:
(603) 232-8350 or info@investwithcohen.com
investwithcohen.com

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CAMPAPALOOZA

VIRTUAL JEWISH SUMMER CAMP FAIR

Campapalooza is where families meet the people who make camp magic happen, connect with a vital part of Jewish life across our region, and get answers about camp options and affordability from camps located throughout New England and neighboring states.

**MONDAY,
MARCH 16**

7:30 PM

ON ZOOM

SCAN QR TO REGISTER
for the zoom link
FREE event



Contact Dinah at JFNH -
dinah.berch@jewishnh.org - with
questions



Camps Represented:

- URJ 6Points SciTech Academy, Byfield, MA
 - Camp Avoda, Middleborough, MA
 - Camp Bauercrest, Amesbury, MA
 - URJ Camp Eisner, Great Barrington, MA
 - URJ Camp Crane Lake, West Stockbridge, MA
 - Camp Hadar Day Camp, Salem, NH
 - Camp JORI, Wakefield, RI
 - Camp Kingswood, Bridgeton, ME
 - Kol Ha'Emek UVJC Day Camp, Hanover, NH
 - Camp Micah, Bridgeton, ME
 - Camp Pembroke, Pembroke, MA
 - Camp Ramah New England, Palmer, MA
 - Camp Tel Noar, Hampstead, NH
 - Camp Tevya, Brookline, NH
 - Tranquility Camp, Earlton, NY
 - Camp YJ, Amherst, NH
- *More camps being added!



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jewish Community Alliance
of Southern Maine



In the Community

Concord's Temple Beth Jacob presents: Esther Goes to Wonderland: A Wonder-Ful Purimshpiel Set to the Music of Stevie Wonder - March 21-22, 2026

By Stacey Moore

The Temple Beth Jacob (TBJ Concord) Purimshpielers are pleased to welcome all of our NH Jewish Federation neighbors to our 29th annual theatrical extravaganza and holiday celebration, scheduled for performances on Saturday March 21 at 8:00PM and Sunday March 22 at 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob, 67 Broadway, Concord. While everyone is familiar with the Megillat Esther and the raucous celebrations that the holiday of Purim brings to our synagogues, you have certainly never experienced the story of Esther, Ahashuerus, Mordecai, Vashti, and Haman quite like this before.

With an original script written by Alice and Norm Kinsler, the creative energy, costuming, and musical performances of the show are inspired by the zany world created by Lewis Carroll and told in the style and music of Stevie Wonder. Following the important Purimshpiel tradition of storytelling with humor, the Megillat Esther comes to life on TBJ's very own Broadway in Concord NH. If you haven't seen a TBJ Purimshpiel before, you are in for a WONDER-FUL surprise.

The 36 members of the cast and crew add new characters, exciting plot twists, and bend social norms; and the 6-piece band provides a lively musical accompaniment that will make you feel like you are listening to Stevie himself, as we tell our version of the familiar story. True to the spirit of *v'nahafoch hu* (the world turned upside down), this year's theme offers a topsy-turvy takeover as Shushan land becomes Wonderland.

Hope you are getting "curiouser and curiouser" and are ready to jump

"Through the Looking Glass". You will be glad you did, as the TBJ cast promises a fun and entertaining evening for all, and guarantees that you will "Shpiel it all over." Along with plenty of Hamantaschen and other snacks, there is an open bar to allow everyone to fulfill the requirement of the *Shulchan Aruch* (the code of Jewish law) to imbibe until one can't tell the difference between the phrases "Blessed is Mordecai" and "Cursed is Haman"! While the humor is "tilted" toward an adult audience, older children and teens are welcome.

All seats are reserved; tickets (\$25/\$20) are available online (<https://www.tbjconcord.org/purimshpiel-2026-ticket-page.html>) or by sending an email to the Temple Beth Jacob office (office@tbjconcord.org). Please join with the Granite State Jewish (and Jew-"ish"?) community in a night of comedy and music. You will be truly welcomed as the Shpielers celebrate the joyous holiday and theatrical entertainment, and you are certain to leave TBJ with a promise to return next year!



PLANNED GIVING

Secure the future of our Jewish community

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

ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

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

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

WAYS TO ENDOW YOUR VISION

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

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



Shavua Tov Story Time

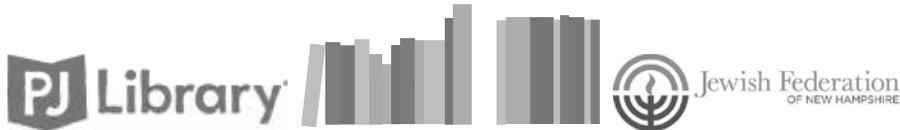
A program for families with children ages 2-5

Join us for a 20-minute interactive story time on Zoom one Sunday each month from 8:30am to 9:00am. Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail for the year! The Zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Scan QR code to register or go to <https://bit.ly/shavuatovNH>.



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

No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



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

PJ OUR WAY

We Need You

Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

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

Tell us all about it!

Send your reviews to Dinah.Berch@jewishnh.org or email for details & question prompts. We'll publish your review in upcoming issues of The Reporter and on Facebook!

Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

In the Community

Etz Hayim Synagogue Hosts Mah Jongg Tournament

Calling all Mah Jongg Mavens! You're invited to a Mah Jongg Tournament on Sunday, April 26, 2026, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Join us for a fun-filled day of tiles, prizes and friendship! Entry fee is \$30. There will be 4 rounds of game play, 4 games per 1-hour round. There will be prizes for placement, a 50/50 raffle and additional raffles, and sandwiches, desserts and refreshments.

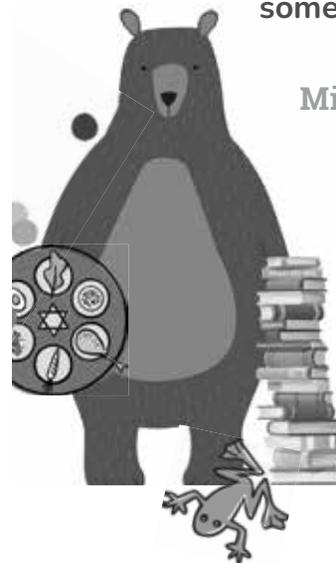
Sign up by April 12, 2026!

Doors open and check-in 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM. Pre-register and pay at <https://www.etzhayim.org/mah-jongg-tournament>. Rules and scoring provided after payment receipt. We are located at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Questions? Contact Jean Lisien at jbortz@comcast.net or Deb Eisner at rlc800@aol.com.

Jewish Holiday Story Time:

PASSOVER

Join Dinah Berch, PJ Library Program Coordinator for New Hampshire, and volunteers from Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia, for a special story time all about the Jewish Spring Festival of Passover!! Dinah will bring books, a small craft project, and some Passover treats to share.



Minot-Sleeper Library
35 Pleasant St,
Bristol, NH



Wednesday, March 25, 2026
10:30am

Free Program!
Registration not required.

Questions? Contact Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org



Keeping you connected

Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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18TH ANNUAL

MULTI-ACCESS
FILM FESTIVAL
IN THEATERS
AND VIRTUAL



13: THE MUSICAL | AMONG NEIGHBORS | ELIE WIESEL: SOUL ON FIRE | ETHAN BLOOM
HIDDEN: THE KATI PRESTON STORY | ONCE UPON MY MOTHER | THE OTHER | ROSENTHAL | THE RING |
THE ROAD BETWEEN US | THE SEA | SOUL OF A NATION | THE STRONGHOLD
SHORTS: I'M ALRIGHT | NO HARM DONE | TATTOOED4LIFE
THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE RAV KALMENSON

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TICKETS ON SALE FEBRUARY 15

Advance purchase for ALL screenings suggested

Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com

By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday–Friday, 9 AM–3 PM



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Follow us on Facebook at New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival 





Welcome to the 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival!

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire (JFNH), we are thrilled to welcome you to the 18th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival. This year, we are excited to present a multi-access experience, featuring both in-theater and virtual screenings of exceptional films from around the world. From March 15 to March 29, enjoy a curated selection of outstanding films that promise to entertain, enlighten, and provoke thought. As this is the festival's "Chai" year, many of our films reflect the full spectrum of the human experience of life, capturing stories of joy, struggle, love, and loss. Through different genres, cultures, and perspectives, these films highlight everyday moments as well as extraordinary events. Together, they create a shared space where audiences can see both their own lives and the lives of others represented on screen.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Sponsors, Friends of the Festival, dedicated Volunteers, the JFNH Board, Executive Director Erik Martin, and the entire JFNH staff. Your ongoing support makes this event possible.

Join the New Hampshire Jewish community in celebrating the power of film, as we come together to enjoy a memorable lineup of films from around the globe.

See you at the movies!

Pat Kalik and Ross Fishbein

Chairs, New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



273 South River Rd. #5, Bedford, NH 03110 603-627-7679 E-mail: filmfest@jewishnh.org www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org

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Carol Pressman

Roseann Ronnan

Reva Rovner

Alane Sabel

Brenda Schadick

Nancie Severs

Renee Snow

Lilliane Szyner

Abner Taub

Nancy Tobi

Phyllis Whitney



Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 15, 7 PM
The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

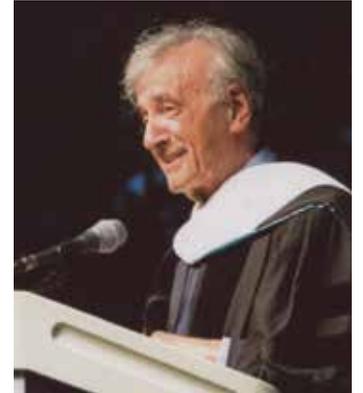
Director: Oren Rudavsky
 Documentary, 2024, USA
 87 minutes
 English

Opening Reception - Sunday, March 15, 5 PM

Join us at the Singer Center for the Arts for our Opening Reception to celebrate the start of our 18th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival, followed by the screening of *Eli Wiesel: Soul on Fire*, at The Rex Theatre (separate ticket required).

Opening Film Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire Sunday, March 15, 7 PM

Eighty years after his liberation from Buchenwald, we seek to understand the man behind Elie Wiesel's searing and widely read memoir "Night." Told largely through his own words and voice, this film seeks to penetrate to the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel (1928-2016): his passions, his conflicts and his legacy as one of the most public survivors of the Holocaust. Using unique access to personal archives, original interviews and hand-painted animation, the film illuminates Wiesel's biography as a survivor, writer, teacher and public figure.



Rosenthal

New England Premiere

Virtual Screening:

March 15–March 29

Director: Oliver Haffner
 Drama, 2025, Germany
 92 minutes
 German w/English subtitles

Germany, 1978. Hans Rosenthal is the country's most popular TV presenter, but few people know that he is Jewish and a Holocaust survivor. The 75th edition of his beloved live game show is about to be broadcast, but the celebratory mood is dampened by the air date: November 9. Exactly 40 years after the Nazi pogrom against the Jewish population, Hans is expected to entertain and distract an audience of millions with his harmless TV show, rather than attend the first official German memorial for the victims. Hans finds himself in a dilemma: Has the Jewish showman become a henchman of repression? Or will he find the strength to address his family trauma? Based on a true story.



The Sea

New England Premiere

Virtual Screening:

March 15–March 29

Director: Shai Carmeli Pollak
 Drama, 2025, Israel
 93 minutes
 Arabic and Hebrew w/English subtitles

Khaled, a Palestinian boy, embarks on a dangerous journey to the sea for the first time in his life, despite Israeli authorities who deny his entry. His father, an undocumented laborer working in Israel, is trying to trace his whereabouts, risking arrest and job loss.

Official Israeli entry for 2026 Academy Awards, Winner of 5 Ophir Awards including Best Picture.

V I R T U A L S H O R T F I L M S



The Father, the Son and the Rav Kalmenson (Short)

New England Premiere

Virtual Screening:
March 15–March 29

Every Saturday, Yoel, a 30-year-old Orthodox Jew, goes to honor Shabbat with his 6-year-old son in his synagogue, a primary school set up for the occasion. On that day, the rabbi of the community, Rav Kalmenson, shocks Yoel by announcing that his son is exhibiting signs of enlightenment.

Director: Dayan D. Oualid
Comedy, 2023, France
15 minutes
French w/English subtitles



I'm Alright (Short)

New England Premiere

Virtual Screening:
March 15–March 29

A professional dancer falls from grace, losing both her solo debut and her boyfriend on the same day. A chance encounter with the grim reality outside the rehearsal studio gives her a fresh perspective and teaches her how to let go. Conceived and filmed during the October 7th war, *I'm Alright* reflects the tension between art and survival—onscreen and behind the scenes.

Director: Roiy Nitzan
Short Feature, 2025, Israel
12 minutes
Hebrew w/English subtitles



No Harm Done (Short)

New England Premiere

Virtual Screening:
March 15–March 29

A week after giving birth, Mila and her partner Joaquim prepare for a fateful moment: their son's circumcision. Although she had never questioned the practice, the arrival of her baby and the imminence of the ceremony shatter Mila's certainties.

Director: Sarah Stern
Comedy, 2023, France
18 minutes
French w/English subtitles



Tattooed4Life (Short)

New England Premiere

Virtual Screening:
March 15–March 29

Liraz, a survivor of the NOVA Music Festival massacre in Israel, wields her tattoo needle as a weapon against pain. Each inked line becomes a thread of healing, stitching together the wounds left by that fateful October 7th. Through her art, she finds solace and helps others find theirs.

Director: Kineret Hay-Gillor
Documentary, 2024, Israel
30 minutes
Hebrew w/English subtitles



The Road Between Us

NH Premiere

In-Theater:
Thursday, March 19, 7 PM
Chunky's Cinema Pub,
Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 22, 1 PM
The Showroom, Keene, NH

Director: Barry Avrich
Documentary, 2025, Canada
95 minutes
English

On Oct. 7, 2023, retired Israeli general Noam Tibon received a desperate text from his son: Terrorists had stormed his home, and he, his wife, and their two young daughters feared for their lives. With no time to spare, Noam and his wife, Gali, embarked on a 10-hour mission across a country under siege to save their family. This is both a gripping cinematic retelling of an extraordinary rescue and an unflinching look at the failures and resilience revealed on October 7. At its core, it is a profoundly human story about courage, family, and the power of love in the face of unimaginable terror.

Arrive at Chunky's Cinema at 6:15 PM and order dinner—delivered right to your seat before the film begins.

FILM STAR SPONSOR

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The Other

NH Premiere

In-Theater:
Sunday, March 22, 10 AM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Virtual Screening:
March 23–March 29

Director: Joy Sela
Documentary, 2024, USA, Israel, Palestine
104 minutes
English, Hebrew, Arabic w/English subtitles

A documentary, filmed between 2017 and 2024, explores the complex relationship of shared humanity, culture, and connection between Israelis and Palestinians, and the transformative journey that follows when they are faced with meeting “the other” amid the reality of conflict and occupation. The film provides an extraordinary example of what we are all capable of as humans.



Among Neighbors

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 22, 1 PM
Novocure, Portsmouth, NH

Virtual Screening:

March 23–March 29

Director: Yoav Potash
Documentary, 2025, USA, Poland
100 minutes
English and Polish w/English subtitles

Combining magical realism and evocative hand-drawn animation, this film focuses on one of the last living Holocaust survivors from a small Polish town, where Jews and Polish Catholics lived side by side for centuries, and an aging eyewitness who saw Jews murdered there – not by Nazis, but by their Polish neighbors. Their heart-felt accounts lay bare how ordinary Poles made life and death choices about their Jewish neighbors, demonstrating the best and worst of human nature.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Soul of a Nation

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 22, 3:30 PM
Novocure, Portsmouth, NH

Virtual Screening:

March 23–March 29

Director: Jonathan Jakubowicz
Documentary, 2025, Israel, USA
107 minutes
English

An unfiltered look at Israel's most perilous chapter in recent history, a period defined by internal divisions and political extremism. Drawing on insights from Nobel laureates, Muslim leaders, peace activists, and other prominent figures, the film dismantles preconceived notions about one of the world's most scrutinized countries.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Ethan Bloom

New England Premiere

In-Theater:

Tuesday, March 24, 7 PM
O'Neil Cinemas Londonderry,
Londonderry, NH

Director: Herschel Faber
Comedy, 2025, USA
95 minutes
English

After losing his mother, 13-year-old Ethan finds solace in the Catholic church—a refuge that feels like home, even though he was born into a Jewish family. When his father insists on a bar mitzvah and Ethan's secret unravels at his girlfriend's confirmation party, Ethan must confront the lies he's told and the grief he's been running from. Through the wisdom of an unconventional rabbi, the love of his complicated family, and his first romance, Ethan discovers that faith isn't about choosing sides—it's about honoring all the messy, beautiful pieces of who we are.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



Once Upon My Mother

New England Premiere

In-Theater:

Wednesday, March 25, 7 PM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Virtual Screening:

March 23–March 29

Director: Ken Scott
Drama, 2025, France
102 minutes
French w/English subtitles

In 1963, Esther gives birth to Roland, the youngest in a large family. Roland's club foot prevents him from standing, but against everyone's advice, Esther promises her son that he will walk like everyone else and will have an extraordinary life. From then on, Esther stops at nothing to keep that promise. Spanning decades of trials and life's miracles, this film tells a true story, funny and moving, about an incredible destiny, built on a mother's love for her child.



The Stronghold

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Thursday, March 26, 7 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Director: Lior Chefetz
 Drama, 2024, Israel
 113 minutes
 Hebrew w/English subtitles

Yom Kippur War, 1973. In a remote outpost in the Sinai desert, a company of Israeli soldiers are overwhelmed by a sudden Egyptian onslaught. After a week of ceaseless assaults, the survivors face imminent doom. With lives hanging by a thread, a young lieutenant and an army doctor confront a soul-shattering choice: a desperate last stand or a perilous gamble that could betray everything they stand for. Starring Michael Aloni ("Shtisel"), Daniel Gad ("The New Black"), and Uri Blufarb ("Pink Lady"), this riveting story of grace under fire will keep you on the edge of your seat.

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GRICH and FINK



Hidden: The Kati Preston Story

In-Theatre:

Sunday, March 29, 1 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Special Guest NH Resident Kati Preston for Post-Film Discussion

Director: Daniel Matmor
 Docudrama, 2025, Israel, Canada
 75 minutes
 English, Hungarian and Hebrew
 w/English subtitles

Kati Preston recounts the shattering of her childhood during the 1944 Hungarian Holocaust and the brutal Stalinist years that followed. This is also an intimate family story—a poignant look at the bond between mother and daughter under the unimaginable strain of war. As a five-year-old, Kati hides in a barn as a courageous peasant woman risks everything to protect her. Her story exposes how a society, paralyzed by fear, poisoned by hatred, and complicit in silence, can descend into tyranny—a chilling reflection of the threats we face today.

FILM STAR SPONSOR
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13: The Musical

Special FREE PJ Our Way Event

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 29, 1:30 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Director: Tamara Davis
 Musical, 2022, USA
 91 minutes
 English

After his parents' divorce, Evan Goldman moves from NYC to small-town Indiana with his mother (Debra Messing). As his 13th birthday nears, he must master the complex social circles of his new school and win friends by turning his Bar Mitzvah into the coolest party ever. Based on the hit Broadway musical, this is a coming-of-age journey through the unforgettable ups and downs of preteen life.

FILM STAR SPONSOR



The Ring

NH Premiere

In-Theater:

Sunday, March 29, 3:30 PM
Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Directors: Adir Miller, Doron and Yoav Paz
 Dramey, 2024, Israel
 122 minutes
 Hebrew w/English subtitles

Closing Film, Followed by Wrap Party at 5:30 PM

Arnon Noble is a religious man with a strong bond to his mother, a Holocaust survivor who has lectured for years about how she saved the lives of her baby boy and herself with the help of a thin gold ring. When his mother's health deteriorates, Arnon travels to her old hometown, Budapest, to search for the mythological ring that saved her life in the past, enlisting the help of his estranged daughter, a TV researcher. Will the search for the ring be successful? Will the ring save his mother's life again, and will the same ring also save Arnon's relationship with his own daughter?

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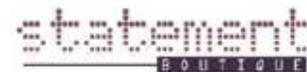
FILM STARS

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GRICH FINK

Liz
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Cultural Endowment Fund
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Temple Beth Abraham
Temple Beth Jacob
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PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance purchase for ALL screenings suggested:

- Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com
 - By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday–Friday, 9 AM–3 PM
- *Additional tickets for in-theater screenings may be available at the door prior to the show.
**Tickets for virtual screenings are per household.

TICKET PACKAGES

ALL ACCESS - 20-Ticket Package

(includes 20 tickets to be used for any in-theater or virtual film screenings)
\$240 (\$280 Value)
March 15 - March 29

ALL ACCESS - 10-Ticket Package

(includes 10 tickets for any in-theater or virtual film screenings)
\$120 (\$140 Value)
March 15 - March 29

ALL ACCESS - 4-Ticket Package

(Includes 4 tickets for any in-theater or virtual film screenings.
Excludes Opening Reception.)
\$44 (\$48 Value)
March 15 - March 29

VIRTUAL-ONLY PASS

6-Ticket Package
(includes 6 tickets for any virtual film screenings)
\$90 (\$96 Value)
March 15 - March 29

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\$14 per In-theater ticket (per person), March 15 - March 29
\$14 per virtual ticket (per household), March 15 - March 29
\$18 Opening Reception
\$18 Closing Film and Wrap Party

GROUP RATES

Contact us via email at filmfest@jewishnh.org for groups of more than 10 people.

ACCESSIBILITY

All venues are handicap-accessible.

PARKING

Parking is available in public lots at all in-theater venues.

PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING

By attending an in-theater screening, you consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and that we may use such recordings for any lawful purposes, including without limitation in our marketing materials.

THEATERS

Chunky's Cinema Pub

707 Huse Rd., Manchester, NH 03103
(603) 206-3888
www.chunkys.com/movie-theater/chunkys-manchester

Novocure

180 Hanover St., Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 436-2809
www.novocure.com

Nugget Theaters

57 S. Main St., Hanover, NH 03755
603-643-2769
www.nugget-theaters.com

O'Neil Cinemas Londonderry

16 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry, NH 03053
877-666-8437
<https://londonderry.oneilcinemas.com/home>

Red River Theatres

11 S. Main St., Concord, NH 03301
603-224-4600
www.redrivertheatres.org

The Rex Theatre

23 Amherst St., Manchester, NH 03101
603-668-5588
www.palacetheatre.org/rex-theatre

Showroom

20 Commercial St., Keene, NH 03431
(603) 352-2033
www.thecolonial.org/showroom

Singer Center for the Arts

77 Amherst St., Manchester NH 03101
603-668-5588
<https://palacetheatre.org/venues/singer-center-for-the-arts>

2026 FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

In-Theater Events

Sunday, March 15, 5 PM

Opening Reception

Singer Center for the Arts, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 15, 7 PM

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire

Opening Film

The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Thursday, March 19, 7 PM

The Road Between Us

Chunky's Cinema Pub, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 22, 10 AM

The Other

Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Sunday, March 22, 1 PM

Among Neighbors

Novocure, Portsmouth, NH

Sunday, March 22, 1 PM

The Road Between Us

The Showroom, Keene, NH

Sunday, March 22, 3:30 PM

Soul of a Nation

Novocure, Portsmouth, NH

Tuesday, March 24, 7 PM

Ethan Bloom

O'Neil Cinema Londonderry, NH

Wednesday, March 25, 7 PM

Once Upon My Mother

Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Thursday, March 26, 7 PM

The Stronghold

Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, March 29, 1 PM

Hidden: The Kati Preston Story

Special Guest Kati Preston for

Post Film Discussion

Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, March 29, 1:30 PM

13: The Musical

Special Free PJ Our Way Event

Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, March 29, 3:30 PM

The Ring

Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, March 29, 5:30 PM

Festival Wrap Party

Red River Theatres, Concord NH

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Virtual Screenings

Sunday, March 15 – Sunday, March 29

The following films will be available for 15 days:

Rosenthal

The Sea

Shorts Program

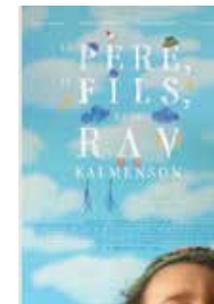
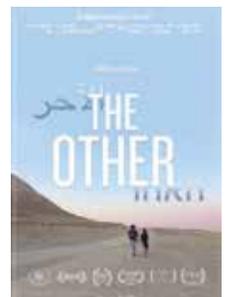
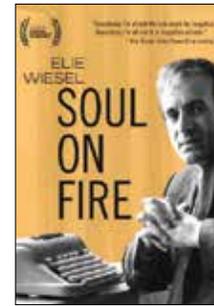
• I'm Alright

• The Father, The Son and The Rav Kalmenson

• No Harm Done

• Tattooed4Life

After the virtual films are unlocked, you have 48 hours to screen.

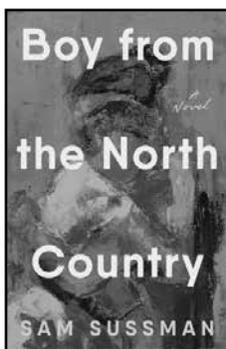


Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Boy from the North Country by Sam Sussman

We read books for entertainment, for education, and for escape. Sometimes a book will surprise you and draw you into the pages, not letting you leave even after you close the back cover. It stays with you for a while. *Boy From the North Country* is that kind of novel.



The book has actually been described as an “auto-fictional novel,” and it is based on the real-life experiences of the author, Sam Sussman, with his mother, Fran Sussman. Writing it as a novel gives the author room to explore feelings and emphasis on the areas where he would like to, without worrying about quotes and exact details.

Sam—or Evan, in the book—comes home from studying in England when his mother, June, calls to tell him she has been diagnosed with cancer and is scheduled for surgery. Evan comes home to the farm in upstate New York where he grew up, so he can be with his mother as she goes through the ordeal of chemo treatments and trying to rid herself of the cancer taking over her body. June has lived a holistic lifestyle on this north country farm: she is a holistic health practitioner. Throughout

her cancer process, she eats all the foods that she has read will help with the reactions to chemo, including extremely rare burgers, which leads to Evan overcoming his aversion to red meat, as a vegetarian, to cook his mother this possibly life-saving food.

Evan’s mother is also a woman steeped in Jewish texts and ideals. She has shared this Judaism with Evan, teaching him Jewish spiritual and ethical traditions throughout his childhood: Flashbacks show that sometimes he was the only Jewish student in class and faced anti-semitism in school.

Evan, as a youngster, could not wait to get away from his mother’s life. As soon as he was eighteen, he ran off to college and to England to study, where he has been working on a novel that has never been finished. Despite this, his mother’s sickness brings him back, and he stays with her throughout her whole sojourn. June, for her part, has never really spoken about her life or the past with Evan. She divorced Evan’s father when he was very young, and the book tells us that over the years, there were a few men who played the role of stepfather until the relationships became too toxic and June told them to leave. But June is still a strong believer in the power of love — still looking for and telling Evan the importance of finding true love.

Now as they sit through long hours of chemo treatments, June shares her story

with Evan. Talking about her childhood, her time at college and her adventures in New York City, her time as an actress and how she took painting classes with Bob Dylan (who Evan is always told he resembles). This is one key to a little mystery regarding Evan’s own suspicions that Dylan may be his actual father.

Throughout the novel, June and Evan really come together, supporting each other at every turn. Sussman writes beautiful prose as he describes the house, the farm, and nature. He explores his feelings about losing a parent, themes of love, loss, grief and healing. He learns to put into perspective the seduction of money, power, and fame. As an observer, you will have a wonderful

journey reading this novel.

Sam Sussman grew up in the Hudson Valley. He graduated with a BA from Swarthmore College and an MPhil from the University of Oxford and has lived in Berlin and Jerusalem. His writing has been recognized by BAFTA and published in Harper’s Magazine. Sam has taught writing seminars in India, Chile, and England and participated in the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature. He lives in the Yorkville neighborhood of Manhattan and his native Hudson Valley. Boy From the North Country is an auto-fictional novel based on Sussman’s Harper’s Magazine memoir essay, “The Silent Type: On (Possibly) Being Bob Dylan’s Son.”

Temple B’nai Israel Book Club Discusses The Israel-Palestine Conflict with author Neil Caplan

On January 24, the Adult Education committee convened the first meeting of the TBI “Book Club.” Due to the frigid weather, the eighteen congregants met on zoom to discuss Neil Caplan’s book, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*.

Participants submitted questions for the author in advance of the event, and Neil

joined us on zoom on the 24th to respond. He opened with remarks about how the events of October 7, 2023 and the ensuing Israeli war against Hamas in Gaza had impacted his perspective when writing the updated, third edition of the book. Participants were also able to share additional questions and comments in real time.

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13: THE MUSICAL

Sunday, March 29, 1:30pm
Red River Theatres
Simchik Auditorium
11 S. Main Street
Concord, NH

9-12-year-olds — join PJ Library New Hampshire and New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival at Red River Theatres in Concord for a screening of “13: The Musical”! Film is rated PG. Siblings and parents are welcome — or drop off children aged 9-12 and go enjoy a different film! Please accompany children under age 9. Free program | Popcorn/concessions available for purchase
Registration required: <https://bit.ly/pjownhnh13>

Scan QR Code to register or email Dinah with questions: dinah.berch@jewishnh.org

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire All tickets go on sale February 15

18th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival Schedule

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee Member

This year, the New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 18th season! We will once again offer a multi-access event with in-theater screenings, as well as opportunities to watch some films virtually. The Festival will run in-theater events from Sunday, March 15 to Sunday, March 29. As this is the festival's "Chai" year, many of our films reflect the full spectrum of the human experience of life, capturing stories of joy, struggle, love, and loss.

This year, we are excited to present 13 feature length films in the documentary, drama, and comedy genres in several communities throughout the state. The titles come from all over the world with something for each member of the family to enjoy! There will also be a virtual lineup including six full length films and a short film program. Don't miss the free PJ Our Way sponsored screening of the 13: *The Musical* on Sunday, March 29 at 1:30 PM at Red River in Concord.

The Film Festival is supported by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, numerous corporate sponsors, and many Friends of the Festival. We extend a huge "thank you" once again. Without the generous support of these folks, as well as our mighty team of volunteers, we would be unable to offer this incredible cultural program.

Sunday, March 15: Opening Reception and Film Screening in Manchester

The Film Festival will officially kick off with an Opening Reception on Sunday, March 15 at 5 PM at the Singer Center for



the Arts on Amherst Street in Manchester. We hope that you will join us for this festive occasion and then head a few doors down to The Rex for a 7 PM screening of the documentary *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*. Please note that separate tickets are required for these two events.

This film seeks to understand the real Elie Wiesel 80 years after his liberation from Buchenwald. Told largely through his own words and voice, this film focuses on the known and unknown aspects of Wiesel's life, including his passions, his conflicts, and his legacy as one of the most public survivors of the Holocaust. Using unique access to personal archives, original interviews and hand-painted animation, the film illuminates Wiesel's biography as a survivor, writer, teacher, and public figure.

Thursday, March 19: Enjoy dinner, snacks, and a movie at Chunky's in Manchester

We will host our first official Festival event at Chunky's Cinema Pub in Manchester on Thursday, March 19 at 7 PM. Following a highly successful Film Club event last June, we are excited to return to Chunky's. Folks can enjoy dinner, snacks, and another acclaimed documentary all in one night! Doors open at 6:15 to allow folks to order ahead and get seated.

The Road Between Us will be our film

that evening. It details retired Israeli general Noam Tibon in the immediate hours following the terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023. After receiving a desperate text from his son that terrorists had stormed his home, Noam and his wife, Gali embarked on a 10-hour mission across a country under siege to save their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. This is both a gripping cinematic retelling of an extraordinary rescue and an unflinching look at the failures and resilience revealed on October 7. At its core, it is a profoundly human story about courage, family, and the power of love in the face of unimaginable terror.

Sunday, March 22: Films in Hanover, Keene, and Portsmouth

On the second Sunday of our Festival, we will screen films in Hanover, Keene, and Portsmouth. *The Road Between Us* will screen again at 1 PM at the Showroom in Keene. We thank our friends at the Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF) for serving as a Film Star Sponsor to bring this timely piece to New Hampshire.

At 10 AM at Nugget Theaters in Hanover, the documentary *The Other* will be shown. Filmed between 2017 and 2024, this piece explores the complex relationship of shared humanity, culture, and connection between Israelis and Palestinians, and the transformative journey that

follows when they are faced with meeting "the other" amid the reality of conflict and occupation. The film provides an extraordinary example of what we are all capable of as humans and furthers the message of timeliness.

The final location for March 22 is a new space for us: Novocure in Portsmouth, which will show two of our movies. At 1 PM, the documentary *Among Neighbors* will be screened while at 3:30 PM, our Seacoast audience will get the chance to enjoy another documentary that touches on modern Middle East policy called *Soul of a Nation*.

Combining magical realism and evocative hand-drawn animation, *Among Neighbors* focuses on one of the last living Holocaust survivors from a small Polish town where Jews and Polish Catholics lived side by side for centuries. It further details an elderly eyewitness who saw Jews murdered there by Polish neighbors rather than by the Nazis. The heartfelt accounts chronicled here emphasize how ordinary Poles made life and death choices about their Jewish neighbors, demonstrating the best and worst of humanity.

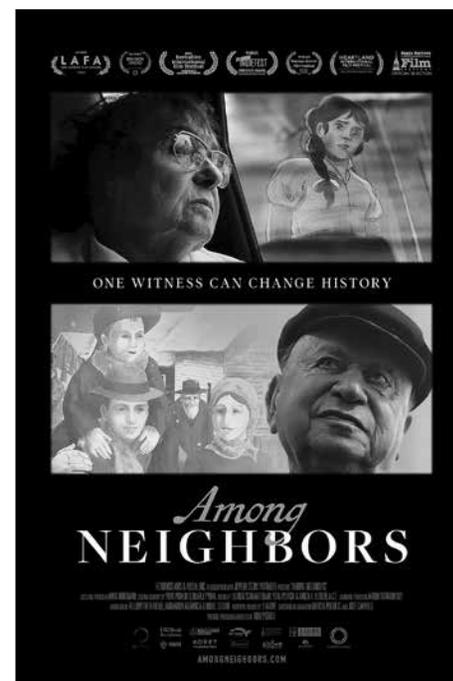
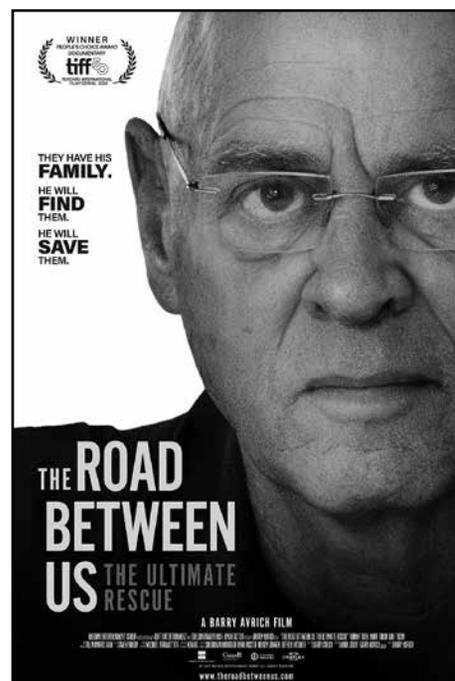
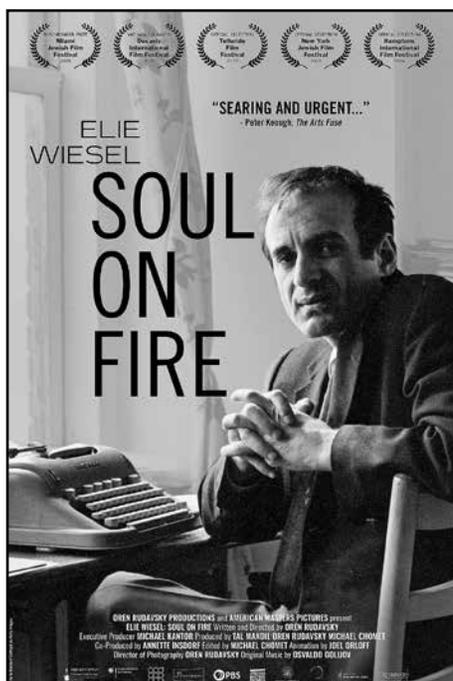
Soul of a Nation takes an unfiltered look at Israel's most perilous chapter in recent history, a period defined by internal divisions and political extremism. Drawing on insights from Nobel laureates, Muslim leaders, peace activists, and other prominent figures, the film dismantles preconceived notions about one of the world's most scrutinized countries.

We are proud to bring so many top-notch documentaries to communities that reach all corners of the Granite State! Please join us in one of these locations.

Tuesday, March 24: Enjoy some laughs at O'Neil Cinemas in Londonderry

Where else can one enjoy some laughs on a Tuesday night just after winter's end than at the movies? Join us at O'Neil Cinemas in Londonderry on March 24 at 7 PM for a screening of the film *Ethan Bloom*, which follows a 13-year-old boy who finds solace in the Catholic Church after his mother's death.

Despite being born into a Jewish family
Film Festival continued on page 13



Film Festival

continued from page 12

ly, Ethan finds refuge in the church. When his father insists on a bar mitzvah and Ethan's secret unravels at his girlfriend's confirmation party, Ethan must confront the lies he's told and the grief he's been running from. Through the wisdom of an unconventional rabbi, the love of his complicated family, and his first romance, Ethan discovers that faith isn't about choosing sides—it's about honoring all the messy, beautiful pieces of who we are.

Wednesday, March 25: French Film makes its New England Premiere at Nugget Theaters in Hanover

We are pleased to return to Nugget Theaters in Hanover once more at 7 PM on Wednesday, March 25 for a screening of the critically acclaimed French film *Once Upon My Mother*.

Our first drama of this year's in-theater line up, *Once Upon My Mother* follows Esther who, in 1963, gives birth to Roland, the youngest in a large family. Roland's club foot prevents him from standing, but against everyone's advice, Esther promises her son that he will walk like everyone else and will have an extraordinary life. From then on, Esther stops at nothing to keep that promise. Spanning decades of trials and life's miracles, this film tells a true story, funny and moving, about an incredible destiny, built on a mother's love for her child.

Thursday, March 26 and Sunday, March 29: Festival closes at Red River Theatres in Concord

We will once again close out our Festival at Red River Theatres in Concord, our long-standing partner since we began 18 years ago. On Thursday, March 26 at 7 PM, we invite audiences to watch a critically acclaimed Israeli film called *The Stronghold*.



Set during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 in a remote outpost in the Sinai desert, the film tells the story of a company of Israeli soldiers. Overwhelmed by a sudden Egyptian onslaught and after a week of ceaseless assaults, the survivors face imminent doom. With lives hanging by a thread, a young lieutenant and an army doctor confront a soul-

shattering choice: a desperate last stand or a perilous gamble that could betray everything that represents them. Featuring a slate of well-known Israeli actors, this riveting story of grace under fire will literally keep you on the edge of your seat.

Aside from the free PJ Our Way screening on Sunday, March 29, our final day at Red River will feature two outstanding movies.

First, at 1 PM will be *Hidden: The Kati Preston Story*. Re-counting the shattering of her childhood during the 1944 Hungarian Holocaust and the brutal Stalinist



years that followed, this film is also an intimate story of family.

It is a poignant look at the bond between mother and daughter under the unimaginable strain of war. As a five-year-old, Kati hides in a barn as a courageous peasant woman risks everything to protect her. Her story exposes how a society, paralyzed by fear, poisoned by hatred, and complicit in silence, can descend into tyranny, a chilling reflection of the similar threats we face today.

Based on her young adult graphic novel, Kati Preston, who lives in New Hampshire and has presented throughout the state for many years, will join us after for a post-film discussion.

At 3:30 PM, we will screen the Israeli "dramedy" *The Ring*. The film follows Arnon Noble, a religious man with a strong bond to his mother. His mother is a Holocaust survivor who has lectured for years about how she saved her life and his as a baby. Arnon eventually travels to his mother's hometown of Budapest to search for the ring that saved her in the past.

Enlisting the help of his estranged daughter, this film focuses on relationships at the core and infuses a sense of deep intrigue throughout.

Join us after the film at 5:30 for a Wrap Party to celebrate the end of another successful year!

Virtual Films Available

Two films will only be available virtually during the Festival's two week duration: *Rosenthal*, a German drama, and *The Sea*, Israel's official entry for Best International Feature Film at the 2026 Academy Awards.

Rosenthal takes audiences back to Germany in 1978 where the eponymous protagonist is the country's most popular



TV presenter. Few people know that he is Jewish and a Holocaust survivor.

As the 75th edition of his beloved live game show is about to be broadcast, the celebratory mood is dampened by the air date: November 9. Exactly 40 years after the Nazi pogrom against the Jewish population, Hans is expected to entertain and distract an audience of millions with his harmless TV show, rather than attend the first official German memorial for the victims. Hans finds himself in a dilemma that confronts themes of trauma and repression.



Khaled, a Palestinian boy, embarks on a dangerous journey in *The Sea* for the first time in his life despite Israeli authorities denying his entry. His father, an undocumented laborer working in Israel, is trying to trace his whereabouts, risking arrest and job loss. The winner of five Ophir awards (Israel's version of the Oscars), including Best Picture, this piece is sure to keep you on your toes and leave you thinking deeply long after it ends.

Additionally, our short film program

will be available to screen from March 15 to 29. It includes four titles, each making their New England premiere and offering something different.

The Father, the Son and the Rav Kalmenson is a French short film about a 30-year-old Orthodox Jew who takes his son to Shabbat services every Saturday morning only to find one day that the rabbi feels the son is exhibiting signs of enlightenment.

Another French film called *No Harm Done* offers a lighthearted scenario in which Mila and her partner Joaquim prepare for their son's circumcision. Although she had never questioned the practice, the arrival of her baby and the imminence of the ceremony shatter Mila's certainties all of a sudden.

The Israeli drama *I'm Alright* and documentary short *Tattooed4Life* each offer further perspectives associated with the aftermath of October 7, 2023, the former detailing a dancer's fall from grace and the latter focusing on the solace that an artist finds in using tattoos as a way to cope with pain.

Lastly, if you were unable make it in-theater to see *Among Neighbors*, *Once Upon My Mother*, *The Other*, or *Soul of a Nation*, those films will be available from March 23 to 29.

Join us!

See our "Schedule at a Glance" on the back page in this edition of *The Reporter* to make plans for attending our Festival. Our box office is open! You can still purchase Festival tickets for all screenings. For ticket information and movie trailers, visit www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org. We encourage you to extend the invitation to friends as well! If you've been wondering how you can donate to our Film Festival, we are glad to invite you to become a Friend of the Festival! We welcome any donation no matter the size. You may donate online at www.jewishnh.org.

We cannot wait to see you at the movies!

JBI Library Announces Free, Accessible Passover Resources for 2026

Ordering deadlines: March 4 for organizations; March 18 for individuals

NEW YORK (February 5, 2026) – As Passover approaches, JBI Library is once again making it possible for people who are blind, have low vision, or have other print disabilities to fully participate in the holiday. This year's Passover offerings include free accessible Haggadot in multiple formats, the expansion of braille options, and new customization features for large print materials.

Passover centers on shared storytelling, community, and ritual. For many people with print disabilities (which include physical disabilities such as MS and Parkinson's, and reading disabilities such as dyslexia), barriers to accessing the Haggadah can disrupt that sense of connection at the seder table. JBI Library's Passover resources are designed to remove those barriers and support meaningful participa-

tion for readers of all ages.

"The seder is built around reading together, asking questions, and feeling part of something larger than ourselves," said Michelle Shapiro Abraham, Executive Director of JBI Library. "When someone cannot see or comfortably hold a Haggadah, that experience can quickly become isolating. Our goal is to ensure that everyone at the table has equal access to the text and traditions, so they can participate fully and with dignity."

JBI has also expanded its accessible Haggadah collection. The family-friendly Gateways Haggadah by Rebecca Redner is now available in braille, in addition to the original large print. The Gateways Haggadah is widely recognized for its inclusive approach, welcoming families with children of all abilities and disabilities. JBI's accessible Haggadot are available in large print, braille, and audio formats, with multiple editions representing

a range of traditions, languages, and communal needs.

This year JBI is also offering expanded flexibility in JBI's large print offerings. JBI's standard large print format uses Tahoma font, with Hebrew text in size 30 and English text in size 22. Upon request, the text can be produced in even larger sizes or in reverse contrast, with white text on a black background, an option that can make reading easier and more comfortable for some individuals.

All Haggadot are provided free of charge to individuals and should be requested by March 18, 2026 to ensure delivery in time for Passover. For organizations planning to host communal seders and seeking larger quantities of accessible materials, requests should be submitted by March 4, 2026. To request a free accessible Haggadah or to learn more about JBI Library's Passover offerings, visit www.jbilibrary.org, call 800-999-

6476, or email haggadah@jbilibrary.org.

About JBI

Founded in 1931, JBI Library is a nonprofit organization that supports anyone who is blind, has low vision, or has a print disability so that they may fully participate in Jewish life—from education and community to prayer and celebration. JBI is the heart of a community where patrons can come for accessible books and texts, cultural programs, learning, and all things that connect people to Judaism, culture, and community. JBI strives to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion, so that everyone can read, learn, and engage independently and with dignity. If you or a loved one could benefit from JBI's wide range of services, or for more on how your community, school, or organization can connect with JBI Library, please reach out to jrothstein@jbilibrary.org, or visit jbilibrary.org.

Mitzvah Monday: Where Mondays Get a Mitzvah Makeover

By Linda Kropp Sinkow

Every Monday morning, I send out a message called *Mitzvah Monday*. What began as a simple outreach to the Temple Israel community has grown into something deeply meaningful to me and, I hope, to those who read it. At its heart, Mitzvah Monday is a weekly pause: a moment to notice goodness, to reflect on Jewish values, and to recognize the people among us who quietly perform mitzvot every single day.

I began Mitzvah Monday in honor of my dear friend Jeff Klein, of blessed memory. Jeff lived with intention, generosity, humor, and heart. After his sudden

passing, I found myself searching for a way to keep his spirit present in everyday life, not only through memory, but through action and service, a value that he held so dear. Mitzvah Monday became that bridge: a way to weave Jewish values and teachings into the ordinary moments that make up our lives, just as Jeff did so naturally.

Each week, I try to ground the message in real life, the beautiful, chaotic, imperfect reality we all share. Parenting mishaps, leadership challenges, moments of grief, celebrations, exhaustion, and growth all find their way into these reflections. Alongside them are our timeless Jewish values: chesed (loving kindness), dan l'kaf zechut

(judging others favorably), emet (truth), and bitachon (trust in HaShem). These values are not abstract ideas; they are meant to be lived, practiced, and noticed.

The central part of Mitzvah Monday is recognition. I intentionally lift up individuals in our community by name, volunteers, leaders, congregants, and quiet helpers, who embody mitzvot through their actions. A phone call at just the right time. Someone who shows up, cooks a meal, leads services, gives generously, listens deeply, or supports another person without seeking recognition. These are the acts that hold a community together, and they deserve to be seen.

The tone of Mitzvah Monday is warm, accessible, and human. Jewish wisdom is not presented as distant or lofty, but as something that lives in our carpools, board meetings, Shabbat dinners, and everyday interactions. My hope is that readers see themselves in these messages and perhaps feel inspired to notice a mitzvah they might otherwise overlook.

Over time, Mitzvah Monday has become more than a synagogue outreach. It has become a shared ritual, a reminder that even in times of uncertainty, transition, or challenge, connection itself is a mitzvah. Gratitude is a mitzvah. Slowing down to acknowledge goodness is a mitzvah.

I now hope to expand Mitzvah Monday beyond Temple Israel and invite the broader Jewish community of New Hampshire into this weekly moment of

reflection and recognition. My vision is simple: to create a shared space where Jews across congregations, communities, and life stages can feel connected through our values, learn from one another's acts of kindness, and be reminded that Jewish life is sustained not only by institutions, but by people, our people.

Mitzvah Monday is not about perfection or performance. It is about intention. It is about choosing, once a week, to lead with gratitude and light. As Pirkei Avot teaches, "*It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.*" Mitzvah Monday is my small offering toward that work, one story, one person, and one mitzvah at a time. My hope for Mitzvah Monday is to continue to honor all those who quietly make our Jewish communities stronger. Light shared is light multiplied and I look forward to sharing that light across our hamish community.

How to Subscribe & Share a Mitzvah

If you would like to receive *Mitzvah Monday* or help expand its reach across our community, I warmly invite you to subscribe. If you have a mitzvah to share, an act of kindness, generosity, leadership, or quiet support you've witnessed or experienced, I would love to hear it.

Please reach out to me directly at lindasinkow@gmail.com. May we continue to notice the good, lift one another up, and turn ordinary moments into sacred ones, together.

Robert Singer

continued from page 1

the Singer Center for the Arts. Yet Singer prefers to stay behind the scenes. He does not seek to run institutions or claim credit; he simply wants to help them succeed.

His Jewish commitments remain central. Singer has supported synagogues, Chabad, and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, and while he acknowledges there are challenges facing Jewish communal life, he also expresses admiration for the growth of Jewish life in Manchester and believes strongly that those with the ability to give have a responsibility to do so. His approach to philanthropy mirrors his business instincts: build

relationships, think long-term, and aim high enough to make a real difference.

Ask Singer why he continues to invest so much in Manchester, and his answer is simple: he loves the people. He describes the city as large enough to be dynamic but small enough that neighbors still look out for one another. With strong medical institutions, a revitalized downtown, and proximity to Boston, the ocean, and the mountains, he sees Manchester as one of the best places to live in America. Even after decades of impact, he insists his philanthropic work is "still in the embryonic stages." For Singer, giving back is not a capstone to a career, it is an ongoing responsibility to make the place you call home better for the next generation.

Remembrance of Things Past in Kolkata

By Rahel Musleah

Rahel Musleah will lead a program about Jewish India at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua the weekend of May 8. Rahel Musleah leads in-person and virtual tours of India and other cultural events. Her website is www.explorejewishindia.com.

This article was originally published in March 2017 in Hadassah Magazine. It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

You could call it traffic, the dizzying crush of cars, bicycles, taxis, trucks and handcarts on Brabourne Road, the street that leads to the Maghen David Synagogue in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta). Unable to cross, I am standing at the corner, gaping at the synagogue's steeple that pokes up unexpectedly into the sky like a lofty wizard's hat. Despite its solid brick-red façade, it seems almost a mirage.

The Indian city I left for America with my family as a child of 6 has bewitched me like a distant lover for much of my life. I have returned twice before with family, and it's been eight years since my last visit. This time, in 2015, I am leading a group of 20 travelers on a tour of Jewish India; they will witness my homecoming, the most personal part of a broader tour of the Indian subcontinent.

My heart is a brew of emotions as we turn down Canning Street. The heft of the Maghen David synagogue rises dramatically in front of us with its layers of red and beige stone, its steeple buttressed on top of a clock tower that will tell you it is 12:20 from any of four directions—no matter what time it really is.

Before we enter the synagogue through the wooden doors that the Muslim caretaker has unlocked, I pass a plaque noting my father's role in organizing Maghen David's centennial celebration in 1984. My father, Ezekiel Nissim Musleah, was rabbi of this once-flourishing community from 1952 to 1964, the only officially ordained religious leader since the first settler arrived from Aleppo, Syria, in 1798. Over the next 150 years, Baghdadi Jews fleeing persecution and seeking fortune in the capital of the British Raj fattened the community's ranks to about 5,000, but the numbers thinned out following the chaotic partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 and, a year later, the creation of the State of Israel.

A few people await us inside the synagogue, including a one-time girlfriend of my father's and a former student of his

from the Kolkata Jewish Girls School. Others remember my mother, Margaret. Excited, they crowd around me, introducing themselves.

I turn toward our family seats—or at least, the benches where the male members of the family used to sit. I see the lidded wooden box that used to hold their personal *siddurim*. My father had told me where to find the key to unlock the box but I don't need to. It's open, and empty, except for the smell of camphor and a stray camphor ball that had once protected the books. I weep.

Composing myself, I look around at the building that was constructed 133 years ago and that served as a religious and professional home to generations of my family: It is even more beautiful than I remember it. The entire synagogue is lit up and though we have visited a dozen Indian synagogues on our tour, Maghen David's grandeur and beauty are unsurpassed. Above the Ark are the biblical words that capture the space like no other: *Mah norah hamakom hazeh*. How awesome is this place. In the room that once gleamed with 75 *sifrei Torah* in their silver cases, I kiss the two that remain, bequeathed for eternity by the synagogue's founders. I walk around and touch everything—even the grime that now marks the walls seem holy somehow.

Members of the community had invited me to lead the evening service, that night making Maghen David one of the few egalitarian Sephardic synagogues in the world. "I do not believe that *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* finds a man's baritone more pleasing to the ear than a woman's soprano; surely both are equally acceptable to Him," explained Jo Cohen, 70, one of the community's administrators; she is of French and Portuguese descent and converted from Catholicism when she married in 1970.

I had learned to chant the Baghdadi melody from a recording my father made, trying to follow his every note carefully and rendering my version of his quarter-tones. But then I had to find my own voice. I ascend the *tebah* (*bimah*) where my father, grandfather and great-grandfather had stood. My voice soars and echoes in the vast space and brings the synagogue alive. *Mah norah hamakom hazeh*.

Though there is rarely a minyan in any of the city's three synagogues—and there are only 18 stalwart Jews left in Kolkata—tonight there is a minyan. After the service, we sing traditional liturgical songs and "*Gesher Tzar Me'od*"—Rabbi

Nahman of Bratslav's transcendent words in Hebrew, followed by a Hindi translation, "*Yeh sari duniyah, ek chota sapul...*" *The whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the most important thing is not to be afraid*. The words originated in the Ukraine, but they could not be more appropriate. I feel myself a bridge, linking past and present, East and West.

Earlier in the day, looking for my links to the past, I walked with my group along Bowbazaar (now called BB Ganguly Road) toward No. 11, where my father grew up amidst an extended family. We called my great-aunts and uncle "the Bowbazaars" and their home, No. 11. But my last relative passed away in 2006 and I wondered what I would find. Memories from my previous visits are thinly veiled by a scrim of anticipation and trepidation.

We passed the rickshaw *wallahs*—Calcutta is the only city in India that still permits the hand-pulled carriages—and the snack-sellers deep-frying *samosas* and *puchkas* filled with potatoes and chickpeas. Jewelers, optical shops and typists with old-fashioned machines catering to illiterate customers line the street, and a sign tacked to a tree advertises surgery-free cures for "piles, pissures [stet] and fistulas." The mistake is funny—until I think about the poverty and health issues it signifies.

Finally, we arrived at No. 11. A sign with my grandfather's name used to hang at the entrance, but the house that the family had rented for decades had reverted back to its owner. A friend had brought the sign to me and I had hung it above my desk at home. Yet standing at the entrance, I foolishly expected I would still see it.

The steps I climbed to get to the second-floor apartment, however, were exactly the same—winding, wooden, dusty. The group lined up behind me like a twisting row of dominoes. But when I reached the top of the stairs I stopped cold. The heavy wooden door was gone. There was no mezuzah or even the impression of one. I touched the space anyway, kissing it in my mind. I pushed the glass door open and walked inside to find a light, modern office. The Indian staff looked at me in bewilderment as I explained that my relatives used to live here. Though the heavy rosewood furniture was gone, and I doubted anything familiar remained, I asked if I could walk through anyway. "Come back tomorrow when the manager is in," one of the women replied. My short visit would not per-

mit a return, I responded. In that case, she said, "you cannot inspect it."

I left, disappointed. At the Kolkata Jewish Cemetery the next morning, I thanked my great-grandfather for the sweet voice I was told he had, and which I hope I had inherited. I leaned down and told my grandparents, whom I had never met, that I had visited Bowbazaar, that I had sung for them in Maghen David and that I carried them everywhere with me.

One year later.

I am back in Kolkata with another group. This time my daughter Shoshana, 23, accompanies me, her first trip to India. It is eye-opening to see everything through her eager youthfulness and, at the same time, her profound maturity. I take her to the family landmarks.

I am wiser now, so we have made an appointment at No. 11. The long rows of office cubicles provoke a sinking sense that we have come on a wild-goose chase—until I describe the veranda that once housed the sukkah. Suddenly, a set of keys is procured and a concealed door in the wood-paneled boardroom opens to reveal another door, this one slatted and dingy green, and then the screened-in porch. I feel vindicated. When the manager brings us tea on the veranda, the atmosphere changes. We are not strangers here anymore.

For Shoshana, the experience is one of trying to find connection. "I thought about all that had changed—but the history was still there in little hints of home," she says later, acknowledging that despite the many stories she had heard it was difficult for her to feel connected with people she had never met.

We visit the cemetery, especially the grave of my grandmother Flora, for whom Shoshana is named. The vegetation that used to sprout untended amidst the forest of blackened, aboveground tombs has been cleared with machetes and we walk straight back to the family plot. (My maternal grandparents are buried in London; they moved there in 1960.) Many of the inscriptions have faded, but the words on my grandparents' graves are vivid.

"I didn't know my ancestors," Shoshana says, "but I felt I could make them proud by who I've become. I was thinking, 'Would they like me?' I do know Saba, and I could only imagine where he got his compassion and helpfulness and tradition—from his family." We put some stones in our pockets to take back home to my parents, as if the rocks could vi-

Kolkata continued on page 17



March Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

The Manchester of Hadassah book club will meet on Thursday, March 12, for a luncheon to discuss *The Lost Baker of Vienna* by Sharon Kurtzman. The author recently presented this book at the Bookery, and we look forward to discussing it together. If you would like to join the group, please contact Helen Arnold at helenarnold@comcast.net.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, at 1 PM at the Federation office. Everyone is welcome to attend. Additionally, one of our chapter members is teaching Mah Jongg. Lessons are currently underway, but we will schedule another session if there is further interest. Please let us

know if you would like to participate. The chapter is also preparing its annual Ad/Membership Book, our major fundraising event. This book lists contact information for all members, and we encourage everyone to take out a personal or business ad. Every contribution supports Hadassah's groundbreaking research, medical care, and humanitarian work.

Hadassah remains a beacon of hope and a safe harbor during times of crisis. During the conflict last June, Hadassah hospitals ensured patient safety and continuity of care even when others were forced to close. Your support helps us maintain this vital preparedness and continue offering expert care and comfort to those in need.

Hadassah is sponsoring "A Day on the Hill" in Washington, D.C., on March 10th. This promises to be an impactful day of advocacy where members can meet with Congressional representatives to drive change on critical issues, including strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship, combating antisemitism, and championing women's and public health.

Hadassah will coordinate all logistics for the event. Activities on Capitol Hill will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Following the program, you may travel home or to extend your stay in D.C..

The second travel opportunity is the Hadassah conference in Jerusalem, taking place from October 26th to 29th. Participants will tour Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem and the new Gandel Rehabili-

tation Center. Hadassah is also offering pre- and post-trip excursions.

This conference offers a unique way to experience Israel beyond the meeting room. You will have the opportunity to explore the country, visit Hadassah hospitals, and enjoy local culture and cuisine.

There is a dedicated track for male associates, so we encourage you to invite the men in your life to join. This is also a wonderful time for your mothers, sisters, daughters, and other family members to visit together. Now more than ever, Israel needs the presence of Hadassah members to show our continued support.

For additional information about Hadassah, contributing to the ad book, or learning Mah Jongg, please contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

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Jewish Federation
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Healing after October 7 and the Gaza War

By Richard England

The people of Israel have shown remarkable resilience after the October 7 terrorist attack and two years of warfare in Gaza. However, October 7 and its aftermath have also left an imprint on the Israeli psyche. According to the Ministry of Defense, over 20 thousand IDF soldiers have been injured during the conflict and more than half of them now suffer from mental health issues. Professor Yair Bar-Haim, head of the National Center for Trauma and Resilience, reports that 12 percent of discharged soldiers display significant symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). According to Tuly Flint, a clinical social worker who specializes in combat-related PTSD, "People talk about the suicide rate [of veterans], but that's the tip of the iceberg...We see... domestic violence. We see... couples split."

Data from Israeli HMOs suggest a doubling of PTSD diagnoses among several groups of Israeli adults. These include families evacuated from the Lebanese and Gaza borders, families of reservists serving in Gaza, and civilians who have experienced repeated rocket attacks from Gaza, Yemen and Iran. According to Professor Bar-Haim, "Israel is facing a mental health emergency."

A variety of Israeli institutions are gearing up to handle this mental health challenge. These include the IDF, Ministries of Defense and Health, HMOs, hospitals, and nonprofits. Within months after the October 7 attack, Tel Aviv Uni-



Annual International Conference on Trauma and Resilience at Herzog Medical Center.

versity announced a national PTSD clinic. In 2024, Sheba Medical Center and the Ministry of Defense announced a National Centre for Mental Trauma with six treatment centers across Israel. Herzog Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel's oldest hospital, has also expanded its treatment program for PTSD.

A variety of treatment methods have been deployed and are being tested for effectiveness. These include psychotherapy, drug therapies (Zoloft, cannabis, ketamine and MDMA), yoga, guided water immersion, hyperbaric oxygen treatment, brain stimulation, and group support. (For a YouTube video on PTSD care, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVYR0SyTuWs>.)

If you would like to support these efforts to help Israelis heal after two years of conflict, please consider donating to an Israeli medical center. One option is the Herzog Medical Center's PTSD program at www.herzoghospital.org.

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New Claims Conference Data Shows Approximately 196,000 Jewish Holocaust Survivors Alive Globally

The New Data Identifies Jewish Holocaust Survivors In More Than 90 Countries; 50 Percent Reside In Israel, 18 Percent Reside In North America, 17 Percent Reside in Western Europe.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: In advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) released new data on the Jewish Holocaust survivors living around the world.

The data provides a clear, up-to-date snapshot of the global survivor population, including total numbers, gender demographics, geographic distribution and critical figures related to compensation and care. The data sheet is intended as a resource for journalists covering International Holocaust Remembrance Day and related stories, offering essential context on the aging survivor population and the ongoing need for support and remembrance.

Claims Conference data shows:

There are an estimated 196,600 Jewish Holocaust survivors globally, living across more than 90 countries. This is down from the 220,000 survivors estimated to be alive when the Claims Conference released this data in January 2025.

Half (50 percent) of all survivors reside in Israel; 17 percent reside in Western Europe and 18 percent reside in North America, with 16 percent of all survivors worldwide residing in the United States. Approximately 11 percent reside in countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU).

The countries with the most Jewish Holocaust survivors include:

Country	Population	Percent of Global Population
Israel	97,600	50%
United States	31,000	16%
France	17,300	9%
Russian Federation	14,300	7%
Germany	10,700	5%
Ukraine	5,200	3%
Canada	4,800	2%
Hungary	2,800	1%
Australia	2,000	1%
Belarus	1,600	1%

The median age of Jewish Holocaust survivors is 87. The population of survivors ranges in age from 79 to over 100 years of age. Just over 1 percent of survivors are 100 years and older while 30 percent are 90 years and older.

Nearly all Jewish Holocaust survivors (97 percent) are “child survivors” who were born 1928 and later.

The majority of Jewish Holocaust survivors are female (62 percent), and only 38 percent of the population is male.

About 34 percent of survivors – 68,000 – receive monthly pension payments negotiated by the Claims Conference, while the remaining survivors are eligible for one-time or annual payments.

Seventy-one percent of survivors – about 139,000 survivors – are currently receiving or have received social welfare services in the past year, provided by over 300 agencies that receive grants administered by the Claims Conference.

About 66,700 survivors were eligible for additional support from the Claims Conference’s Basic Needs Fund, which delivers targeted food security assistance to the most economically vulnerable Holocaust survivors who are not currently receiving monthly compensation pensions.

More information about this data is available at: www.claimscon.org/Holocaust-survivor-data-2026

About the Claims Conference: The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), a nonprofit organization with offices in New York, Israel, Germany and Austria, secures material compensation for Holocaust survivors around the world. Founded in 1951 by representatives of 23 major international Jewish organizations, the Claims Conference negotiates for and disburses funds to individual survivors and organizations and seeks the return of Jewish property stolen during the Holocaust. As a result of negotiations with the Claims Conference since 1952, the German government has paid more than \$95 billion in indemnification to individuals for suffering and losses resulting from persecution by the Nazis. For 2025, the Claims Conference distributed approximately \$530 million in compensation for survivors globally and \$960 million for survivor welfare needs such as home care, medicine and food.

Kolkata

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curiously transmit the powerful spirit of that moment.

Before Shabbat morning services at Maghen David that I am again privileged to lead, Shoshana sits in her grandfather’s seat and I sit in my grandfather’s seat—mirroring how my father and I sat here almost 20 years earlier. “I tried to channel *Saba* the child,” she says, wondering if he daydreamed when he sat by the open window. She is awestruck by the synagogue’s beauty and the energy she feels still coursing through it. In the balcony we find my mother’s seat.

Shoshana has prepared a short aliyah, “a rite of passage,” she says. She has not

read Torah in seven years, and though she is nervous she is inspired by her *savta’s* dedication to reading Torah—she learned to read when she was 65. Wrapped in the *talit* I made for her bat mitzvah with my sister’s help, sitting in the place her grandparents had started their lives together, she feels surrounded by family. The words she chants describe the way the children of Israel carried their knapsacks filled with matzah on their shoulders as they left Egypt. As she stands before the open Torah, the eighth generation of our family in India, the words she sings resonate beyond their original meaning.

Misharotam tz’rurot b’simlotam al shichmam. We carry our heritage with us. It can hardly be a coincidence.

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

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

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**SAVE
THE
DATE**

18th Annual
New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival
MARCH 15-29
Presented by the Jewish Federation of NH
www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com



PURCHASE TICKETS

Advance purchase for ALL screenings suggested:

- Online at www.nhjewishfilmfestival.com
- By phone at 603-627-7679, Jewish Federation office, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-3 PM

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

**Tickets for virtual screenings are per household.

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2026 FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

In-Theater Events

Sunday, March 15, 5 PM
Opening Reception
 Singer Center for the Arts, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 15, 7 PM
Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire
Opening Film
 The Rex Theatre, Manchester, NH

Thursday, March 19, 7 PM
The Road Between Us
 Chunky's Cinema Pub, Manchester, NH

Sunday, March 22, 10 AM
The Other
 Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Sunday, March 22, 1 PM
Among Neighbors
 Novocure, Portsmouth, NH

Sunday, March 22, 1 PM
The Road Between Us
 The Showroom, Keene, NH

Sunday, March 22, 3:30 PM
Soul of a Nation
 Novocure, Portsmouth, NH

Tuesday, March 24, 7 PM
Ethan Bloom
 O'Neil Cinema Londonderry, NH

Wednesday, March 25, 7 PM
Once Upon My Mother
 Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH

Thursday, March 26, 7 PM
The Stronghold
 Red River Theatres, Concord, NH

Sunday, March 29, 1 PM
Hidden: The Kati Preston Story
Special Guest Kati Preston for Post Film Discussion
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, March 29, 1:30 PM
13: The Musical
Special Free PJ Our Way Event
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, March 29, 3:30 PM
The Ring
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

Sunday, March 29, 5:30 PM
Festival Wrap Party
 Red River Theatres, Concord NH

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Virtual Screenings

Sunday, March 15 – Sunday, March 29
 The following films will be available for 15 days:

Rosenthal
The Sea

Shorts Program

- I'm Alright
- The Father, The Son and The
- Rav Kalmenson
- No Harm Done
- Tattooed4Life

After the virtual films are unlocked, you have 48 hours to screen.

