



CELEBRATE ISRAEL

Celebrating Israel, Strengthening Community

In Jewish life, celebration and resilience have always gone hand in hand. Even in moments of uncertainty, we continue to gather, to mark our milestones, and to affirm our shared identity. That spirit is at the heart of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, a time to celebrate the vibrancy, creativity, and enduring strength of the Jewish state.

This year, that celebration carries added weight. As conflict continues to unfold across the Middle East, many in our community are watching closely, with deep concern for Israel and for loved ones in the region. The headlines are complex and often difficult, but the underlying truth is clear: Israel contin-

Erik Martin

**JFNH
Executive
Director**



ues to face real and evolving threats, while striving to protect its citizens and uphold its future.

In times like these, it can be tempting to retreat, to engage only with the challenges and uncertainties before us. But Jewish history teaches us something different. We are a people who respond not only with vigilance, but with connection. We come together not just in moments of mourning or concern, but also in mo-

ments of pride and celebration.

Celebrating Israel is not about ignoring reality, it is about affirming it. It is about recognizing the extraordinary achievements of a nation built in the aftermath of profound loss, and sustained through innovation, diversity, and resilience. It is about honoring the people of Israel not only for what they endure, but for what they continue to build.

Here in New Hampshire, we have the opportunity to bring that celebration to life in a meaningful and joyful way. On Sunday, June 7, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will host the Israel Bazaar Festival at Camp Tel Noar, a day designed to engage our community in the sights, sounds, tastes, and spirit of Israel.

The Israel Bazaar Festival will offer

something for everyone: Israeli food, music, family-friendly activities, cultural experiences, and opportunities to connect with one another in a relaxed and welcoming setting. It is a chance to step into a shared space of joy, pride, and community—to experience Israel not just as a place on a map, but as a living, dynamic part of our collective story.

At a time when so much feels uncertain, gatherings like this matter. They strengthen the bonds that hold us together, remind us of what we share, and create space for connection across generations and backgrounds. They allow us to celebrate not in isolation, but as a community.

I invite you to join us on June 7 at Camp Tel Noar for the Israel Bazaar Festival. *Celebrating Israel continued on page 4*

May is Jewish American Heritage Month!
Look for displays at your local public library.

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jewishnh.org

By Zach Camenker, NH JFF Steering Committee Member

Our "Audience Award: Best of the Fest" votes from the 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival are in! We are happy to announce winners in two categories this year: Best Feature Film and Best Documentary.

For Best Feature Film, the Israeli drama *The Stronghold* received the most votes. Based on real events that took place during the Yom Kippur War following a surprise Egyptian attack, the film follows a reserve doctor who is fighting for the lives of the wounded fighters. When calls for urgent evacuations do not come and fighting rages on, the soldiers have to choose whether to continue fighting under the orders of their commander, or to follow the plan of the reserve doctor that may save lives.



Best of the Fest



Audiences in Concord got the chance to see this outstanding movie in person at Red River Theatres. Amidst our great

lineup of films, this movie winning the top prize truly shows that stories of times past continue to resonate so deeply. We congratulate the whole acting, directing, and production teams behind *The Stronghold* for this amazing honor!


For our Best Documentary award, we are pleased to announce that *Among Neighbors* was the victor among the six talented and uniquely different films we screened in this category. *Among Neighbors*, which was shown at Novocure in Portsmouth and during our second week of virtual screenings, delighted audiences with its real accounts of a trying time and its use of evocative hand-drawn animation.

Focusing on one of the last living Holocaust survivors from a small Polish town, where Jews and Polish Catholics lived *Best of the Fest continued on page 16*



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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
(802) 284-8890
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 - 7:00 PM
Saturday morning - 9:30 AM

DERRY

ETZ HAYIM SYNAGOGUE (URJ)

1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry
Reform, Affiliated URJ
(603) 432-0004
www.etzhayim.org
office@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 6:00 PM
Saturday morning Shabbat service
at 10:00 AM

KEENE

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rabbi Dan Aronson
84 Hastings Avenue, Keene
Denomination, Independent
(603) 352-6747
www.keenesynagogue.org
rabbida@keenesynagogue.org
office@keenesynagogue.org
Services: Regular Friday night services at
7:00 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

BERNICE AND IRVING SINGER CHABAD CENTER FOR JEWISH LIVING

Rabbi Levi Krinsky
1234 River Rd., Manchester
Orthodox, Chabad
(603) 647-0204
www.chabadofnh.com
rabbi@chabadofnh.com
Services:
Shabbat morning at 10:00am
Sunday morning at 9:00am

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 6:00 PM
All other Friday nights at 7:00 PM
with some exceptions.
Alternating Shabbat services or Torah
study Saturday mornings at 10:00 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
Services:
Saturday morning at 10:00am
followed by Kiddush.

NORTH CONWAY

KEHILAT HAR LAVAN

Hazzan Marlana Fuerstman
PO Box 474, Bartlett
(207) 256-0060
harlavancommunity@gmail.com
Services: Wed. mornings 9:00 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, 10:00 AM
Tues. minyan 5:30 PM
Temple Israel has a fully licensed
M-F preschool.

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Please send all materials to:
thereporter@jewishnh.org

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

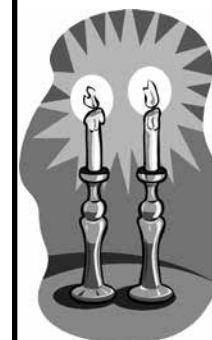
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The New Hampshire Jewish Reporter is overseen by the JFNH Publications Committee, Merle Carrus, chairperson.

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Shabbat Candle Lighting Times: (Manchester)



May 1	7:29 PM
May 8	7:37 PM
May 15	7:44 PM
May 21	7:51 PM
May 29	7:58 PM

Talking About Israel When You're Not Sure How

Usually, when I sit down to write my *Reporter* article each month, the first thing I do is read back over my previous articles for that theme. I ask my children what the theme means to them, what ideas it sparks. I think about what resources I want to share with parents and what programs are coming up.

Long before this job, I had started blogging for my synagogue community—curating the lists I wished someone had handed me: books, websites, crafts, songs, videos. Answers to “how do I do this?” I began with “How to Survive the High Holidays with Kids.” Similarly, with these articles, I curate PJ Library resource pages, *Shaboom!* episodes, playlists, and podcasts. I revisit Jewish values through the PJ Library lens, relearning my own Judaism along the way, and share the real, raw experiences of my family in the hopes that it's helpful to other parents like me trying to raise Jewish children.

I've shared our favorite books, *And Shira Imagined* by Giora Carmi, *The Cats of Carmel Market*, and *A Zombie Vacation* by Lisa Rose. I've talked about painting with za'atar and cumin, about making Israeli treats like watermelon and feta.

Dinah Berch

**JFNH
Program
Coordinator**



Writing about Israel right now feels less like sharing resources and more like navigating something tender, unfinished, and deeply complicated.

It's not that I lack a connection. I've been to Israel many times, starting at fifteen, when I met my now-husband. I've done the classic experiences—Masada at dawn, floating in the Dead Sea, wandering the shuk, visiting Tzfat and Ein Gedi. I've felt the weight of history at the Western Wall. I've worked in Israel advocacy and crisis communications, and I have family and close friends there. Perhaps that's the problem: current events are real. I know people who had Passover seders in or next to bunkers.

How do you prepare yourself—let alone others—to talk to children about war? How do you move from Israel as a beautiful punchline, the “next year in...” fantasy setting for so many of our favor-

ite books, to the reality of bombings, rocket fire, and families living with fear, loss, and uncertainty?

PJ Library's Israel Hub (<https://pjlibrary.org/israel> or see QR code) and the blog post “How to Talk to Kids About the Israel-Hamas War” acknowledge this complexity. In the aftermath of October 7, many parents are fielding hard questions—about safety, identity, and fairness. Questions like: Is it safe to be Jewish? Can I love Israel and still disagree with its leaders? What about the suffering of Palestinians?



How to Talk to Kids About the Israel-Hamas War

These are not easy questions, for our children or for us.

As parents, we work hard to raise children with kindness, honesty, and respect—to teach that every person is created b'tzelem Elohim, with inherent worth. We believe that everyone deserves safety, dignity, and freedom, and we struggle to explain why those ideals can feel so far from reality.

In this moment, I find comfort in one

core idea: it is developmentally critical for children to experience hope and joy, and to feel pride in their Jewish identity and community.

For me, that means we can hold complexity and still celebrate Israel—its people, its culture, its place in our story—even if we don't have all the answers or agree with every decision. Even if I can't find the right resource, I can accept the questions and, with my children, have raw discussions. I can text my friends to make sure they're okay—that we're thinking about them, that we hope the future shifts toward peace.

Maybe that's where we begin.

I hope you'll join me on June 7 at Camp Tel Noar in Hampstead for our annual community celebration of Israel, Israel Bazaar—a chance to come together, celebrate Israeli culture through the sensory explosion of a shuk marketplace atmosphere, and experience that sense of connection, pride, and joy as a community.



Register for Israel Bazaar on June 7th in Hampstead

A Love Story Across Generations: My Grandparents' Journey from Romania to Israel

In this month's *Reporter* article, I want to share a little bit about my background, and my deep connection to Israel. I also want to share how sincerely fulfilling this job is to me. I take my title, Director of Community Advocacy around supporting Israel and fighting antisemitism, quite seriously. I, like my family before me, am a Zionist, and my love of the country is part of what prompted me to work here, at the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire. Very few other places around the State have Israeli flags in your sightline, wherever you look. My coworkers share my passion for the country, and our thoughts are with Israel as it weathers the current conflict. I hope you learn more about where I'm coming from as I share the story of my grandparents and their Israel experiences.

My grandfather, Micu Hasid, fell in love with my grandmother, Lolita Weintraub, during a tumultuous time in Romania, as the country was being rebuilt by communists after World War II. The scars of the Holocaust were still fresh, having taken the lives of nearly 400,000

Jessie Mocle

**JFNH Director
of Community
Advocacy**



Jews and Gypsy Roma. In a crowded park, my grandfather caught a glimpse of my grandmother when she was just a young woman. Their age difference—he a young man of 21—prompted him to work extra hard to win my grandmother over. In the following several years, Micu showered Lolita with affection and attention, taking her on chaperoned outings to the opera, and having long philosophical conversations with her father, Pinchas Weintraub.

As their relationship blossomed, Micu sought the approval of Lolita's father. Pinchas, recognizing Micu's genuine love and commitment, agreed to a civil engagement. In 1946, they were married in a courthouse ceremony, with Micu presenting Lolita with a bouquet of flowers

and each heading back to their own homes. The significance of this civil wedding extended beyond romance; it allowed Lolita to emigrate with Micu's family as Romania began to expel its remaining Jewish population.

The couple's journey was marked by hardship and resilience. After a lengthy wait in two Displaced Persons Camps in Italy, they finally achieved their dream of immigrating to Israel in 1950, just a few years after the nation's founding. They arrived in *Even Yehuda*, a small settlement far from bustling *Tel Aviv*, equipped with little more than a tent and food supplies. My grandparents soon had their religious wedding, marking the start of their lives as pioneers, true halutzim, in a new land. They worked tirelessly, picking citrus and cultivating the land, while Micu began building a home for his beloved wife.

Their family grew with the birth of my mother, Nina, in 1952, when Lolita was just 20 and Micu was 27. Pinchas Weintraub's Zionist dream of seeing his family in Israel was fulfilled, albeit posthumously, as he passed away in Romania in 1947.

Yet, life in Israel was fraught with danger; Micu was even shot in the arm by a sniper while building a hotel in Eilat. Despite these challenges, the couple's love for their new home flourished, and they welcomed a second child, Zev, in 1956.

As the years passed, the need for a united family became a priority. When Lolita's sisters moved to Montreal, Canada, the Hasid family made the difficult decision to leave the home Micu had built with his own hands. This heart-breaking choice highlighted the importance of family bonds over geographical ties, as they all ventured to a new life together, leaving behind friends and the land they had labored to cultivate.

Reflecting on their journey, I had the privilege of visiting Israel during the March of the Living when I was 17. I imagined the dusty streets and the long bus rides Lolita endured to visit her sisters, often *shlepping* her children and smuggling contraband chickens in her coat. I, too, share my grandparents' love for Israel, which inspires my work at the

A Love Story continued on page 4

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.

HOLIDAY DATES

Lag BaOmer begins the evening of May 4th and ends at sundown on May 5th.

Shavuot begins the evening of May 21st and ends at sundown on May 23rd.

Friday, May 1

Family Pizza Shabbat

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

Join us for a family Shabbat service and free pizza dinner at 5:30 PM followed by potluck desserts. Our Book Bubbe, Leslie Kirshman, will read a story, and a family service will be led by Rabbinical Candidate Lisè Stern. The family service will be followed by Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7:15 PM. All are welcome! Please RSVP to office@etzhayim.org by April 30, so we can plan for pizza. Many thanks to the anonymous donors for covering the cost of the pizza. For more information, please contact Connie Morton-Ewbank at 603-432-0004 or at office@etzhayim.org.

Wednesday, May 6

Beth Abraham's Sisterhood Spring Rummage Sale

9:00 AM, Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street, Nashua.

Join us for our Spring Rummage Sale featuring merchandise from 100+ families! Bargains galore! There will be clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, household and kitchen items, bed, bath and decor, small appliances, electronics, kids' clothing, art, music, books, games, pet items, and more! Come shop for our sale! Proceeds help TBA's Sisterhood, and Sisterhood donates to local charities. For more information, please contact Rebecca White at 603-

883-8184 or at office@tbanashua.org.
Sponsor: Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood

Tuesday, May 12

Working Towards Peace Amidst Regional War: An Evening with Jeremy Ben-Ami

7:00 PM, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 152 Prospect Street, Manchester, NH.

In this evening of conversation with Jeremy Ben-Ami, we'll dive into current events and explore ways we can protect our democracy here at home while promoting peace, self-determination, and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. The program will run until 8:30pm, followed by a dessert reception. Pre-Registration Required <https://forms.gle/3RySPmnsHXYHWkaF8>.

For more information please contact Pat Kalik at 603-669-5650 or at currentevents@taynh.org.

Thursday, May 14

Schmooze and Brews with Jews

5:30 PM, Every month on the 2nd Thursday until May 13, 2027.

Join us after-hours to get together at a location in Keene. Casually hang out to Schmooze with Jews over Brews! No registration is required. Just check out our website to see where the current meet up location will be and just show up. Go to www.keenesynagogue.org for more up to date information or contact Daniela Yitzchak at 603-352-6747 or at office@keenesynagogue.org.

Sunday, May 17

Shavua Tov Story Time - Shavuot

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 there will be a different theme! Register once for \$18.00 per family to receive monthly crafts in the mail all year! Crafts will arrive for each child every month to use during the program. If cost is prohibitive, please reach out to the JFNH office at info@jewishnh.org. The zoom link will be provided to registered families each Monday ahead of the program. Email the office at info@jewishnh.org with questions. For more information, please contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org. Now's a great time to jump in—our final two sessions for the season (May & June) are offered

nity members. And come be part of a day that reflects the enduring spirit of the Jewish people, resilient, hopeful, and united.

Together, we celebrate. Together, we stand.

month of getting to know people, and a particular joy in meeting with Rabbis Dan Aronson, Robin Nafshi, Marc Philippe, and Jon Spira-Savett.

I look forward to meeting more of you, greeting you with warmth, and inviting you to join me in supporting a vibrant and dynamic Eretz Yisrael. Together, we honor the legacy of love and resilience that has shaped my family's story.

free of charge! Register to receive craft and zoom link

Friday, May 22

Etz Hayim Synagogue Celebrates a Shavuot Shabbat

Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Join us Friday, May 22 at 7:15 PM to celebrate Shavuot, the giving of the Torah. There will be a shortened Shabbat service beginning at 7:15 PM followed by a series of Shavuot educational speakers. Jay Madnick will guide us on how to Lead Erev Shabbat Services, Linda McGrath will share the wonders of Israel's gifts to the world, our Hazzan Dr. Albert Sandler will discuss his favorite prayer, The Magen Avot, and Jesse Mocle from the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire will discuss their community advocate program. Cheesecake will be served, which traditionally symbolizes the giving of the Torah in the land of milk and honey. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org.

Saturday, May 23

Yellow Brick Road, Tribute to Elton John

7:30 PM, Laconia High School, 345 Union Ave, Laconia, NH.

Saturday, May 23, at 7:30pm Yellow Brick Road, a tribute to Elton John band will perform at Laconia High School. Net proceeds go directly to the Laconia Police Department Relief Association, a non-profit organization that provides support to residents in the community.

For tickets go to www.tbih.org. It cost \$45.00.

Sponsor: Temple B'nai Israel

Sunday, May 24

Magvet: A Cappella Concert at Temple Israel

3pm, Temple Israel Portsmouth, 200 State Street, Portsmouth

Temple Israel hosts Jewish a cappella singers Magvet in concert. The Yale University group will perform a blend of Yiddish folk tunes, modern Israeli pop, early Zionist melodies, and more. Founded in 1993, Magvet is one of the nation's premiere Jewish a cappella singing groups. A coed ensemble composed of undergraduate students at Yale University, Magvet is known for its sweet blend of voices, unique arrangements, and lighthearted sense of humor. The members of Magvet are diverse: engineers and historians, Jews and Gentiles, New Yorkers and Californians, united by camaraderie and a love of singing. Magvet is devoted to spreading Jewish music to the far corners of the globe and embarks on concert tours each year. Program is free with suggested donation of \$20/adult, \$5 per child. Register online at <http://templeisraelnh.shulcloud.com/event/acappella-concert.html> or contact Ryan Bernstein at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org or 603-436-5301 with questions.

Sunday, May 31

From Page to Pasture: A PJOW Book Club Event at Billings Farm & Museum

9:45 AM, Billings Farm and Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock, VT.

PJ Our Way readers ages 9–12 in Vermont and New Hampshire are invited to read the PJ Our Way books *Faraway Summer* by Johanna Hurwitz and/or *Duck*

Dreams by Elizabeth Segel. We will meet at Billings Farm and Museum for a farm adventure and book discussion! Together we'll explore farm history by making butter, learning about sheep and wool, and creating a felted bookmark. Parents and additional children not participating in the program are welcome to tour the museum during our session at a discounted admission (\$9 children ages 3+, \$13 adults; under 3 free), payable at the door by credit card. PJ Our Way aged children participating in the program are free. Donations are welcome. Program sponsored through PJ Library of Vermont and PJ Library of New Hampshire, Woodstock Area Jewish Community Shir Shalom and Kol Ha'emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community; all are welcome. Registration Closes May 14th. Register by May 4 to receive your free book in time to read it; after that date, families must obtain their own copy (limited loaners available). Registration Required <https://bit.ly/page2pasture>. For more information, please contact Dinah Berch at 603-627-7679 or at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org.

Sponsor: PJ Library of VT (JCVT), PJ Library of NH (JFNH), Shir Shalom, Kol Ha'emek Upper Valley Jewish Community

TBA Family Farm Day

10:00 AM, Pumpkin Wall Farm Animal Sanctuary, 56 Tsienneto Rd, Derry, NH

We will meet at Pumpkin Wall Farm Animal Sanctuary, enjoy a tour with a guide, learn about the farm, and visit the animals. Register via link: <https://tbanashua.shulcloud.com/event/Family-Farm-Day>

For more information, please contact Sarit TBA at sarit@tbanashua.org.

Sponsor: Temple Beth Abraham

Friday, June 5

Ultimate Mitzvah Celebration Showcase

5pm, Event Center Nashua, 2200 Southwood Drive, Nashua

The Ultimate Mitzvah Showcase – A Celebration of Community, Joy and Unforgettable Events! The Event Center / Courtyard Marriott Nashua is excited to announce our very first Ultimate Mitzvah Showcase, a vibrant and engaging event designed to inspire families planning Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations, as well as other social events. Join us on June 5, 2026, from 5 PM to 9 PM at our hotel, where we will partner with over 30 local vendors to bring together the community for an evening filled with creativity and fun! Attendees will experience our three uniquely transformed event spaces, showcasing unique themes of Carnival, Enchanted Garden and Sports. As opposed to a traditional expo, we are turning this event into an immersive experience. Each of these themed rooms will feature carefully curated decorations, live DJ's, tasty food, fun activities, and exciting vendor displays that highlight the latest trends in Mitzvah and social event celebrations. Come enjoy a delightful evening filled with laughter, networking, and exciting ideas! Whether you're planning a Mitzvah or another social event, The Ultimate Mitzvah Showcase promises something for everyone! Free event; register online at <https://eventcenternashua.com/ultimate-mitzvah-showcase-event/>. For any questions about the event, please contact Anna Wall at 603-579-6025 or anna.wall@marriott.com

Celebrating Israel

continued from page 1

tival. Come celebrate Israel. Come connect with friends, neighbors, and commu-

A Love Story

continued from page 3

Federation. Here, we celebrate our connection to the land through words and deeds, like the upcoming Israel Bazaar event on June 7 from 2-5 PM. We are working hard at getting a *shaliach* back to our state, so that we have a direct connection to the country. It's been a whirlwind

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

Passover-Themed Story Time



Children and families gathered at the Minot-Sleeper Library in Bristol on March 25 for a special Passover-themed story time led by PJ Library New Hampshire Program Coordinator Dinah Berch. Participants enjoyed readings of PJ Library's Passover River Ride and Hoppy Passover, sang holiday songs, learned about the traditions of Passover and the seder plate, and created their own seder cups and matzah-print pillows to recline like royalty.



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Standing Together Against Hate: A Community Response and a Call to Action

In recent weeks, our community was confronted with a deeply troubling moment when a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives used the phrase “final solution” in a public social media post directed at a Jewish colleague. The phrase, inseparably tied to the Holocaust and the murder of six million Jews, carries profound historical weight and pain. Its use in any context—particularly by a public official—demands a clear and principled response.

In the days that followed, the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire worked closely with partners across the state to respond thoughtfully and constructively. Together with a broad coalition of interfaith leaders, we issued a joint letter to House leadership calling for a formal reprimand and reaffirming the importance of dignity, accountability, and respect in public discourse.

We are deeply grateful to the clergy and faith leaders from across New Hampshire who stood with us in this effort. Their willingness to raise their voices alongside the Jewish community reflects the strength of our interfaith relationships and a shared commitment to rejecting hate in all its forms. At a time when antisemitism continues to rise nationally and globally, this kind of visible, unified leadership matters.

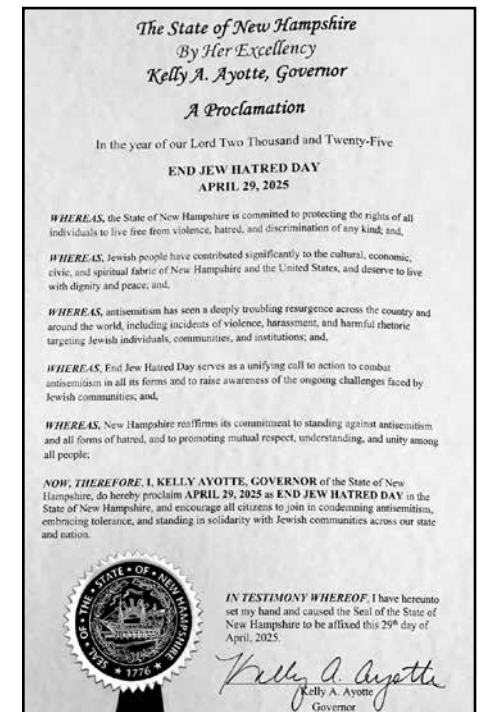
We also extend our sincere thanks to our partners at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), whose guidance and expertise helped inform our approach. We are equally appreciative of our allies within the New Hampshire House who offered counsel and perspective as we navigated how best to respond in a way that upholds both accountability and the integrity of our

democratic institutions.

While the matter has been referred to a legislative review process, we believe it is essential that the broader community remain engaged. The responsibility to confront antisemitism—and all forms of hate—does not rest solely within legislative chambers. It belongs to all of us.

In that spirit, we are encouraged by Governor Kelly Ayotte’s recent proclamation recognizing April 29, 2026, as “End Jew Hatred Day” in the State of New Hampshire. This important declaration affirms our state’s commitment to standing against antisemitism and promoting mutual respect and understanding among all people.

Moments like these test who we are as a community. They also remind us of what is possible when we stand together—with clarity, with purpose, and with a shared belief in the dignity of every person.





Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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Friday, March 20, 2026

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Executive Director
Erik Martin

The Honorable Alexis Simpson
Minority Leader
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Speaker Packard and Leader Simpson,

As faith leaders serving communities across the State of New Hampshire, we write to express our deep concern regarding recent remarks made by State Representative Travis Corcoran that referenced a “final solution” in response to a message from a Jewish member of the House.

The phrase “Final Solution” is inseparably connected to the Holocaust, during which six million Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazi regime. The use of this language in reference to a Jewish colleague carries profound historical meaning and understandably caused alarm and pain within the Jewish community and beyond. We appreciate the Speaker’s public condemnation of the comment, and we recognize the importance of leaders speaking clearly when rhetoric crosses the bounds of civil discourse.

As leaders from diverse faith traditions, we share a commitment to the inherent dignity of every person and to the responsibility of our civic institutions to model respect, accountability, and moral leadership. Our traditions differ in theology and practice, but we are united in the belief that public discourse must reject language that demeans, intimidates, or invokes violence toward others.

We therefore respectfully call on the leadership of the New Hampshire House of Representatives to take meaningful action by issuing a formal censure of Rep. Corcoran’s conduct and reaffirming the standards of decorum and respect expected of all members of the House. Clear accountability is necessary not only to address this specific incident, but also to reinforce the principle that rhetoric invoking genocide, hatred, or discrimination has no place in the public square.


New Hampshire has long prided itself on a political culture rooted in civic engagement, personal responsibility, and respect among neighbors, even in the midst of disagreement. At a time when public discourse across the country has become increasingly polarized, our state has an opportunity to demonstrate that civility and accountability still matter in our democratic institutions.

We, the undersigned, offer this letter in that spirit and stand ready to support efforts that strengthen respectful dialogue, mutual understanding, and the dignity of all who call New Hampshire home.

Respectfully,

Erik Martin | Executive Director
Jewish Federation of New Hampshire
Bedford, NH

273 South River Rd., Unit 5 Bedford, NH 03110 P:603.627.7679 www.JewishNH.org



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Temple Adath Yeshurun
Manchester, NH

Rabbi Jonathan Spira-Savett
Temple Beth Abraham
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New England United Methodist Church

Reverend Erica Baron
Unitarian Universalist Association New England
Region

Lisa Beaudoin | Executive Director
New Hampshire Council of Churches
Concord, NH

Reverend Dr. Scott DeBlock
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Presbytery of Northern New England
Bedford, NH

Reverend Eliot Fay
Nelson Congregational Church, UCC
Nelson, NH

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Monadnock Covenant Church
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Rev. Jason Wells
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Goffstown, NH

Tom Julius | Chair
Monadnock Interfaith Project
Keene, NH

273 South River Rd., Unit 5 Bedford, NH 03110 P:603.627.7679 www.JewishNH.org

Camp Yavneh Announces Appointment of New Camp Director Josh Micley, former camper and staffer, joins as Director on May 4

Northwood, NH (March 31, 2026) — Camp Yavneh today announced the appointment of its new Camp Director. Josh Micley is an experienced leader with a resume that includes roles as a camp director, a public school teacher, and a school administrator. He also has two graduate degrees in education.

In a letter to the community, Camp Yavneh Board Chair Ruby Gelman wrote, “Josh Micley is a dynamic and values-driven leader with a genuine love for Jewish life and community. He brings a thoughtful blend of strategic thinking, strong leadership, and a deep commitment to people. Josh is a Yavneh alum who spent nine years as a camper and eight years on staff, and is part of a multi-generational Yavneh family. His connection to camp is both personal and profound—he understands, in a very real way, what Yavneh means.”

Micley comes to Camp Yavneh from Capital Camps & Retreat Center in Rockville, MD, where he has served as Camp Director since 2024. Previously, he spent six years as Assistant Principal at the John F. Kennedy High School in Chicago, and four years teaching high school social studies in the New York City Public Schools. Earlier, he developed his passion for teaching and youth service over eight summers on staff at Camp Yavneh.

Micley earned a B.A. in American Studies, Cum Laude, from Tulane University; an M.Ed. in School Leadership from Harvard University; and an M.S. in Teaching from Fordham University.

The search committee, working with an executive search firm, was charged with identifying candidates who will build on the camp’s 82 years of success and tradition, and who have the skills and vision to sustain and grow the camp community. The national search was completed within six months, and Micley was the search committee and Board of Directors’ unanimous top choice for the role.

Micley shared with the search committee that during his first summer as a Yavneh camper, he found his father’s name etched on a ceiling. And years later, as a camp counselor, he taught in the same classroom where his grandfather once did.

He will join Yavneh full-time as Camp Director on May 4. Over the next few weeks, he will coordinate with the departing director, Jane-Rachel Schonbrun, who will help ensure a smooth leadership transition.

In his own letter to campers’ families, Micley wrote, “Yavneh is a community for which I have tremendous love and deep connection. It’s where I first realized that I wanted to dedicate my life to

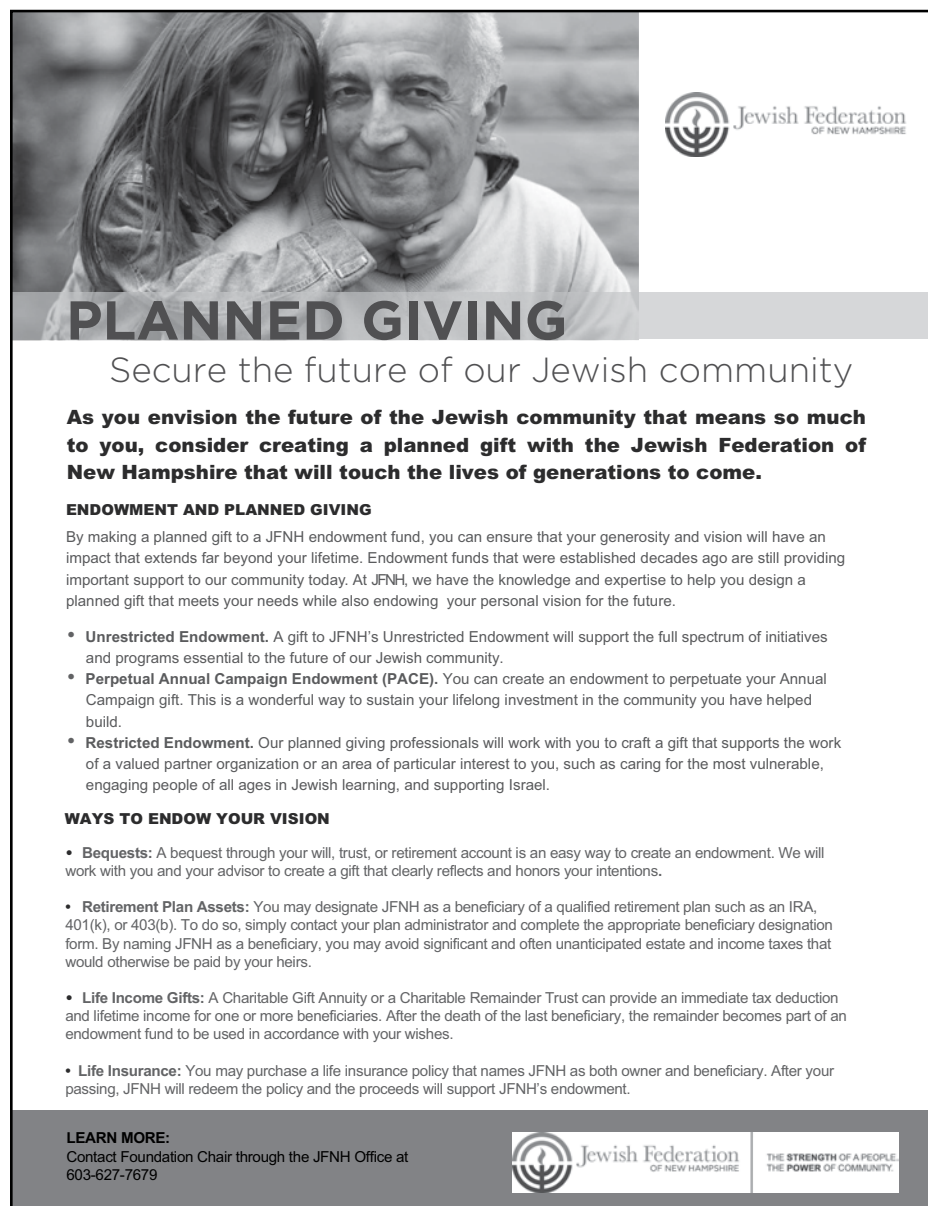
creating meaningful experiences for young people. It has shaped my Judaism, my connection to Israel, and my understanding of what it means to truly live in community with others.”

Gelman added, “Josh’s values, experience, and deep connection to Yavneh’s mission make him an ideal fit for this role, and I am so excited for what’s ahead.”

Micley has already been introduced to year-round staff. After Passover, Camp Yavneh will announce opportunities for families, summer staff, donors, and community partners to meet him, both in person and on Zoom.

About Camp Yavneh

Camp Yavneh, established in 1944, is a coed Jewish overnight summer camp providing innovative programming, outdoor adventure, and joyous learning for kids and teens ages 8-16. Located on 65 acres of woodland and waterfront in Northwood, New Hampshire, Yavneh is committed to providing a K'lal Yisrael experience where all aspects of life reflect Jewish values and Jewish traditions come to life. Each summer, more than 500 campers from across the U.S. and around the world come together to form a community rooted in kindness, shared responsibility, and connection. For more information, visit www.campyavneh.org.



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.

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- **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

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The Future of Holocaust Education

By Richard England

It is now more than eighty years since the Soviet army liberated the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp and revealed evidence of the depravity and brutality of the Nazi regime. In his widely read memoir entitled *Night*, Elie Wiesel recounted his dehumanizing experience in Auschwitz and how he had struggled to maintain his faith and dignity. Wiesel, like many others, drew the conclusion that Holocaust remembrance is a moral imperative. In his words, "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." Forgetting the victims would "kill them a second time."

This commitment to Holocaust remembrance has had a major impact in the United States. There are now 16 major museums in American cities that commemorate the Shoah. The U.S. Ho-



Diorama Created For Fenn School Holocaust Museum

lococaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC is a public-private partnership that opened in 1993. Since its opening, over 50 million visitors have entered its doors, most of them non-Jews. Holocaust memorials and museums have been a major destination for donations, especially by Jewish donors. The DC museum alone raised over a billion dollars in private donations during a decade-long

fundraising campaign that ended in 2023. Holocaust education is now a mandated curriculum in the public schools of 29 states.

In the wake of the October 7 attack on Israel and the global wave of Jew hatred that followed, some are asking whether Holocaust remembrance and education have had the proper focus and whether they have been effective. Dara Horn, the distinguished novelist, has argued that Holocaust remembrance focuses our attention on Jewish victims in the past and not on those living Jews who are presently trying to pass on Jewish wisdom and traditions to future generations. Walter Reich, a former director of the DC museum, has recently commented that Holocaust remembrance has been universalized into just another example of genocide alongside the Armenians, Rwandans and other

oppressed groups. Reich argues that Holocaust remembrance has been used to teach tolerance of other groups but not resilience and continuity of the Jewish people.

A promising example of another approach to Holocaust education is the history and English project for 8th grade students at the Fenn School (Concord, MA) entitled *Preserving Memory*. This multimedia project focuses on the warning signs and atrocities of the Shoah but also on acts of defiance and resistance by Jews and on the efforts of survivors to rebuild their lives after 1945. The project documents the role of righteous gentiles who helped some Jews escape the Shoah. Each student is part of a team that takes a detailed look at one aspect of the Holocaust experience. For an online look at this project, please visit www.fennholocaustmuseum.org.

Working Towards Peace Amidst Regional War: An Evening with J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 PM
Temple Adath Yeshurun Social Hall
152 Prospect St.
Manchester



In this evening of conversation with Jeremy Ben-Ami, we'll dive into current events and explore ways we can protect our democracy here at home while promoting peace, self-determination, and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. The program will run until 8:30pm, followed by a dessert reception

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Fridge Flyer

Shavua Tov Story Time

A program for families with children ages 2-5

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



April
19 April Theme: Lag B'omer
Sunday, April 19th, 8:30am
Register by April 10th for craft.



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



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



No Shavua Tov Story Time July or August for Summer Vacation



Jewish Federation
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Community

Chaos in the Shul: Etz Hayim Synagogue's Purim Spiel Finds the Fun in a Year Without a Rabbi

Etz Hayim Synagogue celebrated Purim this year with a playful twist—turning a year of transition into a night of laughter and connection. As the synagogue continues its search for a permanent rabbi, a rotating group of visiting and student rabbis has helped sustain worship and learning, alongside the congregation's own lay-led Shabbat services.

No rabbi? Why not lean into it. This year's spiel was a parody built around a series of mock interviews with delightfully mismatched rabbinical "candidates," packed with inside jokes, gentle self-deprecation, and plenty of crowd-pleasing surprises, including a cameo appearance by a real rabbinical candidate. By the final curtain, the message landed clearly: what makes a synagogue strong is its community—and that's

what has carried Etz Hayim through this transition.

Producer and director Kristina Zweig (Etz Hayim Board Secretary) wrote the script—with a little help from ChatGPT—and then did the behind-the-scenes work that made the night run smoothly: casting, rehearsals, and props. Festivities began even earlier with a wine-and-cheese gathering, kids' crafts, and a costume parade, also organized by Kristina.

It was a memorable evening of schmoozing, laughter, and Purim spirit. Many thanks to Kristina and her core cast members: Ruth Beland, Stan Chamrin, Abe Kamzan, Ed Kershenbaum (piano), Leslie Kirshman (narrator), Jay Madnick, David Riese (rabbinical candidate), Al Sandler, Mike Schloss, Steve Soreff, Bruce Wechsler, and Milt Zweig.




PJ OUR WAY

We Need You

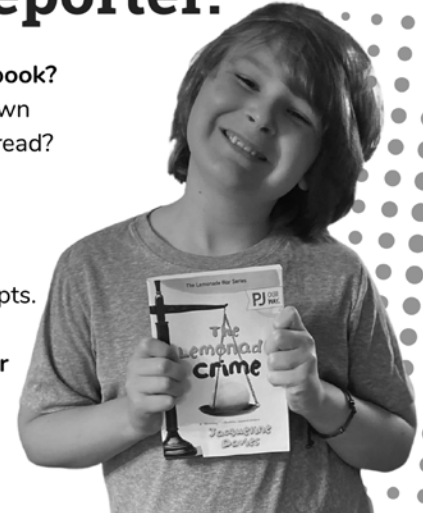
Review your favorite PJ Our Way book for The Reporter!

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

Yale's Magevet Singers to Perform at Temple Israel May 24

Portsmouth -- On Sunday, May 24, 3-4 pm, Temple Israel hosts Jewish a cappella singers Magevet in concert. The Yale University group will perform a blend of

Yiddish folk tunes, modern Israeli pop, early Zionist melodies, and more.

Founded in 1993, Magevet is one of the nation's premiere Jewish a cappella

singing groups. A coed ensemble composed of undergraduate students at Yale University, Magevet is known for its sweet blend of voices, unique arrange-



ments, and lighthearted sense of humor. The members of Magevet are diverse: engineers and historians, Jews and Gentiles, New Yorkers and Californians, united by camaraderie and a love of singing.

Magevet is devoted to spreading Jewish music to the far corners of the globe and embarks on concert tours each year. In addition to regular performances throughout the Northeast, tours have recently brought them all around the world, from San Francisco in 2023 to Sydney and Melbourne, Australia in 2024. Magevet recently released its newest album, *Refuat HaNefesh*, on all major streaming platforms.

Tickets for the Magevet concert are available through the temple website or at the door. Suggested donations are \$20/adult and \$5/student, with all proceeds to benefit the Temple Israel Music Fund. A dessert reception will follow the concert.

Temple Israel is a diverse, welcoming Jewish congregation that has been part of the historic downtown since 1910. The synagogue is located at 200 State Street, Portsmouth. For more information, visit www.templeisraelnh.org or contact Temple Israel at templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org or 603-436-5301 x10.



FROM PAGE TO PASTURE: A PJ OUR WAY BOOK CLUB EVENT AT BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

Sunday, May 31st, 9:45am, Woodstock, VT

PJ Our Way readers ages 9–12 in Vermont and New Hampshire are invited to read *Faraway Summer* or *Duck Dreams* and join us for a farm adventure at Billings Farm & Museum! Together we'll explore farm history by making butter, learning about sheep and wool, and creating a felted bookmark. PJ Our Way kids attend free; parents and siblings are welcome to tour the museum during our program at a discounted admission rate.

Registration Closes May 14th.

Register by May 4 to receive your free book in time to read it; after that date, families must obtain their own copy (limited loaners available).



Program sponsored through PJ Library of Vermont and PJ Library of New Hampshire, Woodstock Area Jewish Community Shir Shalom and Kol Ha'emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community; all are welcome. FREE program for PJ Our Way aged children; registration required to ensure enough supplies.



Scan QR Code to register or email Alison Hill at alison@jcv.org or Dinah Berch at dinah.berch@jewishnh.org with questions



Working Towards Peace Amidst Regional War: An Evening with J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami

Jews worldwide have rejoiced in the release of all hostages from October 7 and have welcomed the current ceasefire in Gaza. Yet challenges to lasting peace in the Middle East remain, as conflict continues in the West Bank and expands in Iran and the Middle East.

The Middle East Dialogue Group of Temple Adath Yeshurun invites the Jewish community to join us for a discussion with Jeremy Ben-Ami, President of J-Street. He will be our guest at Temple Adath Yeshurun, 52 Prospect St. at 7:00

pm on Tuesday, May 12.

Mr. Ben-Ami will lead an evening of conversation, questions, and community engagement, including a question-and-answer session on the challenges to peace, self-determination, and security for both Israelis and Palestinians. He will also examine the complex divisions that we're experiencing at home and concerns about our own American democracy.

The discussion will run until 8:30pm, followed by a dessert reception.

Jeremy Ben-Ami has served as presi-

dent of J-Street since its founding in 2008. He has extensive experience in American politics and has served as Deputy Domestic Policy Advisor to President Bill Clinton. J Street is a group "committed to people and the state of Israel while encouraging pro-peace, pro-democracy Americans to promote US policies that embody our deeply held Jewish and democratic values and that help secure the State of Israel as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people." It seeks negotiated resolution agreed to

by Israelis and Palestinians as the sole means to meet the legitimate needs and national aspirations of both peoples. It holds that "vibrant but respectful debate about Israel benefits the American Jewish community."

We hope members of the New Hampshire Jewish community will join us for this thoughtful evening of conversation. Pre-registration is required.

Contact currentevents@jstreet.org or Register using the QR Code.



Jewish Calcutta Through Music and Memory with Rahel Musleah

Storyteller and educator Rahel Musleah will lead a scholar-in-residence weekend at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua on May 8 and May 9.

Rahel was six years old when she and her family left Kolkata, formerly Calcutta, for the United States. Her father, Ezekiel Nissim Musleah, served as rabbi of the Maghen David Synagogue from 1952 to 1964, shaping her deep connection to the Baghdadi Jewish traditions of India.

Today Rahel leads Jewish heritage tours throughout India, guiding visitors through the history, customs and music of Jewish communities in Mumbai, Cochin, Kolkata, and Delhi. (Learn more at explorejewishindia.com.)

The weekend begins Friday evening, May 8, as Rahel leads Kabbalat Shabbat services, sharing distinctive Baghdadi-Indian chants and melodies passed down from her father. Through evocative storytelling and a display of large-format photographs, she will introduce congregants to the traditions of Calcutta's Jewish community. An oneg Shabbat featuring Indian-inspired desserts and delicacies will follow.

On Shabbat morning, Rahel will continue the experience by teaching liturgical choreography, texts, tropes and melodies. She will also present and read from a spectacular family Torah dating back to 1888. A printed booklet will enable congregants to follow along and participate.

Following services, an Indian-themed kiddush luncheon will be served. Rahel will then host an informal "Chai and Chat," offering a deeper look into the history of Jews from Iraq, Syria and other Middle Eastern countries who found refuge in Mumbai and Kolkata



during the British colonial era. Through the lens of her own family's story, she will illuminate a lesser-known chapter of Jewish diaspora history.

India has long been noted for its relative religious tolerance, and Jews there have not encountered widespread anti-semitism. Despite their small numbers, Indian Jews are actively preserving the last remnants of Jewish heritage, maintaining synagogues, cemeteries and schools across the country.

Today, only a few thousand Jews remain in India, primarily in Mumbai, with smaller communities in Kolkata, Pune and Kerala. Many have emigrated to Israel, where approximately 80,000 to 85,000 Jews of Indian origin now live.

Rahel Musleah is an award-winning New York-based journalist, author, singer, storyteller and educator. Her articles have appeared in publications ranging from The New York Times to Hadassah Magazine. Her books include Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah and Why On



This Night? A Passover Haggadah for Family Celebration. She is a pioneer as a female prayer leader in the Sephardi/Mizrahi community and has recorded a



CD of Shabbat and holiday melodies.

Learn more about India's fascinating Jewish history with the scholar-in-residence program on May 8 and 9. There is no charge to attend, but registration is required and donations are strongly encouraged.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4he8n5ch> for details.

Springtime at Temple Israel

Spring has begun! Temple Israel Portsmouth is looking forward to an exciting month of May, featuring opportunities to gather in music, remembrance, and community.

On Sunday, May 24 at 3:00 pm, we're thrilled to welcome Magevet, Yale University's Jewish a cappella group, for an uplifting afternoon of song. Known for their vibrant energy and rich harmonies, Magevet will share a mix of Israeli music, Jewish folk melodies, and contemporary pieces. This performance will be especially meaningful as it includes Temple Israel's own Hannah Rubin.

Later in the month, we will come together for our annual Memorial Day observance at Banfield Road Cemetery at 11:00 am. This cherished tradition offers

a moment to pause, reflect, and honor those who gave their lives in service to our country, surrounded by community and prayer.

We'll round out the month on Sunday, May 31 at 11:00 am with our New Member Brunch. This relaxed and welcoming gathering is a wonderful opportunity for new and prospective members to meet others, connect with community leaders, and begin forming meaningful relationships within Temple Israel.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact the Temple Office at 603-436-5301 ext. 10 or by emailing templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org

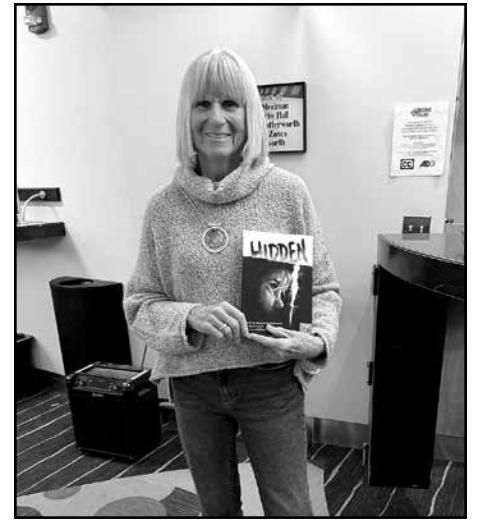
We hope you'll join us for a month filled with reflection, connection, and celebration!

Highlights from the 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



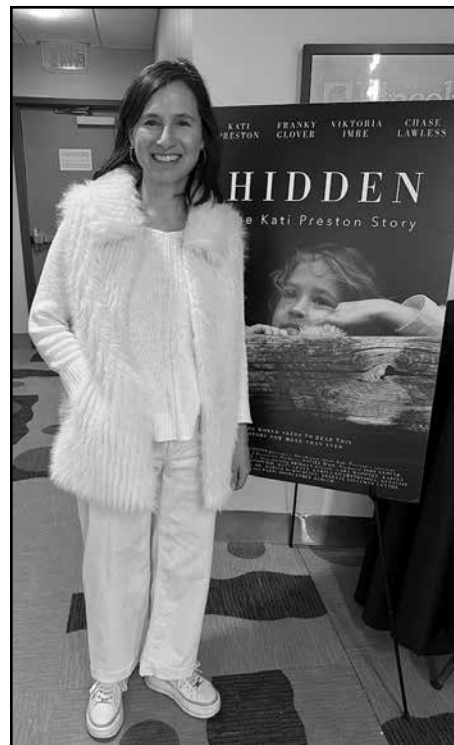
Arts & Entertainment

Highlights from the 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

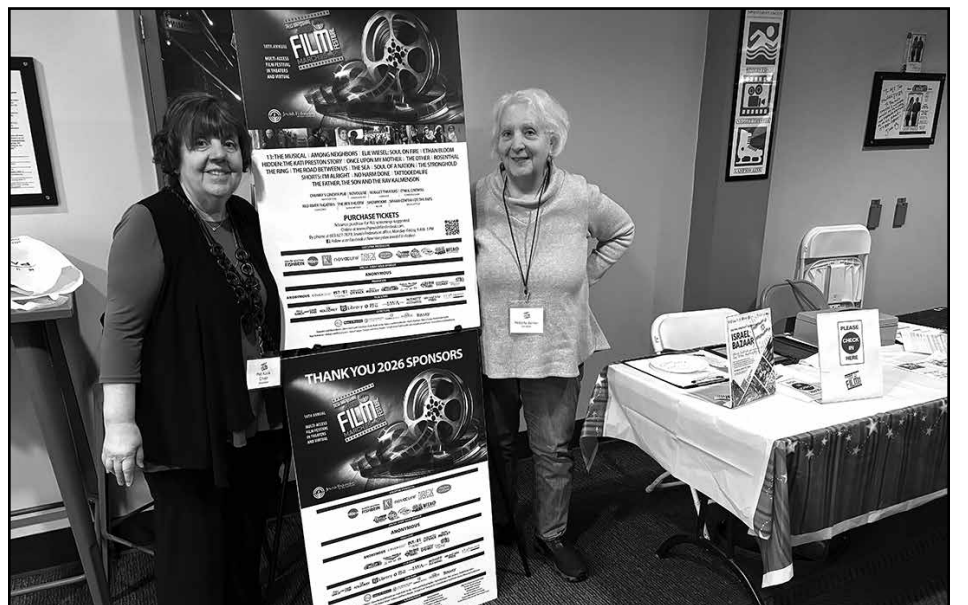


Arts & Entertainment

Highlights from the 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



Highlights from the 2026 New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival



Galeet Dardashti Program

By Zach Camenker, Second Vice President, Temple Beth Jacob

Temple Beth Jacob in Concord is pleased to announce the 16th program in the Shapiro Family Lecture Series on Thursday, May 14 at 7 PM.

Galeet Dardashti will present a program entitled “Middle Eastern/North African Jewish Poetic Songs (Piyutim)—From Pulpit To Pop Chart,” which will be free and open to the public. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged by emailing Sue at office@tbjconcord.org.

For those unable to attend in person, you can stream the event live at home by visiting <https://www.tbjconcord.org/live-streaming.html>.

Galeet Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing performer and advocate for Middle Eastern and North Af-

rican Jewish culture. The first woman to continue her family’s tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship, she is a vocalist, composer, anthropologist, and producer.

Widely known as the leader/founder of the renowned all-woman powerhouse Sephardi/Mizrahi Jewish ensemble **Divahn**, Dardashti’s nationally acclaimed release, *The Naming*, musically interprets some of the compelling women of the Bible. *Time Out New York* described it as “urgent, heartfelt and hypnotic” while *The Huffington Post* called it “heart-stopping.”

Monajat is her powerful and Global Music Award winning album of original compositions featuring her singing with remixed samples of her grandfather, Younes Dardashti. One of Iran’s most famous singers in the 1950s and 60s and a devout Jew, Galeet pays homage to him

by reinventing the ritual of Selihot with a soundscape of original music. At a fraught time in the Middle East, the project reminds us of generations of shared culture between Jews and Muslims.

In *The Nightingale of Iran* — the 2024 hit audio documentary series Dardashti co-created and co-produced with her sister, Danielle — the sisters explore their family history, including the story of their Iranian grandfather, also known as “The Nightingale of Iran.” Their journey reveals painful secrets unspoken for generations. The podcast has become a global hit and has won multiple awards. Additionally, Danielle and Galeet were selected to participate in the 2024 Tribeca Creators Market.

Dardashti also has over two decades of cantorial experience with varied communities, including as a leader of High Holi-

day Services with Kanisse in Manhattan, one of the first egalitarian Sephardi/Mizrahi communities in the United States.

As a scholar, Dardashti holds a Ph.D. in anthropology and specializes in Mizrahi culture and music. Her current book project explores the Mizrahi sacred song phenomenon in contemporary Israel. She has held Assistant Professor positions at New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Dardashti is currently a Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. She offers scholar/artist-in-residence programs, lectures, and workshops on her academic and artistic work throughout North America and beyond.

We hope you will join us for such an enriching program to celebrate the vastness of Jewish music and culture!

Book Review

Reviewed by Merle Carrus

The Last Dekrepitzer by Howard Langer

The book for this month’s review, *The Last Dekrepitzer* by author Howard Langer, is not only the winner of the National Jewish Book Awards’ Book Club prize — it is a fascinating novel to read.

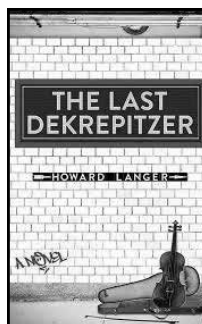
The Last Dekrepitzer is about a young man who was taken from his Polish Hasidic village during World War II by a Russian officer who hears him playing the fiddle. The officer thinks there is a great future for Shumel Meir Lichtbencher, as a violinist... but then, the war gets in the way of his studies and he is drafted into the Russian army. At the end of the war, he returns to the Dekrepitzer village to find everyone has been killed. He buries the bodies of his family and townspeople and travels without direction. He finds himself a rebbe without a congregation, wandering through the chaos of postwar Europe — a master fiddler whose *niggunim*—wordless Hasidic melodies—capture the attention of Black G.I.s in Naples, Italy, who bring him back with them to Mississippi.

He is welcomed in Mississippi by the community, learns English with a Southern Black dialect. Known in America as Sam Lighup, he has a full beard and wears a hat low on his face. People are not sure if he is a Black or white man. He plays his fiddle with the

Brown Street Ramblers and preaches Jewish sermons in the local church. He raises chickens and like a *shochet*, kills the chickens according to kosher laws. But he refuses to utter Jewish prayers anymore. He is in an argument with G-D. He plays *niggunim* as a rebuke to the higher power. He finds love with a Black woman, Lula Curtain, and after she converts to Judaism, they marry and have a son, Moses. Lula becomes the strength behind Shumel. She encourages him to continue and not give up. When neighbors come with burning torches to scare them, he leaves for New York City.

He is always searching for people from his village that may have escaped the Holocaust and still be alive, so he plays *niggunim* on his fiddle, hoping someone will recognize the tunes. In New York City he plays in the subway and on the streets. He meets the Reverend Gary Davis, a blind Black acoustic guitarist well-known as a musical genius and would-be saver of souls who was an actual historical figure and plays with him on the street corners.

He learns to repair violins and be-



comes friends with Schiff, a violin restorer, who employs him in a music shop. Schiff has a crate of fiddles salvaged from the Shoah in need of repair, which he wants fixed and given to children in Harlem schools. Shumel also befriends the Boobover Rebbe who helps him and his family negotiate the prejudice that is evident in 1960s America. The book also shows how Jewish and Black people both found common

ground in their respective struggles during these divisive times, at this period in history. Using both real people and created characters, Langer paints an incredibly realistic view of life in post-Holocaust America.

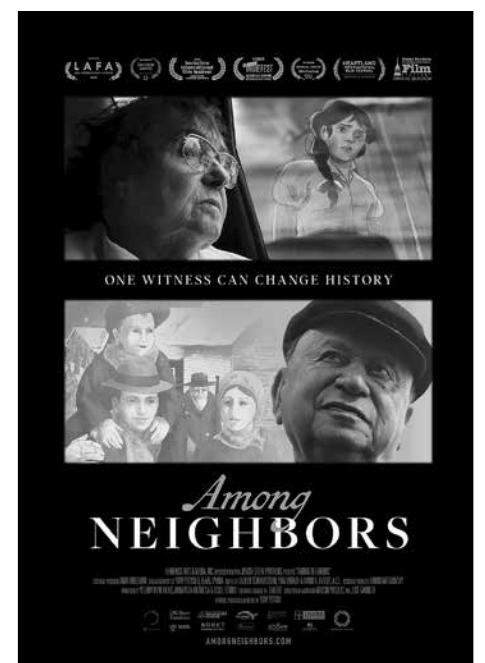
Howard Langer lives in Philadelphia with his wife and two sons. He practices law and teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. *The Last Dekrepitzer* is his first novel: he wrote it at the age of 70.

Best of the Fest

continued from page 1

side-by-side for centuries, the heartfelt accounts shared here show how ordinary Poles made life and death choices about their Jewish neighbors, demonstrating the best and worst of human nature. We are so pleased that we got to screen this incredible story for audiences across the state and are thrilled to bestow the production team of the film with this honor.

We were fortunate to have another great slate of movies this year! Thanks to readers like you, donors, our enormous volunteer team, sponsors, friends, and the staff and board at the Jewish Federation, we continue to thrive. We look forward to seeing you at the movies again in 2027, and we hope you continue to follow us in the year ahead. Cheers!





May 2026 Hadassah Report

By Michele Bank

Members of the Manchester Chapter of Hadassah recently participated in a meaningful female-focused Shabbat Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun with Rabbi Beth Davidson. Cantor Shira Nafshi provided beautiful cantorial music to go along with the theme, and chapter members prepared a delicious Oneg for the occasion.

Kimberly Mager, President of Hadassah Northern New England, provided the congregation with an update on the current state of Israel. She highlighted how the Hadassah Medical Organization continues to provide essential care to victims of the crisis and all those in need.

The next book club meeting for our chapter will be held on Wednesday, May 6, at noon. We will be discussing *The Shopkeeper of Alsace* by Laura Knoy. If you would like to attend, please contact Helen Arnold at helenarnold@comcast.net.

You are invited to join Manchester Ha-

dassah for our weekly Mah Jongg games. We meet every Tuesday at 1:00 PM at the Federation office, and we would love to have you participate. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions regarding the games, please feel free to contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

Report from Ellen Finkelstein, Hadassah CEO:

As Jewish families around the world celebrated Passover, a ceasefire with Iran brought measured relief and a first step toward emerging from weeks of sustained wartime conditions.

Hadassah hospitals began carefully shifting operations back to above ground after weeks underground, and students at our Youth Aliyah villages who went home at the start of the war will return to Meir Shfeyah and Hadassah Neurim on Sunday.

Hospital leadership oversaw the transition of patients from fortified underground facilities to permanent above-ground units at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem and Hadassah Hospital Mount

Scopus, guided by a thoughtfully phased plan developed in advance, with patient safety, continuity of care and infection prevention informing every step. Thanks to the extraordinary dedication of our physicians, nurses, technicians and support teams, the transition was completed safely and successfully.

For 40 days of war, Hadassah hospitals functioned under extraordinary conditions, operating 16 parallel emergency sites while continuing full routine care and ensuring the safety of patients and staff. It was nothing short of remarkable.

At its core, Passover is a powerful reminder that freedom is precious and fragile and that even moments of hope can carry uncertainty. While we hope the ceasefire will hold, the situation remains unpredictable and can change quickly. This is why Hadassah's ability to respond in real time and prepare for what comes next is so important.

Our fortified underground facilities allow us to deliver continuous, lifesaving care under any circumstances. Main-

taining this level of preparedness requires ongoing, long-term investment. Your support provides our medical teams with advanced equipment, secure treatment spaces and the critical resources needed to protect patients in the most extreme conditions.

Your support remains critical. It will help Hadassah build and equip additional operating rooms and strengthen critical care areas so treatment can continue without interruption, no matter the threat.

Your gifts also protects students at Youth Aliyah villages through new shelters and expanded mental health services. As threats emerge daily, your support ensures our facilities remain operational for patients, staff, and students.

To support this life-saving work, please visit: <https://go.hadassah.org/crisis2026-giving>. If you are donating by check, please use the APPEAL CODE: ISRLWR2026.

For additional information about Hadassah contact michele.bank@gmail.com.

Mitzvahs

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

By Randi Gelfman

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

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



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

Finding a kidney is not easy. People who are on a

wait list for a kidney from a deceased donor often have to wait 5-10 years, and the kidney lasts on average only 10-15 years. But the wait list for a living kidney donor is often shorter, and the kidney typically lasts 15-20+ years. It also has much better function.

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

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

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

You just have to have a healthy kidney. In order to express your interest in becoming my kidney donor, you can fill out

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

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

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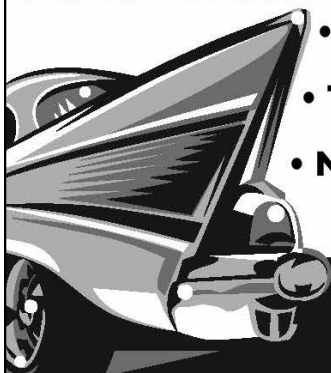
The Reporter publishes obituaries for any member of the community, past or present, for a \$36 fee. Please send obituaries and one photo, if desired, as a separate jpg attachment to thereporter@jewishnh.org or to the office along with payment at: JFNH, 273 S. River Road Unit 5, PO Box 10041, Bedford,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

Simchas

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

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

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

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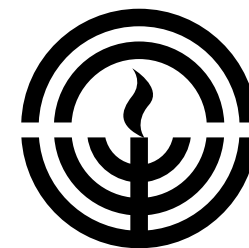
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