

Berkshire Jewish Summer

2025 Guide to
Culture, Education
& Community

MUSIC & THEATRE



Michelle Citrin & Band,
Community Concert

ART & FILM



Berkshire Jewish
Film Festival

BOOKS & AUTHORS



David Harris,
October 8th Playbook

LECTURES & CLASSES



Dr. Maud Mandel,
Inclusion/Exclusion



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Enriching and celebrating Jewish
life in the Berkshires and beyond

jewishberkshires.org



Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires

Living Legacies | August 1 – 2, 2025

Know where you came from, and know where you are going. — Pirkei Avot 3:1

Join Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires for a shabbaton with College faculty, leadership, and alumni.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Knosh & Knowledge | Alexander Schindler: The Person, The Politician, The Rabbi (in his own words), with Michael Meyer, Ph.D., Adolph S. Ochs Emeritus Professor of Jewish History at Hebrew Union College
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Erev Shabbat Services and Oneg at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

Shabbat Morning Services and Kiddush Luncheon in honor of the legacy of Rabbi Alexander Schindler
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

All events hosted at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire



Join us for one or more of these programs; open to all.

Learn more at huc.edu/berkshires
Questions: Contact events@huc.edu

In collaboration with Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.



Hebrew Union College is North America's premier institution of Jewish higher education and the center for professional leadership development of Reform Judaism. A multi-campus academic and spiritual learning community in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC builds vibrant progressive Judaism in North America, Israel, and around the globe.



BERKSHIRE JEWISH SUMMER 2025

Welcome & Shalom

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is pleased to present the 2025 Berkshire Jewish Summer. Whether you are a full time resident or just joining our community for the summer, we hope you will take some time to explore our Jewish communities and engage in many of the wonderful Jewish programs and events happening throughout the season.



Programming & Events

The programs in this publication are presented by the **Jewish Federation of the Berkshires** and its affiliates:

Please call ahead to confirm program details. For more events and a full list of partner organizations, visit:

jewishberkshires.org

Jewish Federation Affiliate Partners:

Berkshire Hills Hadassah

Berkshire Minyan

Conservative – berkshireminyan.org

Chabad of the Berkshires

Lubavitch – jewishberkshires.com

Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Reconstructionist – ahavathsholom.com

Congregation Beth Israel

Reform – cbiweb.org

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Reform – hevreh.org

Knesset Israel

Conservative – knessetisrael.org

Temple Anshe Amunim

Reform – ansheamunim.org

Cover photo by Kara Thornton



BUILDING, STRENGTHENING, CARING

Federation is the place where we join hands and hearts to build a stronger Jewish community and a stronger Jewish future – for all.

When you make a gift to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, you rescue those in peril and bring help, hope, and dignity to the elderly, the vulnerable, and the distressed. You educate the next generation and connect them to their Jewish heritage. You train young leaders and build vital community connections.

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We are not complete without every member of our Jewish community. That's why every gift, large and small, matters. It says, "I belong – I care."

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or donate online at jewishberkshires.org

{Ongoing}



Shabbat and Daily Services

Shabbat Services and weekend minyans are available at most Berkshire County Congregations as listed on page 3. Please check with the congregations directly regarding times and if you need a midweek minyan.

Sundays, June 22, July 20, August 24, 2025 – 9 a.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Holy Rollers

Join us for a casual 15-25 mile bike ride through the beautiful Berkshire Hills. Each ride is a chance to meet others

from our community, get some exercise, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Meet at Hevreh. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Wednesdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai

Over the course of 6 sessions, poet and Rabbi Pam Wax will introduce you to her favorite poet, Yehuda Amichai. Come to one session or all six. Each session will be thematic. Hebrew is not a prerequisite, though the poems will be available in Hebrew for those who request them. Optional take-home exercises will be offered for those who would like to write their own poetry. \$36 for non-members. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesdays, July 23, 30, August 6, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Shir v'Shirim: Exploring the Poetry and Songs of Israel

From the moment Moses, Aaron, and Miriam stood at the shores of the Red Sea and sang out, song and poetry have been a core form of expression for our people. In this three-part series, we'll explore the poetry and song that have emerged in the land of Israel from the early state period until today, with a special focus on work that has emerged since 10/7 during the final class. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Fridays, July 18, 25, August 1, 15, 22, 29, 2025 – 9 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Torah, Rashi, and More

A weekly study group where adult students join in reading, analysis, and interpretation of Torah using traditional commentaries. Facilitated by Rabbi Weiner, this class is meant for beginners and more experienced students. Advance registration (and book purchase) is helpful, but it's okay to drop in whenever you're available to learn. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.





Andrew Rannells

<p>LOS LOBOS June 20</p> <p>COLVIN & CROWELL June 21</p> <p>PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE July 3</p> <p>MARC BROUSSARD July 11</p> <p>2025 GALA ANDREW RANNELLS July 13</p>	<p>ROSANNE CASH July 23</p> <p>PAUL REISER July 25</p> <p>GARY GULMAN July 31</p> <p>LEANN RIMES August 6</p> <p>BERKSHIRE OPERA FESTIVAL August 23, 26, & 29</p>
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and so much **MORE!**

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{June 2025}

Friday, June 20, 2025 – 6 p.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington, MA*

Shabbat Across the Berkshires

Join with friends from across the Berkshire Jewish Community as we come together for a musical, family-friendly Shabbat service led by rabbis from across the County, then stay for a delicious, festive oneg. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Knesset Israel, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Anshe Amunim, the Berkshire Minyan, Williams College Jewish Association, and Berkshire Hills Hadassah. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Monday, June 23, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

*Shakespeare and Company Elayne P. Bernstein
Theatre, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA*

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' 85th Annual Meeting

The Berkshire Jewish community is invited to celebrate our work together, highlighting our accomplishments. Refreshments, board election, presentation of the Simkin Schiller Scholarship, followed by our guest speaker, Yuval Seri, Jewish Agency for Israel Regional Director of the Northeast. Join us for an inspiring update on the powerful impact our community is having through the Jewish Agency – from strengthening Jewish life around the globe to responding to urgent needs in Israel and building a shared future for Jews everywhere. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, June 26, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

*This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel,
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA*



A Helluva Town! The Choreography, Musicals, and Drama of Jerome Robbins

Join Laura Wetzler, singer, guitarist, recording artist, and lecturer, in a multimedia presentation that

explores the life, dance, theater, and film career of Jerome Robbins, one of America's most influential artists. Laura has devoted years of study and performance to diverse, multicultural World music, the history of American popular entertainment, and European Art Music. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Program

FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, June 27, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

*This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of Southern
Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA*

Our Stories Are Recipes, Our Recipes Are Stories

Join Jewish Culinary Historian and URJ Food Columnist Tina Wasserman as she explores our culinary history since the forced expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. Tina will discuss the real reason we eat latkes for Hanukkah, why we eat gefilte fish and its transformative cooking techniques over the last 800 years, and more stories from the Jewish Diaspora. The Federation Knosh and Knowledge programs are held monthly and take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

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{June 2025}

Saturday, June 28, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Shabbat Hike with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim for a Shabbat Hike at Bullard Woods, Stockbridge. We will meet at the Temple at 10:45 a.m. Open to all levels. Pre-registration is required: tinyurl.com/ShabbatHikes2025. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Sunday, June 29, 2025 – 3 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Welcome Home: A Concert Celebration of Jewish Life in the Berkshires

Celebrate Hevreh's 50th anniversary with a concert featuring the musical duo of Jeff Klepper and Dan Freeland – also celebrating their 50th anniversary as Kol B'Seder – and a host of talented friends on stage. Proceeds from the event will benefit the "Our Hevreh, Our Home" capital campaign. \$36. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.



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{JULY}

Thursday, July 3, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA



Joel Friedman

Tai Chi and Kabbalah: Agile Aging in Pursuit of Methuselah

The goal of creative aging is not just a long life but longevity coupled with the capacity for continued physical and mental activity. On a daily basis, we are inundated with the latest exercise routines and/or supplements that promise a robust, long life. Drawing on mind and body exercises and key concepts, Dr. Joel Friedman will explore what the combination of the Jewish mystical Kabbalistic tradition and the Chinese healing arts, including tai chi, teach us regarding longevity and health. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, July 5, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

The Evolution of the Prayer for the Country

Following Shabbat morning services and kiddush of this July 4th weekend, Rabbi Pam Wax will share various versions of the "Prayer for the Country" that have evolved since the 15th century in Europe. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, July 6, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Emanuel Ax

Grand Opening

Join us for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Chabad of the Berkshires. Enjoy a special performance by Emanuel Ax and a brunch buffet. Dignitaries will be in attendance. No entry without prior reservation at jewishberkshires.com. We look forward to celebrating with you! Limited seating available. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

{July 2025}

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Lunch n' Learn with Rabbi Marc Katz

Hevreh is thrilled to welcome Rabbi Katz of Temple Ner Tamid in Montclair, NJ, author of *Yochanan's Gamble: Judaism's Pragmatic Approach to Life*. Rabbi Katz will be in conversation with Hevreh member Rabbi Rex Perlmeter, reflecting on the themes raised in the book, including pragmatism as an authentic Jewish strategy for addressing moral questions. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Happy Hour with Rabbi Val

Join Rabbi Val Lieber for some tasty beverages, crackers, and cheese. Over our drinks and hors d'oeuvres, Rabbi Val will share her vision of Jewish life in the 21st century, take questions, and chat and get to know folks in the Berkshires. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 9 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Ramblin' with the Rav – Hand Hollow, East Chatham

Rabbi Weiner will lead an exploration of Hand Hollow in East Chatham, NY. This easy 1.5 hour hike climbs only 328' as it wanders through a nature preserve with meadows, woods, a stream, and scenic ponds. Prepare for uneven surfaces. Leashed dogs are welcome. Participants should register in advance at knessetisrael.org/rsvp and plan to meet at KI at 9 a.m. to carpool or at the trailhead around 9:30. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.



THE VICTIM by Lawrence Goodman Directed by Daniel Gidron Featuring Annette Miller JUNE 19 – JULY 20 Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre	SHAKE IT UP: A SHAKESPEARE CABARET Created by Allyn Burrows & Jacob Ming-Trent Directed by Allyn Burrows JULY 1 – 6 Tina Packer Playhouse
ROMEO AND JULIET by William Shakespeare Directed by Kevin G. Coleman & Jonathan Epstein JULY 12 – AUGUST 10 Outdoors at the Arthur S. Waldstein Amphitheatre	AUGUST WILSON'S THE PIANO LESSON Directed by Christopher V. Edwards JULY 25 – AUGUST 24 Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW by William Shakespeare Directed by Nicole Ricciardi AUGUST 14 – 24 Tina Packer Playhouse	CIRCUS & THE BARD AUGUST 21 – 31 Tina Packer Playhouse
PLAYS in Process An Introduction to New Works AUGUST 26 – 28 Outdoors at the Rose Footprint Theatre	MOTHER PLAY A PLAY IN FIVE EVICTIONS by Paula Vogel Directed by Ariel Bock AUGUST 29 – OCTOBER 5 Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre
CELEBRATING JEWISH PLAYS AN IMMERSIVE WEEKEND OF STAGED READINGS OCTOBER 10 – 12 Tina Packer Playhouse & Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre	A Lively, Costumed Reading SENSE AND SENSIBILITY by Jane Austen Based on the novel by Jane Austen Directed by Ariel Bock DECEMBER 12 – 14 Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

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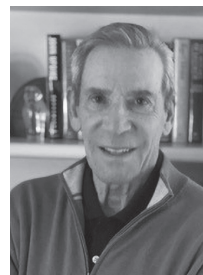


BIRCH
 PROPERTIES

{July 2025}

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA



Current Events Seminar with Dr. Steven Rubin

The Current Events Seminar, led by Dr. Steven Rubin, will focus on the latest world happenings. Participants will have an opportunity to examine and discuss topical and newsworthy national and international issues and problems, as well as possible solutions. For each session, the moderator will suggest readings, introduce relevant topics, and offer discussion questions. The seminar will be conducted throughout in a collaborative and collegial manner, with all participants encouraged to voice their opinions. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

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WONDERING JEWS
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SPIRITUAL JEWS
INTELLECTUAL JEWS
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HAVEN'T-BEEN-IN-SHUL-SINCE-MY-BAR-MITZVAH JEWS

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Summer at Hevreh

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Hevreh, where we are serious about community.

Find your place here, whether you're interested in learning with renowned rabbis and scholars, basking in the melodies of world-class musicians, engaging in meaningful justice work, or connecting with new friends. Summer is a wonderful time to check us out.



Services

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday evenings at 6pm

Shabbat Morning Services

Saturday mornings at 10am



Visit us at hevreh.org for upcoming programming, services, and membership information

*Community
Celebration*
and 85th Annual Meeting

Celebrating Our Work Together

Monday, June 23 at 7:30 pm
Shakespeare & Co
Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre
70 Kemble Street, Lenox

All are welcome to join our annual celebration and meeting to learn more about Federation's work in the Berkshire Jewish community and beyond. Enjoy schmoozing, refreshments, board elections, and a guest speaker.



Yuval Seri
Regional Director, Northeast USA
Jewish Agency for Israel

Join us for an inspiring update on the powerful impact our community is having through the Jewish Agency — from strengthening Jewish life around the globe to responding to urgent needs in Israel and building a shared future for Jews everywhere.



85th ANNUAL MEETING



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

CONFRONT ANTISEMITISM

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is committed to the safety of our community.

For resources, to report an incident, or to speak with the Federation's community security advisor, visit

jewishberkshires.org/LiveSecure

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{July 2025}

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 2 p.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington, MA*

Mahjong at Hevreh

Mahjong players, we heard you. Mahjong is coming to Hevreh! All levels are welcome – from beginner to expert. Take a first step or become an even better player. Join us, play, and enjoy some noshes. Hevreh members \$5; non-members \$10. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 7 p.m.

*Shakespeare and Company Elayne P. Bernstein
Theatre, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA*

Federation Group Night for *The Victim* – Discount Tickets

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and Shakespeare & Company are delighted to provide a group discount to Federation community members for one night only of the World Premier of *The Victim* featuring Annette Miller. Talk-back follows performance. A successful New York doctor whose racial diversity training has gone horribly wrong. A health aide grappling with racism during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Holocaust survivor facing her own horror, and finding her way back to love and healing. 20% Discount for Berkshire Jewish Federation Community! Purchase a ticket directly at Shakespeare & Company. Use discount code *Miller* when calling the box office or booking online at (413) 637-3353 or boxoffice@shakespeare.org. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and Shakespeare & Company. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, July 11, 2025 – 11 a.m.

*Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, Shakespeare and
Company, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA*



Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz

Jews and American Politics: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

Join Kneset Israel and the Jewish Theological Seminary for the first of two scintillating lectures as part of the annual JTS in the Berkshires series.

This lecture and discussion will be presented by historian Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC. She will also serve as scholar-in-residence at KI over Shabbat (see separate listings). Note the discounted ticket price if you book for the

second lecture on August 8 with Rabbi Gordon Tucker. \$25. Sponsored by Kneset Israel and Jewish Theological Seminary. More info at: jtsa.edu/berkshires-2025 or (413) 445-4872.

Friday, July 11, 2025 – 5:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Musical Minyan and Community Dinner

Acoustic, musical, family-friendly service at 5:45 p.m., followed by a kosher dinner at 6:45 p.m. Registration required for dinner. Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Scholar in Residence, will present after dinner. Sponsored by Kneset Israel and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Adults \$25, Under 18 Free. Sponsored by Kneset Israel. More info at: knesetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Friday, July 11, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Understanding the Secret Sauce of Conservative Judaism

Following Shabbat services and a communal Shabbat dinner, Congregation Kneset Israel welcomes Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz, scholar of American Jewish history and Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, to

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discuss what made Conservative Judaism so compelling to 20th-century American Jews and what we can learn from this as we strive to meet the religious needs of North American Jews in the current moment. Lecture: FREE; Kosher Shabbat dinner: \$25. Sponsored by Knesset Israel and Jewish Theological Seminary. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, July 12, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Blessing of the Animals

This Shabbat, we read from Parashat Balak, which includes a character, Balaam the prophet. He rides a donkey on the way to curse the Israelites, but his donkey has other ideas. In honor of the donkey, we turn to our animal friends and share our love and blessings. Bring your animals to the TAA yard for a blessing, plus a couple of special silly competitions with prizes. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Saturday, July 12, 2025 – 11 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Shattering the Glass Ceiling: Women and the Reimagining of American Judaism

In honor of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Conservative movement, Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor and Irving Lehrman Research Professor of American Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary, will speak during the Shabbat morning service about how the 20th-century movement for women's equality in Judaism serves as a catalyst for a reimagined Judaism in our own times and paved the way for creative changes in Jewish ritual, scholarship, and inclusion. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, July 12, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA

Israel vs. Hamas: The Future of the Middle East

Asaf Romirowsky, PhD, is the Executive Director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, a senior nonresident research



Asaf Romirowsky

fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. Trained as a Middle East historian, he holds a PhD in Middle East Studies from King's College London, UK. Romirowsky's publicly-engaged scholarship has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, *The Times of Israel*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Ynet*, and *Tablet*, among other online and print media outlets. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 12, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

JTS and the Conservative Movement

Following Shabbat morning services and kiddush lunch, join historian Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, for a Q&A moderated by Rabbi David Weiner. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 14, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA



Art Spiegelman

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – Art Spiegelman: Disaster Is My Muse

This documentary celebrates the work of the iconic cartoonist and creator of *Maus*. Through interviews and archives, we learn how

Spiegelman, raised by Holocaust survivors, turns his family trauma into art. *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, shocked the world with its irreverent treatment of the Shoah. It garnered a special citation by the Pulitzer Prize and has been banned in some school districts. The film also looks at Spiegelman's other work, including his notable covers for *The New Yorker*. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 14, 2025 – 8 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – Sabbath Queen

This film shows how life and self-understanding unfold for Amichai Lau-Lavie, an heir to a rabbinic dynasty and

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a queer activist. We see Lau-Lavie's quest for authenticity and a vital Jewish spirituality. He has a drag alter-ego. He cofounded Lab/Shul, an experimental congregation that uses "Storahelling" to make Torah text more accessible. He becomes a father and a rabbi. He struggles to reconcile the contradictions between his leadership at Lab/Shul and his commitments to a more traditional Judaism. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Kneset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

The Sexiest Section of the Bible: Song of Songs

Enjoy cocktails (7 p.m. event only) and mocktails as Rabbi Val Lieber leads an exploration of sections of Shir Hashirim, or Song of Songs. You may be familiar with some passages like "I am my beloved, and my beloved is mine," but many parts are less known. We will try to answer why it was originally written and why the Bible editors included this racy text in the Holy Scriptures canon. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, July 17, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA



Somewhere Over the Rainbow: The Music of Yip Harburg, Harold Arlen, and Judy Garland

Join Laura Wetzler, singer, songwriter, guitarist, recording artist and lecturer in a multimedia presentation that explores one of America's greatest musical

collaborations featuring the lyricist and the composer that put the rainbow in *The Wizard of Oz*, rescued that iconic film, and gave the magnificent Judy Garland some of her greatest hits. Laura has devoted years of study and performance to diverse, multicultural World music and the history of American popular entertainment. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

58TH ANNUAL HILDA VALLIN FEIGENBAUM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION LECTURE

Sunday, August 24, 7:30 PM



Martin Baron

THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM: WILL A FREE PRESS SURVIVE?

With Guest Speaker

MARTIN BARON

Retired Executive Editor of the Washington Post

Funded by The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment

The lecture is free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information, visit ansheamunim.org.

There will be a reception immediately following the lecture. Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building.



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 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, Mass.

Friday, July 18, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA



David Harris

An October 8th Playbook for an October 8th World with David Harris

Join David Harris, acclaimed global advocate and former CEO of the American Jewish Committee (1990–2022), in conversation with Jeff

Robbins, prominent civil rights attorney and Boston Herald columnist, for a timely, incisive, and powerful dialogue of the issues currently confronting the Jewish people, locally and around the globe. Federation Knosh and Knowledge programs are held monthly and take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshires. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, July 19, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Gidi Grinstein

Is Peace Possible in Gaza After October 7th?

Gidi Grinstein is an Israeli social entrepreneur and founder of the Reut Institute, a non-profit policy think tank focused on national security, economic development, and social innovation. He played a key role in the Israeli negotiations during the Camp David Summit in

2000. Grinstein is known for promoting resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth in Israel and beyond. He has written extensively on public policy and leadership, aiming to inspire transformative change in complex systems and societies through strategic thinking. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 19, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Jewish Medical Ethics and Modern Medical Technology

Following Shabbat morning services and kiddush, join Dr. Joel Policzer, MD, FACP, FAAHPM, as he reviews Jewish medical ethics, distinguishes them from secular medical ethics, and explores the more common medical decisions that may need to be made and how to think about them. Dr. Policzer is a practicing hospice and palliative physician in South Florida. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, July 20, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Berkshire Hills Country Club, 500 Benedict Road, Pittsfield, MA

Federation's Major Donor Celebration

Celebrating the leadership role major donors play in bringing comfort, care, and connection to our Jewish community across the Berkshires, in Israel, and around the world. Chairs: Judy and Mark Usow. Guest speaker: MA Senator John C. Velis, Co-Chair of the MA Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism. This event is open to leadership donors who make a household contribution of \$1,000 or more to Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' 2025 Annual Campaign. Advance registration is required by July 11. \$45 couvert. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.



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Sunday, August 10 at 7:30 pm

Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School
197 East Street, Lenox, MA

General Admission: \$25

Young adults under 30 years of age, \$20

Children 13 and under are free (but ticket is required)

Proceeds to benefit the Jewish Federation's
initiatives to combat Antisemitism



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OF THE BERKSHIRES

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{July 2025}



Film: *Soda*

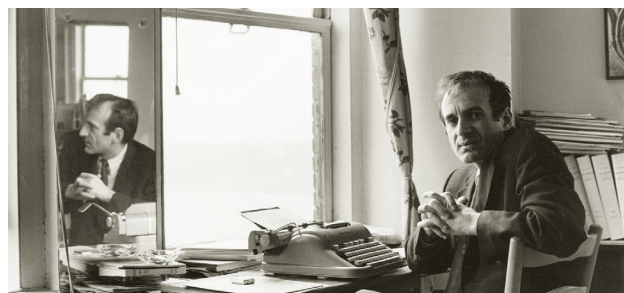
Monday, July 21, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Soda*

This is a taut psychological drama about Holocaust survivors rebuilding their lives in a small Israeli community in the '50s. When a glamorous seamstress moves into the neighborhood, they must confront their tormented past. The woman catches the eye of her neighbor, a former Partisan fighter. This poses a threat to the community, as all hell breaks loose when she is identified as a former Kapo in the camps. This is a poignant look

at loyalty, family, memory, and love. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.



Film: *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*

Monday, July 21, 2025 – 8 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*

This film documents the remarkable life of author, teacher, human rights activist, and Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel. The film shows Wiesel's infamous White House visit in 1985, where he called on President Reagan to cancel a planned



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visit to a German cemetery in which Nazis were buried. The plea was heralded as a classic case of speaking truth to power, and was widely seen as a reflection of Wiesel's singular moral courage. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

The Anniversary and Imperiled Legacy of Seneca Falls: Dinner, Presentation, and Discussion

Join Dr. Robyn L. Rosen, Professor of History at Marist University, to learn about the first women's rights convention in US history. Engage in conversation about the current state of women's rights. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, July 24, 2025 – 9 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Ramblin' with the Rav – Beartown State Forest

The group will ramble around Benedict Pond and up to the Ledge at Beartown State Forest, Great Barrington. This is an easy to moderate hike, at most 374' and up a

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197 East Street, Lenox, MA*

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For information visit
www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org



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{July 2025}

rough staircase. This walk combines a quick, steep climb up to a pond and overlook with a wide circuit of pristine Benedict Pond. Wonderful views, a proper trail, and a pretty lake. Leashed dogs are welcome, and this is an excellent hike for kids. Register in advance. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Thursday, July 24, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA



The World to Begin Again: Jews and the American Revolution

Fewer than two thousand Jews lived in North America during the American Revolution. A significant number

couldn't make up their minds whose side they were on. Whether they took part in fighting, held down the home front, or tried to steer clear of all the trouble, they couldn't help but be implicated by the war's turmoil and outcome. Join Fitchburg State Professor Michael Hoberman to learn

about important Jews of the Revolutionary War period. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 am on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, July 25, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA

Challah and Babka Bake

All you knead to know! Join for a fun and delicious morning creating challah and babka masterpieces with Sara Volovik. \$25. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 26, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Shabbat Hike with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim for a Shabbat Hike at Olivia's Overlook, West Stockbridge. We will meet at the Temple at 10:45 a.m. Open to all levels. Pre-registration is required

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at tinyurl.com/ShabbatHikes2025 FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Saturday, July 26, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



David Kaufman

Why Jewish Timidity Must End: Lessons from October 7 and Beyond

Join renowned journalist David Kaufman as he shares his insights and perspectives, followed by a Kiddush buffet luncheon. Connect with friends, meet new people, and be inspired. David Kaufman, editor and columnist at *The New*

York Times and *New York Post*, is a Brandeis and NYU graduate. He also contributes to *The Telegraph*, *AirMail*, *The Spectator*, *The Forward*, *Tablet*, and *The Jerusalem Post*. RSVP at jewishberkshires.com. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, July 26, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Democracy in Dark Times

Following Shabbat morning services and kiddush, join Dr. Carol Gould as she discusses the rise of authoritarian forms of government and attacks on the foundations of democracy, at home and abroad. Dr. Gould is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where she also directs the Center for Global Ethics and Politics. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.



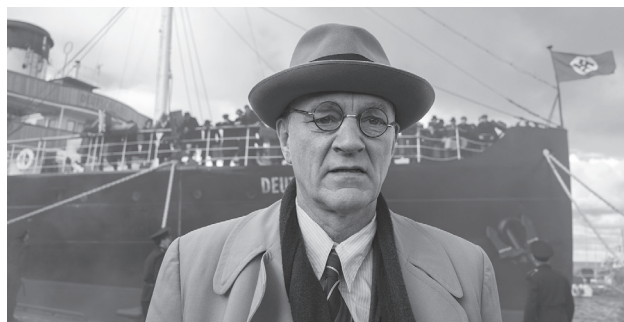
Dr. Carol Gould

Monday, July 28, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Never Alone*

This drama brings to life the true story of a Finnish businessman and philanthropist who refused to remain idle in the face of growing Gestapo threats to Jews fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in Finland. As Finland is growing more and more dangerous, Alexander Stiller repeatedly defies the authorities and assumes great risk to help protect the refugees. This is a small but compelling film, and a tribute



Film: Never Alone

to the difference made by one brave man. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, July 28, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Fiddler on the Moon*

This documentary short explores the intriguing question of how to practice Judaism in space. If a space shuttle takes 90 minutes to orbit the earth, when do you mark

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{July 2025}

Shabbat? If matzoh has too many crumbs to be in a zero-gravity space, how do you observe Passover? Does Jewish law even support the idea of Jews leaving this planet? These dilemmas and more are explored in interviews with astronauts, rabbis, and an astrophysicist, Neil DeGrasse Tyson. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.



Film: October 8

Monday, July 28, 2025 – 8 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – October 8

This is a hard-hitting look at how anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism exploded after October 7, particularly on U.S. college campuses. Through gripping film footage and

wide-ranging interviews, critical questions are presented. Director Wendy Sachs carefully documents the long-term planning, strategizing, and funding that unleashed the vicious campaign against Israel and the Jews beginning on October 8, even as the onslaught in Israel was still unfolding. This searing portrait of a systematic campaign of hatred and delegitimization is a must-see movie. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Thursday, July 31, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Jewish Pluralism in Modern Israel

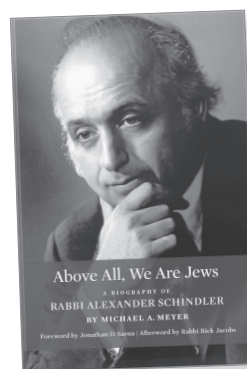
What does Jewish pluralism mean in modern Israel today? Join a fascinating and upfront conversation around current issues related to religion and state, such as civil marriage, freedom of worship at the Kotel, and rabbinical courts with Israeli Rabbi Mori Lidar and local Berkshire rabbis. Following the program, continue the conversation with a home-cooked lunch around our community table. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 am on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

{AUGUST}

Friday, August 1, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Above All, We Are Jews: Insights from the Life of Rabbi Alexander Schindler



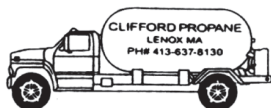
In his new book, *Above All, We Are Jews: A Biography of Rabbi Alexander Schindler*, Michael A. Meyer, Ph.D. '64, Adolph S. Ochs Professor of Jewish History Emeritus, chronicles the life of one of the most influential leaders of American Reform Judaism, including strong advocacy for

civil rights, gender equality, and a more inclusive Reform Movement. Dr. Meyer will interpret key texts from Rabbi Schindler's speeches and writings and probe his complex personality. Knosh and Knowledge occurs monthly at Hevreh. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and HUC-JIR. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

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{August 2025}

Friday, August 1, 2025 – 6 p.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington, MA*

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat and Oneg with HUC in the Berkshires

Welcome in Shabbat at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire with an uplifting and musical Friday night service led by Rabbi Jodie Gordon '14, featuring guests from Hebrew Union College, including President Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D., Golden Hanassi Fellow Rabbi Mori Lidar, and the music of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College. FREE. Sponsored by Hebrew Union College in collaboration with Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: huc.edu/Berkshires or (212) 824-2261.

Saturday, August 2, 2025 – 10 a.m.

*Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road,
Great Barrington, MA*

Honoring the Legacy of Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Join Hebrew Union College in the Berkshires for a special Shabbat morning service celebrating the memory of Rabbi Alexander Schindler, featuring reflections on his living legacy. A kiddush luncheon and panel discussion will follow, generously sponsored by the Schindler family. FREE. Sponsored by The Schindler Family and Hebrew Union College in collaboration with Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: huc.edu/Berkshires or (212) 824-2261.

Saturday, August 2, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Ofir Akunis

Israeli Consul General of New York Ofir Akunis: An Insider's View on Israel's Innovation, Global Relations, and the Hamas- Israel War

We invite you to join us for an inspiring lecture by Ofir Akunis, the Consul General of Israel in New York. A former Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Ofir played a key role in the Abraham Accords and expanded technology access across Israel. All are welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there! A Kiddush luncheon will follow. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 2, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Messages of Hope and Comfort for the Jewish People on Tisha B'av

Following Shabbat morning services and kiddush, join Rabbi Jan Kaufman as she explores another side of Tisha B'Av – midrashim with a message of comfort and encouragement, as well as humorous stories to mitigate the sadness of the day. Rabbi Kaufman spent the first part of her career in Jewish education before earning her JD. The founding principal of Solomon Schechter HS at JTS, she then served as Director of Special Projects at the Rabbinical Assembly for almost two decades. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 4454872.

Sunday, August 3, 2025 – 6 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA

Screening of *Blindspot* – In Commemoration of Tisha B'av

The first film to document campus antisemitism both before and after October 7th, *Blindspot* is a wake-up call turned rallying cry from students facing antisemitism on

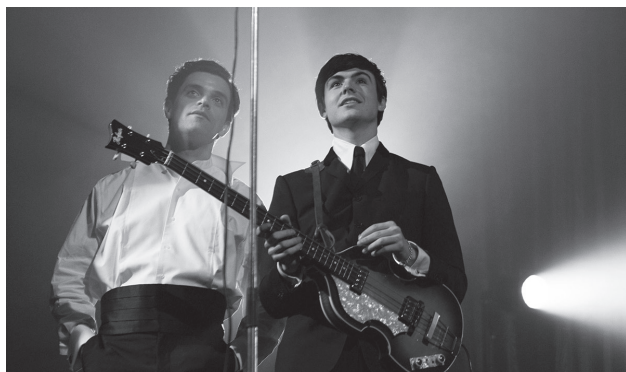
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{August 2025}

their campuses, in their own words. It tells the story from the perspectives of more than two dozen students at more than a dozen schools who've experienced and fought against this hatred. FREE. Sponsored by Stand with Us and Lenox Jewish Center. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.



Film: Midas Man

Monday, August 4, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Midas Man*

This is a well-crafted biopic of Brian Epstein, the inspired music entrepreneur who discovered the Beatles. The film traces his life, beginning as the son of Jewish furniture store owners in Liverpool. He joins the family business, branches out to sell records, and yearns for more. With no experience in popular music, he spots the Beatles at a local club, sells himself as their manager, and fights hard to land them a recording deal. The rest is history. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, August 4, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *The Soldier on Smithdown Road*

In 1947, anti-Semitic riots broke out across the UK after two British soldiers were kidnapped and murdered in Mandate Palestine. This short and dynamic film captures Louis Scholnick, a Jewish World War II veteran and resident of Liverpool, as he defends his family business in the face of a violent mob that includes friends and neighbors. It is a small but important story about courage in the face of hate, and, sadly, it is a story that resonates today. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.



Film: Blond Boy from Casbah

Monday, August 4, 2025 – 8 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Blond Boy from Casbah*

Director Alexandre Arcady takes us on a beautifully shot, nostalgic journey through his boyhood in French Algeria. In the film, Antoine, as part of a film project, takes his own son back to the Casbah. He revisits the experiences and memories that shaped him before he and his family fled the country after the bloody war for independence. The result is a memoir of a rich, multicultural life as experienced by a boy who is coming of age. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

The Value of Jewish Film

Journey into the fascinating realm of Jewish film and its vital role in shaping perceptions, preserving heritage, and reflecting the dynamic tapestry of Jewish life. This program offers a compelling exploration for film enthusiasts and those curious to learn more about how filmmakers have illuminated the Jewish experience, tackled important social issues, and created enduring works of art. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, August 7, 2025 – 9 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Ramblin' with the Rav – Kinderhook Creek Preserve

Explore the Kinderhook Creek Preserve, in East Nassau, NY, with a moderate, 3+ mile hike that includes some short, steep slopes – no more than 400' of ascent, no more than 1.5-2 hours. Trails crisscross this small preserve that protects a series of wooded ridges parallel to scenic Kinderhook Creek. Hikers will wander the ridges, enjoy the overlooks, and, depending on the preferences

of participants, climb and descend the steep ridges by a variety of routes. Leashed dogs are welcome. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Thursday, August 7, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

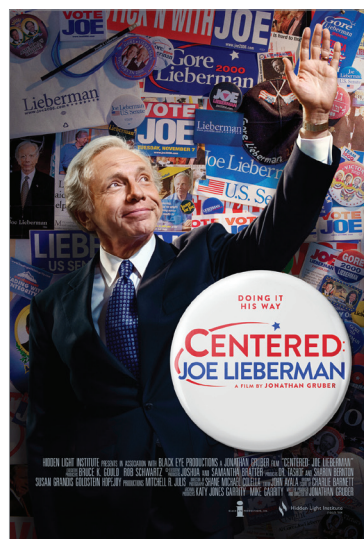
Current Events Seminar with Dr. Steven Rubin

The Current Events Seminar, led by Dr. Steven Rubin, will focus on the latest world happenings. Participants will have an opportunity to examine and discuss topical and newsworthy national and international issues and problems, as well as possible solutions. For each session, the moderator will suggest readings, introduce relevant topics, and offer discussion questions. The seminar will be conducted throughout in a collaborative and collegial manner, with all participants encouraged to voice their opinions. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.



Thursday, August 7, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Screening of *Centered: The Life and Career of Joe Lieberman*

Centered is a film about the life and legacy of Senator Joe Lieberman. As a Jewish politician and former Vice Presidential candidate, Lieberman's story is one of dedication, faith, and public service. Experience his inspiring journey

through intimate interviews and archival footage. \$18. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.



Jewish Federation

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ACROSS THE BERKSHIRES, IN ISRAEL
AND AROUND THE WORLD

Learn more at
JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG

{August 2025}

Friday, August 8, 2025 – 11 a.m.

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, Shakespeare and Company, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA



Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Finding Truth (and God), Without a Doubt

Join Knesset Israel and the Jewish Theological Seminary for the second of two scintillating lectures as part of the annual JTS in the Berkshires series. This lecture and discussion will be presented by the ever-brilliant and popular Rabbi

Gordon Tucker, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, Jewish Theological Seminary in NYC. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door. \$25. Sponsored by Knesset Israel and Jewish Theological Seminary. More info at: jtsa.edu/berkshires-2025 or (413) 445-4872.

Friday, August 8, 2025 – 5:45 p.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Shirei Shabbat and Community Dinner

Musical, family-friendly 'Shirei Shabbat' service at 5:45 p.m. followed by a kosher dinner at 6:45 p.m.. Registration necessary for dinner. Sponsored by Knesset Israel and the

Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Adults \$25, Under 18 Free. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Saturday, August 9, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Shabbat Hike with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim for a Shabbat Hike at the Old Mill Trail, Hinsdale. We will meet at the Temple at 10:45 a.m. Open to all levels. Pre-registration is required at tinyurl.com/ShabbatHikes2025 FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Saturday, August 9, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Rabbi Simon Jacobson

Middle East Turmoil: What Does it All Mean? A Historical/Spiritual Perspective

Rabbi Simon Jacobson is a leading Jewish scholar and speaker who addresses psycho-spiritual issues and applies Jewish thought to modern life. Rooted

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in timeless Torah wisdom, his voice is relevant and original. He has lectured globally, appeared in over 300 media interviews, and serves as chairman of *The Algemeiner Journal*. Rabbi Jacobson is the bestselling author of *Toward a Meaningful Life* and founder of the Meaningful Life Center, sharing inspiration with diverse audiences worldwide. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 9, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Connecting with the Divine Mother in the Tikkunei Zohar

Following Shabbat services and kiddush, join Rabbi Seth Wax as he explores the Zohar's portrayal of God as a divine mother bird. The Zohar, the masterpiece of medieval Spanish Kabbalah, offers spellbinding depictions of the inner dynamics of the divine and its interactions with humanity. How might the images in this text enrich our spiritual lives? Rabbi Seth Wax is the Jewish Chaplain at Williams College. FREE. Sponsored by Kneset Israel. More info at: knesetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

**For more program listings visit
jewishberkshires.org**

Sunday, August 10, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.



Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Michelle Citrin & Her Band Live! Annual Community Concert

Get ready for an electrifying night of soul-stirring vocals, infectious, high-energy, foot-stomping world grooves, and heart-opening moments as Michelle Citrin and her dynamic band take the stage! One moment you'll be captivated by the deeply personal journey through sacred text, and the next you'll be on your feet, singing and dancing with pure joy. Join the community for an evening of singing, friendship, and soulful connection. Concert proceeds to benefit Federation's efforts to confront antisemitism and secure our community. General Admission is \$25; Young Adults under 30 are \$20; Kids 13 and under are FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.



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Film: *Pink Lady*

Monday, August 11, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Pink Lady*

Pink Lady is a poignant story of an ultra-Orthodox couple who are terrorized by a blackmailer's threat to reveal that the husband is gay. The film shows how the prospect of public shame undoes the life of a loving family in a community where rituals and rules must be observed. This crisis helps Bati come to understand her own needs. The film portrays the couple with sensitivity as they try to navigate this painful challenge to their marriage and reputation. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, August 11, 2025 – 8 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Bad Shabbos*

This is a rollicking, irreverent comedy, bordering on farce, about an interfaith family's Shabbat dinner where an accidental death causes things to spiral into chaos. The acting is good – Kyra Sedgwick plays the befuddled Jewish mother – and good writing makes this a fun watch. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 – 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Einstein's God

Enjoy cocktails (7 p.m. event only) and mocktails as we study a few Jewish texts with Rabbi Val Lieber and discover how they bear on physics and cosmology from the past 125 years. We will consider Einstein's own relationship to God, Kabbalistic ideas of the world, and how our conception of the universe and the notion of a Creator depends on our understanding of how the cosmos work.

New to the Berkshires? Let's Connect!

Shalom and Welcome!

Whether you are joining us full time, on weekends, or seasonally, we are pleased that you have found a place in our Jewish Berkshires. As the central connecting point, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is your resource for Jewish life in the region. However you choose to "do" or "be" Jewish is welcomed and celebrated!

Visit us online to request a welcome packet, sign up for a free subscription to the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, and register for weekly e-blasts which includes numerous opportunities to learn, volunteer, and engage.

Visit us at jewishberkshires.org/welcome



FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, August 14, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA



Music of the Jews of Italy

Jews have lived in Italy since ancient times, encompassing indigenous local, Ashkenazi, and Sephardi Jewish traditions. Join Laura

Wetzler, singer, gui-

tarist, recording artist, and lecturer, in a multimedia presentation that explores the major cities of Italian Jewish life and their impressive musical heritage in song. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Advance lunch reservations are required. Call (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning, the day before the program. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, August 14, 2025 – 7 p.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Hevreh Reads: *Sons and Daughters*

Join us for a community-wide read. Over the summer months, we'll be reading renowned author Chaim Grade's recently translated and highly acclaimed novel, *Sons and Daughters*, before gathering together for a moderated conversation around the book. FREE. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info at: hevreh.org or (413) 528-6378.

Friday, August 15, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA



Judith Rosenbaum

Speaking Out and Making Change: Jewish Women's Legacy of Protest

Join Judith Rosenbaum, CEO of the Boston-based Jewish Women's Archives, to learn about the protests of Jewish women, who throughout history have fought for change – from communal kitchens to synagogue pews to the halls of

Congress. Explore how Jewish women's voices and actions reshaped our cultural and political landscape and can guide us today. Federation Knosh and Knowledge programs are held monthly and take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Saturday, August 16, 2025 – 1 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Inclusion/Exclusion: What the Field of Jewish History Can Teach Us About American Higher Education Today

Following Shabbat morning services and kiddush, join Dr. Maud Mandel, President of Williams College, as she discusses some of the ways that her teaching and research on the history of modern Jewish life has influenced how she thinks about college campuses today. Dr. Mandel's scholarship in history looks at how policies and practices of inclusion and exclusion in 20th-century France have affected religious and ethnic minorities. She has authored two books, co-edited a third, and has received several fellowships. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, August 17, 2025 – 5 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA

The Hester Street Troupe Klezmer Concert and Dinner

Join for an unforgettable evening with the Hester Street Troupe, renowned for their energetic Klezmer performances! The New York-based ensemble has thrilled many audiences at iconic venues like Lincoln Center, 92nd Street Y, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Enjoy a captivating concert featuring traditional Yiddish songs, Klezmer, and contemporary compositions, all infused with the emotional intensity of their signature clarinet sound. A delicious dinner will follow the concert. Kindly RSVP as seats are limited. \$50. Sponsored by Lew Pollack and Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Monday, August 18, 2025 – 4 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round*

A compelling documentary about a campaign to desegregate a merry-go-round at a big amusement park near Washington, DC, in the early part of the Civil Rights Movement. Archival photos, interviews, and film footage flesh out the story, the centerpiece of which is the

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relationships that were built between Jews, African Americans, and labor organizers who strategized and protested day after day through the summer of 1960. The group was met with Nazi protests and many activists were arrested. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Monday, August 18, 2025 – 8 p.m.

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, MA

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival – *Running on Sand*

In this award-winning comedy-drama, Omari is a refugee from Eritrea who works as a dishwasher in Tel Aviv. He gets tagged as an illegal – and is slated for deportation. After he runs from the authorities, he gets mistaken for a Nigerian soccer star who is arriving in Israel to play on a Maccabi team in Netanya. While he doesn't know much about winning in soccer, he wins over fans and the team owner's daughter. \$15 per film. \$150 Season pass. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872.

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 – 9 a.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Ramblin' with the Rav – Keystone Arch Bridges, Chester

This easy stroll totals about 3 miles and is mostly flat – 300' of climbing over 1.5 hours on the trail, plus time for wading. Participants are encouraged to bring sure-footed children & grandchildren for a section of the Westfield River that is crossed by several early 20th-century keystone arch bridges. Halfway through the hike, walkers will pause for a rest on one of those bridges, or scramble down the side to a swimming hole under the bridge. FREE. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.



Wednesday, August 20, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

So, You Want to Make a Documentary?

A practical introduction to the world of documentary film-making. Learn the fundamental steps, from developing your documentary idea and planning your production, to capturing compelling footage and shaping your story through editing. Discover how to use the power of film to express your perspectives, share insights, and connect with others on a deeper level. No prior filmmaking experience is necessary – just bring your curiosity and your stories. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

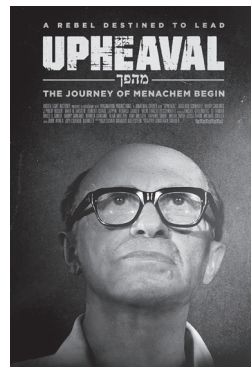
This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

Noah's Wine vs. Pharaoh's Beer: The Barroom Brawl and Culture War that Shaped Jewish History

Beer was revered as sacred in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, but for Jews, wine has always been the preferred beverage. Why is that? Jon Greenberg, PhD, will explore how civilization may have begun as a way to get beer, how Moses instigated the downfall of the Egyptian beer goddess, the roots of Jewish ambivalence about alcohol in the Garden of Eden, and the deep meaning of red and white wines at the Passover seder. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Screening of *Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin*

A powerful film that explores the life and legacy of Israel's sixth Prime Minister. The documentary delves into Begin's remarkable story, from his early days as a Zionist leader to his historic peace negotiations with Anwar El-Sadat. Witness the dramatic events that shaped Begin's leadership and his enduring impact on Israel and the Middle East. \$18. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 23, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Shabbat Hike with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim for a Shabbat Hike at Burbank Trail, West Stockbridge. We will meet at the Temple at 10:45 a.m. Open to all levels. Pre-registration is required at tinyurl.com/ShabbatHikes2025 FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Sunday, August 24, 2025 – 5 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



**Bonnie and Mark Parsons:
A Night of Music and
Delight**

Join for an unforgettable evening with Mark and Bonnie Parsons! This dynamic duo will delight you with their harmonious blend of music, storytelling, and wit, featuring songs from renowned Jewish composers. Enjoy an intimate concert experience showcasing timeless

classic and original compositions, followed by a delicious dinner. All are warmly invited to attend this special event, celebrating the richness of Jewish music and culture in perfect harmony. \$50. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Monday, August 25, 2025 – 7:15 p.m.

Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

From Second Avenue to Broadway

Half Klezmer and half Broadway tunes written by Jewish composers. It will be an exciting night! \$40. Sponsored by Knesset Israel. More info at: knessetisrael.org/rsvp or (413) 445-4872.

Thursday, August 28, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

This Federation event takes place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA

**Seniors Acting Up: A Look at Life from a
Different Perspective**

With so many challenges facing the world daily, a little laughter is always welcomed. "Seniors Acting Up," a group of talented local amateur actors ranging in age from sixties to eighties with short comedic staged readings as their specialty. The troupe was originally called "Milton's Gang" and was formed and directed by Milton Lestz. He is dearly missed, and the performance is dedicated to

him. Following the program, continue the conversation over lunch. Program FREE. Suggested donation for lunch is \$3 for adults over age 60. \$7 for all others. Reservations required for lunch made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.



Friday, August 29, 2025 – 10:45 a.m.

Colonial Theatre, 111 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

Making Jewish Theater in the 21st Century

Join Jewish Plays Project Artistic Director David Winitsky in conversation with local, national, and international Jewish theater-makers to explore the state of contemporary Jewish drama and the unique challenges and

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needs of new, culturally specific creative works. Hear how today's artists are celebrating Jewish traditions, breaking new ground, and forging partnerships across communities to provide audiences with the possibility of hope and healing through a Jewish lens. Registration required. FREE. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Berkshire Theatre Group, Jewish Plays Project, and Plays2Gather in conjunction with the BTG's Festival of New Jewish Plays. More info at: jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360.

Friday, August 29, 2025 – 12 p.m.

Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA

Conversation with Author Barbara Viniar

Barbara Viniar will be discussing *Little Bird: A Novel*, which will be released on August 25. In conversation with Dr. Robyn L. Rosen, Professor of History, she will discuss how this fictional account of her grandmother's life touches on issues that are still important today, such as immigration, women's rights, and how she came to write it. FREE. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. More info at: ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910.

Friday, August 29, 2025 – 6 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Shabbat in Anatevka With Tevya, Featuring Cantor Aryeh Horowitz

You're invited to a special *Fiddler on the Roof*-themed Friday Night! Starring Cantor Arye Leib as Tevye in a concert inspired by

Anatevka. Enjoy his captivating performance, followed by a delicious Shabbat dinner. Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, community, and warmth. All are welcome! \$50. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Saturday, August 30, 2025 – 12 p.m.



Gary Neuman

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA

Gary Neuman: An Afternoon of Wisdom and Expert Insights with Oprah's Top Psychotherapist

NY Times best-selling author Gary Neuman is a psychotherapist and

author of seven books on marriage, divorce, and family psychology. Over one million copies of Gary's books are in print. Gary has appeared twelve times on the Oprah Winfrey Show, over 50 times on The Today Show, as well as on Anderson Cooper, NBC, Dateline, Katie Couric, Steve Harvey, Good Morning America, and The View. He's been featured in People, Time magazine, Chicago Tribune, and Wall Street Journal. FREE. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

Sunday, August 31, 2025 – 5 p.m.

Chabad of the Berkshires, 17 West Street, Lenox, MA



Yevgeny Kutik, David Kaplan

Echos of Jewish Heritage: Yevgeny Kutik and David Kaplan in Concert

Join acclaimed violinist Yevgeny Kutik, member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, known for his rich tones and razor-sharp techniques, and pianist David Kaplan for

an unforgettable evening of music! The concert will feature a range of works and will be emotionally powerful. Experience the rich cultural heritage of this unique concert, showcasing the duo's artistry and musical chemistry. All are welcome to attend this moving and enriching experience. Concert followed by a delicious dinner. \$50. Sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires. More info at: jewishberkshires.com or (413) 499-9899.

For more program listings visit
jewishberkshires.org

Shabbat & Daily Services

Shabbat Services are available at all Berkshire Congregations as listed on page 3.

Please check directly with the congregations regarding times.



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JTS in the Berkshires

SUMMER
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Inspiring learning that illuminates
the Jewish past and shapes the Jewish future.

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

Jews and American Politics: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor and Irving Lehrman Research Professor of
American Jewish History, JTS



FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025

Finding Truth (and God), Without a Doubt

Rabbi Gordon Tucker, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, JTS



11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M., TICKETS: \$25/one session or \$40/both sessions

Shakespeare & Company, Elayne P. Bernstein Theater
70 Kemble Street, Lenox, Massachusetts

JULY 11-12

Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence with Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz

Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz, scholar of American Jewish history, will offer several enriching learning sessions during Shabbat, which will include a communal Friday night dinner (by advanced reservation) and kiddush lunch.

Congregation Kneset Israel

16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA

Learn more and register at jtsa.edu/berkshires-2025



Presented in partnership with Kneset Israel and
in cooperation with the Jewish Federation
of the Berkshires. Supported in part by a grant
from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.