The Sacred Season of Memory
Rebecca Soffer on The Modern Loss Handbook at Knosh & Knowledge on September 16

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, September 16 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge hosts Rebecca Soffer, Berkshires resident and co-founder of Modern Loss. Knosh & Knowledge programs take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more on this free program and other Federation events, visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org.

Please Note: Masks and vaccination for those eligible are required at this program.

The weeks leading up to the Days of Awe are a time on the Jewish calendar for reflection and remembrance that also mirror and amplify the daily lived experience of loss and memory. Join Rebecca Soffer for a talk about Modern Loss, a global movement and online platform of content, resources, and community.

Modern Loss focuses on eradicating the stigma around grief while also encouraging people to find meaning and live richly. Soffer’s talk will center around her new book, THE MODERN LOSS HANDBOOK: An Interactive Guide to Moving Through Grief and Building Your Resilience. Books will be available for purchase and book signing after the program.

Rebecca Soffer is co-founder of Modern Loss, a global movement offering creative, meaningful, and practical content and community addressing the long arc of grief. She is also co-author of the book Modern Loss: Candid Conversation about Grief, Beginners Welcome: [Harper Wave, 2018] and an internationally recognized speaker on loss and resilience. She writes regularly across media, including The New York Times, Glamour, NBC, and CNN. She is a Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism alumna and a Peabody Award-winning journalist.

About Rebecca Soffer

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About Linda Greenhouse

Linda Greenhouse received several major journalism awards during her 40-year career at the Times, including the Pulitzer Prize (1998) and the Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism from Harvard University’s Kennedy School (2004). In 2002, the American Political Science Association gave her its Carey McWilliams Award for “a major journalistic contribution to our understanding of politics.” Her books include a biography of Linda Greenhouse, continued on page 9
IN MY VIEW
The Long Game Versus the Short Game
By Dara Kaufman

I recently mentioned to one of my small Federation colleagues that my daughter had started looking at colleges, and, as it turns out, one of them is her alma mater. This colleague shared detailed memories about her classes, professors, and food. I was astounded. I confessed that I had very few memories of my professors or classes. Most of my memories were focused on a crush, a few memorable parties I attended, and the stress of my capstone project.

I hung up the phone feeling more than a little concerned about my memory. As I dwelled on that, it struck me that there was, in fact, something important that I remembered from one of my business management classes. I think it stuck with me because it involved a professor who taught everything through the lens of his beloved golf game, which at the time seemed so odd and unrelated to me. It was the concept of the long game versus the short game.

For non-golfers, golf skills fall into two distinct categories. The long game requires power and distance to get the golf ball close to the green in as few strokes as humanly possible. Meanwhile, the short game requires finesse and accuracy to get the golf ball close to and then in the hole. You’ll need to be great at both to be a great golfer.

As a 19-year-old, I knew nothing about golf. I confess that I still don’t – I think I even laughed when my professor presented the idea. He explained that long game vs. short game is a metaphor for having a long-term vision and goals while also responding to the more immediate needs of your business or organization. While you may emphasize one or the other at any given time, you must manage both aspects of your game to succeed.

I may have made fun at the time, but not only did I remember that concept, but I have also made it a central part of my strategy in every position I have ever held, including here at Federation.

Our community has faced so many challenges over the past few years. All of us, as individuals and as a community, have been playing the short game, responding to ever-changing immediate needs with urgency and passion. But even as we rolled with the punches of the pandemic (another appropriate metaphor because we all feel a bit bruised by now, don’t we?), Federation has also been playing the long game – implementing key recommendations from our strategic plan, moving ourselves in the direction this community set forth, and working to make sure we have the capacity and resources to get there.

Two key goals identified in the Strategic Plan are to expand the Federation’s outreach and engagement and to strengthen the Federation’s organizational capacity. As a first step, we redefined our existing program position and welcomed Rabbi Daveen Litwin as our new Director of Community Engagement and Programming in a full-time capacity. We are in the process of establishing a new committee to explore creative opportunities for people at all stages of their Jewish journey to build relationships and engage in Jewish life.

In addition, we expanded the Berkshire Jewish Voice editor and communications position to full-time to extend the Federation’s outreach through social media channels and e-communications. The amazing engagement we saw in June at our Jewish Community Day at High Lawn Farm resulted from that expanded outreach.

Finally, as we seek to welcome and engage the many newcomers to our region, the Federation hosted a wonderful Newish & Jewish in the Berkshires event to help people connect and learn more about our vibrant Jewish community. We hope to do more of these in the future, as it is vital that these new residents feel welcomed and find community for themselves and their families.

I am filled with hope knowing that whatever the future brings, Federation will be there – short game and long game.

Another focus of the Strategic Plan was to identify the optimal method for supporting youth education in the congregational setting. This past spring, the Federation, under the leadership of board member Arlene Schiff, convened an education task force. The task force has been hard at work evaluating the current educational landscape, gathering input from local stakeholders, and reviewing national trends. The team will soon unveil a new sustainable funding mechanism for our local religious schools that encourages creativity and innovation.

And finally, in response to the strategic goal of strengthening our organization’s overall culture of philanthropy, Federation board members recently participated in professional training to expand their capacity to support donor identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship. This is a critical component of our development plan and will let us fulfill our mission in the future.

The challenges of the pandemic continue to impact us. Still, we have emerged stronger and more determined than ever to continue the Federation’s vital work to support the vulnerable, empower young people, and create vibrant and meaningful Jewish life across the Berkshires, in Israel, and around the world. And speaking of challenges, we are so excited to share the news about our $25,000 Tzedakah Challenge, as highlighted on this paper’s front page. Renew your gift or make an extra gift through the holidays, and you will help Federation receive an additional $25,000 that will help us accomplish even more good things in the New Year. A special thank you to Ronald and Karen Rettner for their generosity in making this challenge possible.

As we approach the High Holidays, I am hopeful that whatever the future brings, Federation will be there – short game and long game. On behalf of the Federation board and staff, I wish you a Happy New Year filled with the sweet blessings of family, community, good health, and prosperity. L’Shanah Tovah!

Dara Kaufman is the executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Please Join Us In-Person for the
5783 High Holy Days
For more information, visit hevreh.org/holidays
All services will also be streamed online

hevreh.org info@hevreh.org 413-528-6378
To review our current Covid policy please visit hevreh.org/welcome

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Deliver & Pack Rosh Hashanah Care Packages
Bring some New Year’s cheer to older adults in assisted living facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, and the homebound.

Packing Volunteers:
Volunteers needed Monday, September 19 from 11-4 pm

Delivery Volunteers:
Volunteers needed to deliver at their leisure September 20-23.

SIGN UP TODAY!
Contact Molly Meador at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14
mmeador@jewishberkshires.org

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Tikvah Olam Volunteer (TOV) Network connects community members of all ages with Mitzvah opportunities to make a difference in our community.
For a while now, I have been paying consistent attention to using the word and instead of but as often as I can... when either one would make sense. And connects things, while but separates. And builds bridges, while but reveals a pre-conceived blockage that sets us up to lowered expectations and disappointment.

And so, I urge you to pay attention to your usage of these two very short powerful words. Words are more than sounds that we mutually agree to understand. They overtly and more subtly convey how we see the world and feel about things. Their repeated usage gets embodied. And carries us forward, makes our shoulders straighten; but causes a shrinking. We may not see it in ourselves and others and (not but) I tell you it is happening, nonetheless. Hear and feel how differently these next two statements reveal differing views and how they might be received by a listener.

“I have always wanted to take painting lessons, and I may not be good at it.” “I have always wanted to take painting lessons, but I may not be good at it.”

There is a difference, and increasing attention on choosing how and what it is you truly want to convey with your language could lead to deeper self-understanding. Maybe it would also help other people see us more clearly. At these most holy days of our Jewish calendar, aren’t we meant to turn inward and make a turn toward greater clarity – toward ourselves and others with the most holy of days in our Jewish calendar, aren’t we meant to turn inward and reveal differing views and how they might be received by a listener.

And how would you like to experience a greater sense of personal meaning? A feeling that you are growing as a person? Each of us has things to work on and these days are a time specifically set aside for this kind of work. And you do not have to fix everything at once and (not but) forgiveness is hard to ask for and hard to consider giving in responding to the request of someone brave enough to ask. “I hurt you and I hope you can forgive me.” “I hurt you, but I hope you can forgive me.” The and enhances the possibility of renewed relationship, the but makes the teshuvah divide seem so much harder to get across. If you feel this point is too small to make a real difference, consider again. A chasm, just a little too big to jump, spells the difference between success in life and a plummeting failure.

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move into the New Year, 5783.

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move into the New Year, 5783.
More is More
By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

Since we started reaching out for voluntary subscriptions, all of us at Federation have been grateful and touched by the outpouring of support we’ve received from the readers of the Berkshire Jewish Voice – check out the response below to see what I mean. Last year, we raised more additional donations for the paper than we did previously, and we are on pace to equal or exceed last year’s total. To date – and I’m writing this fairly early in our outreach, mid-August – already half as many households to give so far.

Thank you to our supporters!
The Berkshire Jewish Voice extends a very special “thank you” for the generosity extended by those who have sent in their contributions for voluntary subscriptions to the paper.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIBERS!

The Berkshire Jewish Voice is all about informing our readers about how they can do more. How to connect more with Jewish life around the area, how to get more involved with opportunities to do good work within the Internets – not to mention the impact of your smiling faces, captured at events that we are once again blessed to be able to enjoy together in person.

The Berkshire Jewish Voice is about informing our readers about how they can do more. How to get more involved with opportunities to do good work within our local Jewish community. How to connect more with Jewish life around the world. How to learn more about issues of consequence affecting the Jewish people. How to enjoy more work by the artists, writers, musicians, thinkers, et al., who we talk to and profile in the paper.

The Berkshire Jewish Voice is able to give our readers more because we are committed to doing more for ourselves than most papers our size. In the past year, for example, we published a scant ten stories and opinion pieces that were taken off wire services – all the remaining content was generated for or shared with a Berkshires audience. If we do reprint an article, we try to make sure it will be something you are not likely to have encountered in other places, or that makes you want to explore the longer work from which it is excerpted. Furthermore, BJV writers conduct almost all of the interviews we publish, ensuring that the content you read is original and available nowhere else.

So that’s why we feel confident and comfortable asking you for a little more support for the Berkshire Jewish Voice. A contribution at any level is appreciated.

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Koshersoul: A Conversation between Michael Twitty and Adeena Sussman

*Program kicks off new series, “Jewish Literary Voices”*

This program is the first in the new monthly “Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in Collaboration with The Jewish Book Council,” which will run through July 2023. For a full roster of presenters, please see the box by the story about Rabbi Barry Block on page 10. Register for this program via the Calendar of Events page at jewishberkshires.org.

Michael W. Twitty is a noted culinary and cultural historian and the creator of Afroculinaria, the first blog devoted to African American historic foodways and their legacies. Twitty has appeared throughout the media, including on NPR’s “The Splendid Table,” and has given more than 250 talks in the United States and abroad. He is the author of The Cooking Gene, published by HarperCollins/Amistad, which won the 2018 James Beard Foundation Book Award for Book of the Year.

Adeena Sussman has co-authored 11 cookbooks, including The New York Times #1 best-seller Cravings—and its bestselling follow-up Hungry for More—with Chrissy Teigen. She is also the author of Tahini. She moved to Israel in 2015 and lives footsteps from Carmel Market. She has written about Israeli food for Food & Wine, The Wall Street Journal, and many others.

On Thursday, September 15 at 12:30 p.m., prepare for the High Holy Days by joining in a conversation about identity, food, culture, and intersectionality. Koshersoul is Michael Twitty’s thought-provoking memoir that looks at the creation of African-Jewish foods as a result of migration and diaspora. Twitty will be joined by Adeena Sussman, food writer and author of the upcoming book Shabbat: Recipes and Rituals From My Table To Yours.

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This free program is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community Series and will be followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a $3 suggested donation for adults over 60 or $7 for all others. Reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program.

Wilson’s work with The Trustees includes managing the preservation of six historic houses in western Massachusetts from 1735 to 1965 (object collections totaling over 12,000 individual items) and supporting opportunities to share the rich histories represented at each of these properties. His career in the museum profession includes over 20 years with The Trustees, plus past involvement at the Nantucket Historical Association and a few years managing the birthplace of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross in North Oxford, Massachusetts. Wilson has most recently curated VeniEscapes, the exhibition of George Riecky’s kinetic sculptures at Naumkeag.

Wilson has a master’s degree in the History of Art & Architecture from Brown University and serves on the board of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Current Events Seminar with Dr. Steven Rubin

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, September 8 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Dr. Steven Rubin for another in his series of current events seminars.

The current events seminar allows participants to examine and discuss topical and newsworthy national and international issues. The moderator will suggest readings for each session, introduce topics, and offer discussion questions. The seminar will be collaborative and collegial, with all participants encouraged to voice their opinions.

This free program will be presented in person as part of the Federation’s Connecting with Community Series at Knesset Israel (16 Colt Road in Pittsfield) and will be followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a $3 suggested donation for adults over 60 or $7 for all others. Reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program. See page 8 for the lunch menu.

Steve Rubin, Ph.D. (moderator) is professor emeritus and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY. His op-eds and opinion essays have appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Berkshire Eagle, Tampa Bay Times, The South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Palm Beach Post, and The Hartford Courant, among others. He is the editor of several anthologies, including Celebrating the Jewish Holidays: Poems, Stories, Essays (Brandeis University Press), Telling and Remembering: A Century of American Jewish Poets (Beacon Press), and Writing Our Lives: Autobiographies of American Jews (Jewish Publication Society). He lives in Tarryingtown and can be reached at spr@adelphi.edu.

For more on this program and other Federation events, visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org.

“Centuries of Survival, the Stockbridge Mohicans and the Mission House,” with Mark Wilson

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, October 20, at 10:45 a.m., we welcome Mark Wilson, associate curator at the Trustees of the Reservations, to explore how Stockbridge was founded as a community for the Mohicans. He’ll also talk about the history of the Mission House and the recent repatriation of Mohican cultural heritage to the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians.

The Mission House

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, September 29 at 10:45 a.m., join us for a morning of drama and laughs as we welcome Seniors Acting Up, a troupe of actors who promise “A Look at Life from a Different Perspective.”

There are so many ways to enjoy humor. One of the best is when older people can get together and laugh. And laugh you will when you watch Seniors Acting Up perform staged readings of seven short plays picked by the group and their director, Milton Lestz.

The group has talented actors who have acted together for several years, as well as some new faces: Tom and Laura Gardner, John Trainor, Karel Fisher, Peter Podol, Denise Roller, and Peter McCallion. They all share a love of community theater, making the performances special.

This free program is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community Series and will be followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a $3 suggested donation for adults over 60 or $7 for all others. Advance reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program.

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“The Ins and Outs of Book Publishing,” with Literary Agent Irene Goodman

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, October 13 at 10:45 a.m., join “The Ins and Outs of Book Publishing” with literary agent Irene Goodman. Do you think you should be a published author? Here’s your chance to find out how to do it.

People of the Book, the Book of Life, our scrolls. Writing and literary imagery are woven deeply into Jewish culture, history, and religious tradition.

Book publishing is attractive to many, but few know much about it. How does an author sell a book? What happens once they do, and what can the author expect? This process has a mystique that is often misinformed. Guided by literary agent Irene Goodman, learn about how to break in, what traps to avoid, conferences and writers’ groups, subsidiary rights, how a publisher makes money, and self-publishing.

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 Literary Agent Irene Goodman

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Library agent Irene Goodman has been a leading member of the publishing community for over 40 years. She has sold over 1,500 books and counting. Her clients are regulars on the New York Times, USA Today, Publishers Weekly, and Bookscan best-seller lists. Her list includes business, pop culture, health, food, Jewish interest, Francophilia, lifestyle, and upmarket fiction. She has spoken at dozens of writers conferences and keynoted at three.

Goodman and her husband developed a script together for New York and the Berkshires and have two grown children. She loves opera, The Beatles, Torah study, Paris, and soft ice cream.

Literary Agent Irene Goodman

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Seniors Acting Up – A Look at Life from a Different Perspective

Seniors Acting Up, with Milton Lestz (seated center)

“The Ins and Outs of Book Publishing,” with Literary Agent Irene Goodman

“Centuries of Survival, the Stockbridge Mohicans and the Mission House,” with Mark Wilson

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Seniors Acting Up – A Look at Life from a Different Perspective

Seniors Acting Up, with Milton Lestz (seated center)
LINDA GREENHOUSE, continued from page 1


Her latest book is Just on the Brink: The Death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Rise of Amy Coney Barrett, and Twelve Months that Transformed the Supreme Court (Random House, 2021). In her extracurricular life, Greenhouse is president of the American Philosophical Society, the country’s oldest learned society, which in 2005 awarded her its Henry Allen Moe Prize for writing in jurisprudence and the humanities. She also serves on the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences was elected as an honorary member of the American Law Institute, which in 2002 awarded her its Henry J. Friendly Medal. She has also been awarded thirteen honorary degrees. She is a graduate of Radcliffe College (Harvard) and earned a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School, which she attended on scholarship.

Greenhouse and her husband, Professor Gene Fidell of Yale Law School, are also Berkshire second-homeowners.

BJV Interview: Linda Greenhouse

Linda Greenhouse’s last two books tell very different types of stories, but both share one characteristic—the narratives conclude before the issues and stories explored in them were overtaken by subsequent, more dramatic historical developments. Reading the books with the knowledge of what happened later is an interesting way to experience them, as one gets a deeper understanding of how the events she chronicles set the stage for what came next.

In Just a Journalist, the shorter of the two books, Greenhouse takes a two-track approach with her storytelling. Part of the book is a memoir of her illustrious career in journalism that began as a student journalist in the late 1960s. Her descriptions of what it was like to be a young woman working to succeed at The New York Times in an era when journalism was dominated by men are eye-opening. Her portrayals of her famous editors, mentors, and the subjects she covered are memorable, as well. Greenhouse’s descriptions of how stories were reported, written, filed, published, and reacted to in the pre-internet/cable news era capture just how differently news was produced, consumed, and thought about.

The other track of Just a Journalist is more of a thought-piece in which Greenhouse explores journalistic partiality and bias, and the standards of professional ethics that guided news reporting at the Times and other papers of record in an earlier era. Her springboard in telling this part of her story is the backlash she received after her objectivity was questioned when she attended a reproducible rights rally in 1989, and then again after she publicly expressed her opinions about certain government actions at an awards ceremony in 2006. She uses those personal stories to consider how the idea of bias was starting to change at the New York Times—but she concludes the book in 2016, after Donald Trump’s election, an inflection point after which time-honored notions of journalistic impartiality were completely transformed, both from within by the legacy media and from without by internet journalists working outside the mainstream. In the years since Just a Journalist was published, issues of partiality and bias have not only revolved around the manner in which a newsworthy story is presented by the press but whether a newsworthy story will be reported at all if it contradicts a favored narrative or damages the prospects of a political prospect with which a media outlet shares an affinity.

Justice on the Brink covers the 2020/21 term of the Supreme Court. It concludes at the end of Donald Trump’s presidency and at the start of the Court’s ideological shift with a majority of conservative justices. This narrative ends at a pivotal historical moment—the 2016 election of Donald Trump as president. From a 2022 perspective, some of the controversies Greenhouse wrote about seem to have come full circle in light of the boundaries that were crossed by the mainstream media in the last five years, although no less resonant. If you were to add a postscript to the “Attitudes” and “Habits” chapters of Just a Journalist addressing the practice of journalism in the past five years, what would you write about?

I’m actually pretty thrilled by the boundaries that have been crossed by the mainstream media (I’m not including Fox News in that category). The main complaint I expressed in the book—that the notion of “fair and balanced” means that there have to be two sides to every story and that reporters can’t just flat-out declare what they have learned—would apply to a considerably lesser degree after the media’s awakening in the age of Trump. It’s now understood that some things that people in power say are just not true and have to be called out as such. I don’t mean to suggest that journalism has reached some state of perfection, but the questions I raised at the very end of the book—are these changes only temporary or will they last—I think have been answered.

Justice on the Brink, about the 2020/21 Supreme Court term, wraps up before the landmark abortion and gun rights decisions the Court delivered in its subsequent term, concluded this year. In the book, you portray Trump decrying the legitimacy of the Supreme Court as he fulminated about the 2020 election. After the court’s decisions in 2022, the Supreme Court’s legitimacy was attacked with equal vehemence from the other side of the political aisle. Does the Supreme Court have a future that might resemble its past given that lawmakers are questioning not only its logic but its legitimacy? And how might that rhetoric affect public perception of the Supreme Court?

What Justice on the Brink shows is the roots of the decisons the court handed down in this past term. I wouldn’t actually say that Trump questioned the Supreme Court’s “legitimacy” as such—he just didn’t like the outcome and thought his own appointees owed him a favor. Trump’s behavior in 2020-2021 and the attacks on the court now are quite different in kind. The problem now is that a minority president managed to impose a conservative supermajority on the court, and that those justices are now pursuing an agenda that the country doesn’t share. This is not a question of “rhetoric” or perception. It is, I’m afraid, a fact. And it is indeed a crisis of legitimacy for the court.

You are also a lecturer at Yale Law School. In light of themes you’ve written about in your last two books, what do you focus on with your students to prepare them for their practice and study of law?

At Yale Law School, I am in charge of our Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic, in which students handle real Supreme Court cases for real clients. It’s essentially a course on how to “do” law at the highest appellate level. Students write briefs and help prepare the clinic’s practitioners—members of the Supreme Court bar who come up to New Haven on a weekly basis—for their Supreme Court arguments. We also study various aspects of Supreme Court practice. Before the pandemic, we could bring students to the court to hear their cases argued. I’m not sure whether this will be possible in the coming Supreme Court term.
**Connecting with Community**

**Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!**

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays and Thursdays through the end of September. Tuesday lunches resume in October.

**SEPTMBER**

- **Thursday, 8** ......... Sundried tomato and artichoke frittata**, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, Farmer’s loaf, and tropical fruit salad.
- **Monday, 12** ......... American chopped suey, salad, green beans, garlic bread, and brownies.
- **Thursday, 15** ......... Cinnamon honey chicken*#, noodles with onions, salad, oven roasted vegetables, whole wheat bread, and Mandarin oranges.
- **Monday, 19** ......... Corned beef Rueben (no cheese), pickle wedge, salad, rye bread, and peaches.
- **Thursday, 22** ......... Roasted chicken*#, kreplach soup, oven roasted broccoli and cauliflower, rice pilaf, challah, and grapes.
- **Monday, 26** ......... Closed for Rosh Hashanah.
- **Thursday, 29** ......... Vegetable lasagna, apple juice, beets, salad, garlic bread, and apricots.

**OCTOBER**

- **Monday, 3** ......... Meat loaf*#, noodle soup, mashed potatoes, peas, pumpernickel bread, and cranberry walnut cookies.
- **Tuesday, 4** ......... Fresh fish**, pineapple juice, sweet potato fries, green beans, potato bread, and tropical fruit salad.
- **Thursday, 6** ......... Macaroni and cheese, zucchini and tomatoes, salad, white bread, and cookies.
- **Monday, 10** ......... Closed for Sukkot.
- **Tuesday, 11** ......... Closed for Sukkot.
- **Thursday, 13** ......... Tuna salad platter**, beet salad, rye bread, and Mandarin oranges.
- **Monday, 17** ......... Closed for Shemini Atzeret.
- **Tuesday, 18** ......... Closed for Simchat Torah.
- **Thursday, 20** ......... Fish sticks#, sweet potato fries, salad, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, and applesauce.
- **Monday, 24** ......... Salami and egg frittata, mango juice, mixed vegetables, Farmer’s loaf, and cookies.
- **Tuesday, 25** ......... Turkey pot pie (gluten free without pastry), white rice, salad, Italian bread, and grapes.
- **Thursday, 27** ......... Cheese pierogi, sautéed onions, roasted root vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and apricots.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Elder Services Senior Nutrition Program, under which the Federation operates its kosher lunch program, raised the suggested donation to $3 a meal. The suggested donation is completely voluntary. Seniors who cannot pay a voluntary donation will continue to receive a meal, no questions asked. We appreciate your understanding.

**What’s for Lunch?**

Gluten-Free Main Entrée ** and Dairy-Free Main Entrée #

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays and Thursdays through the end of September. Tuesday lunches resume in October.
Your Federation Presents

REBECCA SOFFER,  

**continued from page one**

former producer for The Colbert Report. For more information visit ModernLoss.com.

**BJV Interview: Rebecca Soffer**  

By Rabbi Seth Wax / Special to the BJV

Rebecca Soffer lives in Great Barrington with her husband and two children. Rabbi Seth Wax, Jewish Chaplain at Williams College, sat down with her over the summer to talk about her work, loss, and what we might learn from being more real about our experiences of grief.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

**This is your second book about grief. Before we talk about your newest book, can you talk about your previous one?**

My first book came out in 2018 and is called, Modern Loss: Candid Conversations About Grief, Tweens. It’s a collection of more than 40 essays by myself and by my co-author, Gabby Barkner, and tons of other amazing people who wrote for it. We wanted to show that grief is not just one person’s experience. No one needs to read about what I, as an individual, am going through. There are a lot of great grief memoirs out there. I wanted to show that every experience has a story worth sharing and telling. And it also has a lot of really great cartoons and infographics.

**What are you trying to do in your new book?**

My second book is a totally different format. It’s solely authored by me. I’m trying to give people a lot of ways that will help them realize that they don’t need to wait for somebody to say, “Empower yourself!” to get through a really hard time. We all have tools that we have to figure out how to use them and how to strengthen them. We all have a capacity for resilience, but each of us, in our own way, can learn how to grow that. We also benefit from having somebody coax things out of us, especially when we’re dealing with something like grief and the longer arc of loss.

In general, we don’t do a good job of talking about it outside of special corners of society, like in congregations or in therapy offices. I wanted to give people something in which, between two covers, they had something like a trusted friend who was making it clear that when you’re dealing with loss, it’s okay to say, “This is a mess. But there is no need to be scared. The scariest already happened. You lost somebody. But I am here to hold your hand, to acknowledge how messy it is. And to acknowledge how funny it is sometimes.” To help you figure out ways to stay connected to the person that you lost, because it’s crucially important. How to stay connected to yourself. That’s just as important. And also, to stay connected to the world around you. All of those things are equally important when you’re moving through grief.

I’ve been through grief that wasn’t only been through it, but also brings their own experience. I do that, but I also bring the experience of thousands of members of the Modern Loss community from all over the world who have taught me exponentially more than I ever knew myself. The book also brings in experts with whom I’ve been really lucky to have positive relationships within the grief space.

I wanted to give the reader all of these options and present them in a way that was not banging it over your head and saying, “This is the way,” because there isn’t a way. Grief is such an individualized experience. But there are a lot of things that you should try and consider. If they don’t work for you, great – move on to the next thing. But they might work for you at another time. In this book, you have a toolbox that’s full of a lot of different things that can help you in any given moment.

**What is one of those tools in the toolkit that you think could be especially helpful?**

There’s a whole section on memory. What was, what might have been. In the book, I ask a lot of things of the reader that are very heartwarming. Because when you’re in the early stages of grief, a lot of times you’re wrapped up in memories of the end of life experience, of the sickness experience. You’re really overwhelmed. For example, my mom died in a car accident, and I couldn’t listen to music for a full year after she died.

In the book, I ask questions that help the reader to remember that you haven’t forgotten all the good stuff about the person who has died. A lot of us get scared, and worry, asking, “Am I going to forget my person’s laugh? Am I going to forget their jokes? Am I going to forget that thing that they always did that made it better?” I’m here to assure the reader, and to say, “No, I promise you that you’re not going to. You may not be ready to remember that stuff right now, given where you are in your experience with grief. But these questions are going to be here. The answers aren’t going to go anywhere. You just need to be in the right place to answer them.”

There’s also a section entitled, “The Tough Stuff,” in which I ask questions that aren’t really fun to think about and remember. For example, if the person who died ever apologized to you for something that really badly hurt you, or did damage to you, but now they’re dead and you can’t ever talk to them about it anymore, how do you deal with that? Is there anything that you wish you could have apologized for? Or is there a secret that you wish you had told them? There are all these unsavory, underbelly elements to our experience with grief. It’s complicated and nuanced. Sometimes answering those questions and considering those answers are more important than talking about the best dessert they ever made. Because your feelings stemming from your interactions with the person are still very much there inside you, which shows that the relationship is still very much alive. And it’s because you don’t deal with it. It’s not going to go anywhere. You will never come to a state where you have to have a closure. But you can begin to address it, and pay attention to it. That builds resilience, and that enables you to free up more energy to do other things that take care of yourself.

**Judaism came up in some funny ways in the book. There’s a humorous incident with a leather kippah [yarmulke] at a funeral that our readers might find interesting. Could you reflect on the role that Judaism or Jewish practice ritual played in your own experience or writing of this book?**

This book is hugely informed by my being Jewish and my experience of Judaism. It inspires a lot of what is in the book. For example, shiva. Sadly, I’m a shiva expert. I buried both my parents, and I had to have two shivas. I had an anniversary of each one every year. And then, I learned from that that I didn’t like unveiling, and I didn’t actually have one for my dad because it was a really hard experience doing it for my mom. And I was like, well, “They’re not here.” I got a lot of permission from really kind people who told me that if something really doesn’t feel good, then don’t make yourself do it. And that, for me, is, again, another way in which this book is very Jewishly informed. I have a lot of really great people in my life who had rabbinic or who work within the formal Jewish world, and a lot of them have provided me with meaningful support.

**How do you feel like you changed through the course of writing this book?**

This book was a real blessing for me, to be charged with writing. I pitched it the week of the George Floyd protests in late May and June 2020. I sold it right away. There was a lot of demand for it. I felt like I had a mandate from the Modern Loss community because it was growing very quickly during the early days of COVID, because a lot of people all of a sudden found themselves without in-person coping mechanisms. They couldn’t easily go to therapy. They couldn’t go to funerals or weddings or just hug people. They couldn’t do any of these things. So a lot of the coping mechanisms that they had developed that held their sanity together were gone. And we had to pivot to a lot of online support. And so this book was also a response to this huge need from so many community members who were dealing with resurfaced grief, or just new grief because a lot of people were losing people. And it was my way of sharing what I have learned and what I’ve learned from the Modern Loss community and from all these experts.
The Social Justice Torah Commentary, with Rabbi Barry Block and Rabbis of the Berkshires

A collaboration between the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and The Jewish Book Council

On Thursday, October 27, at 6:45 p.m., the second installment of ‘Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council’ features virtual interactive community study led by Rabbi Barry Block, editor of The Social Justice Torah Commentary. Rabbi Block will be in conversation with local Berkshire rabbis on the timely question: What does the Torah have to say about social justice?

Register for this online presentation via the Calendar of Events at jewishberkshires.org.

As the contributors to The Social Justice Torah Commentary demonstrate, the Torah has a great deal to say about social justice. In this 2021 book, a diverse array of authors delve deeply into each week’s parshah, drawing lessons to inspire tikkun olam. Chapters address key contemporary issues such as racism, climate change, mass incarceration, immigration, disability, women’s rights, voting rights, and many more. The result is an indispensable resource for weekly Torah study and for anyone committed to repairing the world.

Rabbi Barry H. Block serves Congregation Beth Israel in Little Rock, Arkansas. A Houston native and graduate of Amherst College, Rabbi Block was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1991, and he received his DD, honoris causa, in 2016. A member of the CCAR Board of Trustees currently serving as vice president of organizational relationships, Block is the editor of The Mussar Torah Commentary (CCAR Press, 2020), a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. He also contributed to several earlier CCAR anthologies, including Inscribed: Encounters with the Ten Commandments, The Sacred Exchange, The Sacred Encounter, Navigating the Journey, and A Life of Meaning: Embracing Reform Judaism’s Sacred Path, and he is a regular contributor to the CCAR Journal. Rabbi Block currently serves as faculty dean at URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp, similar to a role he previously held for 21 years at URJ Greene Family Camp. He is a past board chair of Planned Parenthood of South Texas.

Your Federation Presents

Jewish Literary Voices:
A Federation Series in Collaboration with The Jewish Book Council

Aside from Michael Twitty/KosherSoul on September 15 (see page 5), all programs in this series will be presented exclusively for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Read more about this collaboration between your local Federation and The Jewish Book Council – including features and author interviews – in upcoming issues of the Berkshire Jewish Voice.

- Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:45 p.m., Virtual, David Sipress, What’s So Funny? A Cartoonist’s Memoir
- Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, 6:45 p.m., Virtual, Ira Rosen, Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes
- Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, 6:45 p.m., Virtual, Debby Applegate, Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age
- Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, 6:45 p.m., Virtual, Maggie Anton, The Choice: A Novel of Love, Faith and the Taliban
- Thursday, Mar. 16, 2023, 6:45 p.m., Virtual, Susan Weidman Schneider and Yona Zeldis McDonough, Frankly Feminist: Short Stories by Jewish Women from Lilith Magazine
- Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:45 p.m., Virtual, Daniel Levin, Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall
- Friday, July 14, 2023, 10:45 a.m, In-person at a venue TBD, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy
PJ Library Brought Families to the Berkshires’ Premier Cultural Venues for Summertime Fun

In August, families came together at PJ Library events at two of the Berkshires’ premier cultural venues – Tanglewood and Jacob’s Pillow. Before Tanglewood’s family concert, Rabbi Jarah Greenfield led the gathered in a spirited presentation about Shabbat. At Jacob’s Pillow, families enjoyed a private workshop with Beat Ya Feet and toured the lovely campus in Becket. A grand time was had by all!

PJ Library is made possible for Berkshire families through a community partnership of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund, the Jewish Women’s Foundation, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. For more information on how to get your family involved with PJ Library here in the Berkshires, call Molly Meador at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14, or email mmeador@jewishberkshires.org.

Tanglewood

Jacob’s Pillow

Wingate Residences

AT MELBOURNE PLACE

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care

NEW INDEPENDENT LIVING RATES
STARTING AT $2,675

Live independently in style, without the worry and stress of daily housekeeping. You’ll have more than enough time to enjoy our life enrichment programs!

Experience our newly renovated community, reimagined with modernized design.

Enjoy a healthy balance of independence, support, and the right level of care you need when you need it!

Call 413-499-1992 or learn more at wingatehealthcare.com
Your Federation Presents

Major Donors Celebration a Smashing Success!

Thank you to all who made the Major Donors Celebration in July so special and successful! Together we create a Jewish community with intention and purpose – truly a “kehillas kadosha,” a holy community. We are deeply grateful to event co-chairs, Elisa Spungen Bildner and Rob Bildner (pictured left), as well as their terrific host committee for their dedication and support in bringing this wonderful event to fruition. Thank you as well to our guest speakers, Frederick Bloch, senior vice president and chief growth officer of ADL, and Noah Hochfelder, who shared his experiences of how Federation supported and shaped his Jewish journey in the Berkshires and beyond.

Check out Noah’s story on page 22. Thank you, too, to Paul Green and One World for providing the music.
Your Federation Presents

Major Donors Celebration a Smashing Success!

Visit www.hevreh.org/religiousschool for more information about our educational programs for families and children ages 3-18.

Program options include:
- weekly classes for Kindergarten-7th grade focusing on the holidays, rituals, ethics and rhythms of Jewish life
- a monthly caregiver & child program for preschool aged children
- small group and 1:1 Hebrew instruction
- engaging teen programs including leadership training and social opportunities

Do a New Year Mitzvah and Make a Difference For Our Neighbors!

The Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County will partner with Meals of Hope to pack 25,000 meals on Sunday, September 18. Local food banks will distribute these meals to our neighbors facing food insecurity. Packing begins at 9:30 a.m. at the W.E.B. DuBois Middle School in Great Barrington. Please sign up to help pack meals by emailing jaffeliz@gmail.com

Julia Kaplan
Event Photographer
Serving the Berkshires
From small events to family portraits to large, informal events
973-590-7276
JuliaBKaplan@gmail.com

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
AT HEVREH

Jewish Life, Jewish Joy, Jewish Community.

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- engaging teen programs including leadership training and social opportunities

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Join over 1,450 of the most creative, engaged, and active adults in the Berkshires for courses, events, and community.

The Fall semester begins September 19
Register at berkshireolli.org/Fall2022

www.hevreh.org
413-528-6578
270 State Road
Great Barrington MA
Hevreh Welcomes Artist in Residence Peri Smilow

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is pleased to welcome Peri Smilow as the congregation’s new artist-in-residence.

An accomplished vocalist, composer and educator, Peri Smilow brings activism for social change to her musical performances. “Bringing Peri to Hevreh is a tremendous gift,” Rabbi Neil Hirsch said. “Her musical abilities and her presence will help us enter into the sacred experience of Shabbat more fully. We are grateful to those who gave in order to bring Peri to Hevreh, and we are looking forward to enhancing what happens on Shabbat.”

Smilow began her residency July 1 and will be joining the Hevreh congregation throughout the year to help elevate the music on Shabbat evenings. Smilow has released four albums, including Songs of Peace, Ashrey, and The Freedom Music Project: The Music of Passover and The Civil Rights Movement. Her latest album is Blessings, which draws on her experiences as a cancer survivor, wife, and mother and celebrates the importance of her relationships with loved ones, friends, community and faith.

Rabbi Jodie Gordon comments: “It is a joy to have a new musical partner on the bima. It only elevates our commitment to being a singing congregation.”

Families Together at Congregation Beth Israel

NORTH ADAMS - Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires invites you and your family, including children, to join in this coming year for a variety of no-cost, enjoyable, and engaging educational Jewish experiences.

Start off the year with “Apple Picking & Honey for a Sweet New Year.” Meet at a local apple orchard (TBD) on Sunday, September 18 at 10 a.m. “As we pick, we will learn about Rosh Hashanah, and dip freshly picked apples in honey as we say the blessings together.”

On Saturday, October 8, at 9:30 a.m., the Family Service at CBI will be led by Rabbi Jarah Greenfield. This interactive, child-friendly service is suitable for all ages from infant to teen. The service integrates songs, prayers, and activities for a fun and engaging experience.

Celebrate Sukkot with a potluck family picnic in the CBI sukkah, on Friday, October 14, at 5:30 p.m. Rabbi Rachel Barenblat will teach about the symbols and meaning of Sukkot, and how to wave the lulav and etrog. Together, all will enjoy each other’s company and carry out the mitzvah to eat in a sukkah.

Major funding for these families programs is provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

RSVP at https://cbiberkshires.com/calendar-services/.

Israel, or have not been in a while, exploring Israel’s art scene is a great way to learn about day-to-day life.

“This is an opportunity to practice gedilut ha’aretz - knowing the Land of Israel,” TAA Rabbi Liz Hirsch said. “Whether it is your first visit or your tenth trip, Israel is new each time, and we will grow and learn together with our Berkshire friends and neighbors.”

Registration for the trip starts this autumn and is open to all members and friends of the Berkshire community. An info session will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. To register for the info session, please email info@hevreh.org.

Said Hevreh’s Rabbi Neil Hirsch: “I cannot wait to be in Israel with community members again. It has been four years since our last mission to Israel. So often when we travel, we learn as much about ourselves as we do about the places we visit. This year’s trips will give participants the chance to explore Israel today and reflect on our own relationship with the Land.”

Hevreh and Temple Anshe Amunim are Heading to Israel This Year – Twice!

To celebrate the 75th anniversar-y of Israel’s independence, the rabbis at Hevreh and Temple Anshe Amunim (TAA) will lead two trips to Israel for members of the wider Berkshire community.

A Focus on Arts and Culture

The first trip will be February 11-18, 2023. Rabbis Neil and Liz Hirsch will be leading a trip to Israel with a focus on arts and culture. For those who have never been to Israel, or have not been in a while, exploring Israel’s art scene is a great way to learn about day-to-day life.

“This is an opportunity to practice gedilut ha’aretz - knowing the Land of Israel,” TAA Rabbi Liz Hirsch said. “Whether it is your first visit or your tenth trip, Israel is new each time, and we will grow and learn together with our Berkshire friends and neighbors.”

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Post-B’nai Mitzvah Family Trip

After a hiatus due to COVID-19, the Hevreh post-b’nai mitzvah family trip to Israel is back!

This group is set to travel to Israel together April 15-23, 2023. Hevreh’s last B’nai Mitzvah Family trip to Israel returned from Israel at the end of February 2020, just as the pandemic began, and all are thrilled to finally be heading back.

Typically, each student travels with an adult member of the family, and in past years, some have traveled with both parents, as well as other adult family members. Unlike traditional teen trips to Israel, Hevreh’s family trip focuses on encounters with the people and communities in Israel with whom our community has formed relationships, including both the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ partnership with the Afifa-Gilboa region, and Hevreh’s Israel Reform movement sister communities.

This year will be a particularly special trip for two other reasons, according to Rabbi Jodie Gordon. First, it brings together multiple classes of Hevreh students who missed their trip in 2021 and 2022, and second, Israel celebrates her 75th birthday.

“Traveling to Israel with classmates and friends, parents and rabbis is consistently cited as one of the most meaningful Jewish experiences for the young people who have traveled with us in the past,” explained Rabbi Gordon. “After a three-year hiatus, I am so looking forward to traveling together with the families whose b’nai mitzvah experience was impacted by COVID, and experiencing the joy of exploration in Israel together.” For more information please contact Hevreh at (413) 528-6378 or email info@hevreh.org.

Israel Travel & Study Grants for Youth

The Michael Nathaniel Shute Endowment Fund provides grants to Berkshire area youth for educational travel or study in Israel. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Awards are made within 45 days of receiving the application. Additional funding is available through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Download an application at jewishberkshires.org or pick one up at the Federation’s office 136 South Street, Pittsfield, MA.
The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wishes all a happy and healthy 5783!

The schedules that appear were provided by local congregations, which should be contacted directly for more information, advance ticketing requirements, confirmation of times and events, online options, COVID-19 protocols, and details about other planned holiday season programming that may not be listed.

The congregational directory with contact information and addresses is on page 17. Services will take place at the locations appearing in the directory, as excepted in the listings that follow.

Candle lighting and Havdalah times are for Pittsfield and were taken from the Hebrew calendar.

### HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS IN THE BERKSHIRES

#### Temple Anshe Amunim

Pittsfield

Temple Anshe Amunim, a Reform congregation, will celebrate the Jewish High Holidays with a full schedule of services. All services will be in person and via livestream. Those who wish to attend Rosh Hashanah and/or Yom Kippur services should contact the temple office to arrange for tickets.

**SERVICES**

**Selichot followed by a festive oneg** – Service at 8:30 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Morning service at 10 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – service in TAA backyard at 10 a.m. followed by Tashlich.

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Morning – Service at 10 a.m. Study session at 1 p.m. Afternoon service at 3:30 p.m. Yizkor/Ne’ilah at 4:30 p.m.

Sukkot Morning Hike, Saturday October 8 – Meet at TAA at 10 a.m. Location TBD. RSVP required.

Young Families Shabbat with celebration of Sukkot and Simchat Torah, Friday, October 14, at 5 p.m.

Erev Shabbat Services with celebration of Sukkot and Simchat Torah, Friday, October 14 – Services at 5:30 p.m.

**SERVICES**

**Selichot – Song, prayer, and poetry at 8 p.m.**

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Family service at 9 a.m. Morning service at 10:30 a.m. Tashlich at Lake Mansfield at 4 p.m.

Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 7:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur – Family service at 9 a.m. Morning service at 10:30 a.m. Spiritual small groups gather at 1:30 p.m. for meditation and study. Afternoon service (with Yizkor and Ne’ilah) at 2:45 p.m.

Yachad Sukkot service on Sunday, October 9. Contact Hevreh for details.

Simchat Torah: Sunday, October 16. Potluck dinner at 5 p.m. – bring a kosher-style dish, all welcome. Celebration of Simchat Torah, consecration, and re-rolling the scrolls at 5:45 p.m.

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**High Holy Day Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Candle Lighting</th>
<th>Havdalah</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selichot</td>
<td>Saturday, September 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erev Rosh Hashanah</td>
<td>Sunday, September 25</td>
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<td>Rosh Hashanah – First Day</td>
<td>Monday, September 26</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 27</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 4</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 5</td>
<td>7:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Erev Sukkot</td>
<td>Sunday, October 9</td>
<td>6:02 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sukkot – First Day Yom Tov</td>
<td>Monday, October 10</td>
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<td>Sukkot – Second Day Yom Tov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sukkot – Chol Ha’Moed</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 12</td>
<td>to Saturday, October 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoshanah Rabbah</td>
<td>Sunday, October 16</td>
<td>5:51 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shemini Atzeret</td>
<td>Monday, October 17</td>
<td>6:50 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simchat Torah</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 18</td>
<td>6:48 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Shana Tova!**

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**Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**

Great Barrington

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch, Rabbi Jodie Gordon, and the Hevreh community will celebrate 5783 with a Reform service that is rich in song, prayer, and celebration. Services will be conducted in the sanctuary and most will be streamed at hevreh.org/holidays. Please contact the congregation at info@hevreh.org for health and safety protocols and more information on how to participate.

**SERVICES**

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Family service at 9 a.m. Morning service at 10:30 a.m. Tashlich at Lake Mansfield at 4 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Service at 10 a.m.

Sukkot – Channukah – Family service at 9 a.m. Afternoon service at 3:30 p.m. Yizkor/Ne’ilah at 4:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur – Family service at 9 a.m. Morning service at 10:30 a.m. Spiritual small groups gather at 1:30 p.m. for meditation and study. Afternoon service (with Yizkor and Ne’ilah) at 2:45 p.m.

---

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**Knesset Israel**

Knesset Israel, an innovative congregation known for tremendous lay participation and leadership, deep spiritual experiences, opportunities for lifelong learning, social action, and inclusivity, is delighted to announce its plans for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

All services at this Conservative synagogue will take place in the main sanctuary and will also be available for viewing at knessetisrael.org/ livestream or on the Knesset Israel channel on the Boxcast App ( Roku, Kindle FireTV, Apple TV). All children’s programs will take place “Ba’ohel,” in the R2 tent and on the playground (weather permitting).

Tickets for in-person attendance at High Holiday services are included with Knesset Israel membership and are also available for purchase by non-members. Under certain circumstances, Knesset Israel also offers reciprocal tickets for people who find themselves in the Berkshires this autumn, but are members of other synagogues. Beyond a community requirement for all in-person participants to be up to date on their COVID vaccinations, please contact the synagogue office for information about health and safety protocols.

To find out about attending services please call the Knesset Israel office at (413) 445-4872 or email office@knessetisrael.org.

**Services**

- **Simchat Torah**
  - Torah with hakafot, at 6:30 p.m., followed by ice cream reception.
- **Festive Erev Simchat Shemini Atzeret Hoshana Rabah & Erev Shmini Atzeret Sukkot Chol HaMoed**
  - See KI calendar for service times.
- **Junior Congregation/families from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Babysitting Families Together programming 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for grades K-6, and
- **Service at 9 a.m. Torah service and Yizkor after 10:30 a.m.**
- **Yom Kippur**
  - Mincha at 5:55 p.m., followed by Kol Nidre and Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day
  - Same as Rosh Hashanah 1st Day, sans Tashlich.
  - Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 7 p.m.
  - Yom Kippur – Morning service at 10 a.m. Afternoon and Ne’ilah service time and location TBD.

**Congregation Ahavath Sholom**

Great Barrington

High Holy Day worship with Congregation Ahavath Sholom, an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism, is an inclusive experience. Rabbi Barbara Rippin Cohen creates an atmosphere of intimacy and spiritual connection with the congregation and with the liturgy and music of this awe-filled time.

This year, Ahavath Sholom will return to an in-person format for all services, which will be held (unless otherwise listed) at the Berkshire South Community Center on 15 Crissy Road in Great Barrington.

Registration will be required to attend any of the services listed. For more information and to register, please go to the CAS website at ahavathsholom.org and click the green High Holy Day Registration button. There is also an opportunity in the High Holy Day section on the website to list the names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

“The congregation looks forward to hearing from you and to spending these meaningful days with you.”

**Services**

- **Erev Rosh Hashanah**
  - Online service at 7 p.m.
  - Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – In-person service at 10 a.m.
  - Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – TBD.
  - Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 7 p.m.
  - Yom Kippur – Morning service at 10 a.m. Afternoon and Ne’ilah service time and location TBD.

**Chabad of the Berkshires**

Pittsfield

Chabad of the Berkshires welcomes all to its traditional, and inspiring High Holiday services, to be held in an outdoor tent at Pittsfield. Co-directors Rabbi Levi and Sara Volovik say membership is not required: “According to tradition, at the New Year the Doors of Heaven are open — G-d accepts all prayers, from anyone. We open our doors, as well.”

Donations and sponsorship opportunities are encouraged — please call Chabad for more information. Readings from the machzor (holiday prayer book) will be in Hebrew and English. Please RSVP to attend services.

**Services**

- **Erev Rosh Hashanah** — Call for information. 
  - Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner in the tent (RSVP required).
  - Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service at 10 am. Shofar at approximately 11:30 a.m., followed by Kiddush, Tashlich time TBD.
  - Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Same as Rosh Hashanah 1st Day, sans Tashlich.
  - Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 6:15 p.m.
  - Yom Kippur – Service at 10 a.m. (Yizkor at noon). Afternoon service and Ne’ilah at 5 p.m., followed by break-the-fast.
  - Sukkot Yom Tov – Services all days at 10 a.m. For Chol Ha’moed Sukkot and more information on Hoshanah Rabbah, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, please consult Chabad of the Berkshires’ website or call.

**BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**

Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

Everyone is welcome to attend services and events at any of the organizations listed here.

- **Berkshire Minyan**
  - Lay-led, Traditional, Egalitarian Minyan
  - South County
  - berksminyan.org

- **Berkeley Hills Hadassah**
  - P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA (413) 443-4386, berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

- **B’nai B’rith Lodge, No. 326**
  - Chabad of the Berkshires
  - 450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-9899, jewishberkshires.com

- **Congregation Ahavath Sholom**
  - Reconstructionist
  - North St., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-4197, ahavathsholom.com

- **Congregation Beth Israel**
  - Reform
  - 53 Lois St., North Adams, MA (413) 663-5830, cbibernskes.com

- **Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**
  - Reform
  - 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-6378, hevreh.org

- **Israel Philatelist Society**
  - c/o Dr. Ed Helitzer, (413) 447-7622

- **Jewish Federation of the Berkshires**
  - 15 Crissey Road in Great Barrington.
  - Registration will be required to attend any of the services listed. For more information and to register, please go to the CAS website at ahavathsholom.org and click the green High Holy Day Registration button. There is also an opportunity in the High Holy Day section on the website to list the names of loved ones that you wish to be remembered during the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur.

- **Jewish War Veterans**
  - 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA (413) 445-4872, knessetisrael.org

- **Knesset Israel**
  - Conservative
  - 196 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-4560, jewishberkshires.org

- **Jewish War Veterans**
  - 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA (413) 445-4872, knessetisrael.org

- **Temple Anshe Anumim**
  - Reform
  - 26 Broad St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-5910, ansheanumim.org
Families Gather for Fun and Learning in the Sukkah at Knesset Israel

PITTSFIELD – On Monday, October 10 at 3 p.m., join Knesset Israel for some family fun inside their sukkah.

“Creating a sukkah is a season for reflection and introspection. Rabbi David Weiner of Knesset Israel writes KI: “Arriving just after the start of the New Year and Yom Kippur, it is a season for reflection and introspection. Rabbi David Weiner of Knesset Israel and the Berkshires Jewish community come together in the sukkah at Knesset Israel to celebrate home and shelter, harvest and food, learning and friends. There will be snacks, music, learning, and most importantly, a chance to create special memories of a Jewish childhood.”

All are welcome. This event is supported by The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and is free to attend. Please reserve at knesetsisrael.org/rsvp.

Families Israel Families Together Kicks Off Fall Programming

PITTSFIELD - Knesset Israel Families Together is a program offering social and informal educational events for families of all ages. All programs have a social action or awareness component, as well as opportunities for Jewish children, parents, and families to connect with each other.

On Monday, September 4, Families Together will gather for the Fifth Annual Family Fun Day. Friends, old and new, are invited to gather from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. under the RI tent for a BBQ, games, and crafts. Members and non-members are welcome. Direct RSVPs to knesetsisrael.org/rsvp. Thanks to generous support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Knesset Israel, there is no cost for Families Together programs.

Prepare Your Soul for the High Holy Days

PITTSFIELD – The month of Elul, leading up to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, is a season for reflection and introspection. Rabbi David Weiner of Knesset Israel will facilitate three classes to inspire participants to join in this rewarding annual process.

Each class will use the methods of Soulful Education, blending intellectual insight into the texts and themes of the holy days with journaling and conversation meant to evoke deeper insight.

All participants, members and non-members of RI are welcome. There is no charge or pre-registration. Although these classes are scheduled to be in-person only, a hybrid option may emerge for the first class – please consult knesetsisrael.org/calendar for an update.

This year, these classes will take place at different times over ten days, between September 8 and September 17. The first class is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, at 10:45 a.m.at Knesset Israel. The second class will take place on Sunday morning, September 11, in cooperation with the Berkshire Society for the Arts.

A final class will take place before the Selihot service, Saturday September 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Knesset Israel.

SUMMER CAMP 2023
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Now more than ever, our kids need Jewish summer camp!

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is dedicated to making a Jewish summer camp experience affordable and accessible for every child by offering financial assistance.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 16
Download an application at jewishberkshires.org
## Wishing You A Sweet New Year

**Offer Price**

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>Kedem Concord Grape Juice</td>
<td>$3.99</td>
<td>Available with AdvantEdge Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>PICS Cold Smoked Atlantic Salmon</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
<td>Available with AdvantEdge Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plain Round Challah Bread or Raisin Roul Challah Bread</td>
<td>$4.99</td>
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<td>PICS Honey Bear</td>
<td>$3.79</td>
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<td>Golden Blintzes 6 Pack</td>
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<td>PICS Apple Sauce</td>
<td>$2.19</td>
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<td>Breakstone's Whipped Butter</td>
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<td>Gefen Cake 24 oz. - Mixed, Marble or Apple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Pancakes CFE or Mixed Varieties</td>
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<td>Quinn Chicken Style Sesame</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
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<td>Wolff's Kasha 12 oz.</td>
<td>$3.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vita Herring in Sour Cream 10 oz.</td>
<td>$4.99</td>
<td>Available with AdvantEdge Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yamada Grilled Fish 12 oz.</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
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### Berkshire Hills Hadassah

**wishes all**

**Shana Tovah!**

“May your New Year’s blessings be as plentiful as the seeds of the pomegranate”

Join and support Hadassah

berkshirehillsHadassah@gmail.com

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White Out: A Story for the Days of Awe
By Albert Stern

My relationship with my father, Henry Stern, was always fraught with one thing or another. When I was old enough to start expressing my feelings about Stern family life, my parents’ responses by promptly shipping me off to a psychologist began to fill me with anger and dread. Meanwhile, he never did address my abiding question, specifically “Why am I the only person in my family who is receiving psychiatric care?”

Certainly, my father never felt as though he might benefit from psychotherapy, and he was probably right. An unreflective man, he was guided by his Jewish identity and the certainties the Torah could provide. The bedrock morality. The lessons about human nature derived from biblical stories and Talmudic aficianados – will you true fans of family life, not yours?

“Why not?” he demanded.

“Dad,” I said, “I’m not getting you any Liquid Paper.”

At this point in the story, some of you are probably thinking: “Ah, so this guy thought his father was doing him a favor by buying him a life insurance policy, but wasn’t. Very funny. ha, ha, too bad.” Or perhaps: “Ah, so an old man thought it was okay to white out the names of dead people on a pre-printed High Holiday greeting card. Very funny, ha, ha, too bad.” But you true fans of familial dysfunction, especially those with a philosophical bent – you aficionados – will understand how my father’s unfathomable, unanswerable two-word question, “Why not?”, still lurks near the core of my psyche the way the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A* exists at the heart of the Milky Way, a region of darkness where gravity is so strong that no light can escape from it. “Why not?”

“Dad, it’s the other way around,” I said. “I would be the beneficiary of the policy.” “I understand what she asked,” he responded. “The beneficiary’s name is: Henry. Stern.”

“Oh!” I imagined him thinking, “this kid might someday amount to something after all.” If things broke the right way, he might get some return on his investment, if only pennies on the dollar. “Nu,” I imagined him thinking, “this kid might amount to something.”

To purchase the policy, my father asked me to accompany him to his insurance agent’s office in West Miami. On our drive out from Miami Beach, I thanked him for what he was about to do. “It’s important for a person to have life insurance.” “I know,” he said. “It’s an investment. ‘In the event you can borrow against it.’ I’ll always remember his offering me this life wisdom.

My father and I sat together at the office of Mrs. Fernandez, the insurance agent who took my personal information and recorded it onto the form she handed me to sign. On my request, she stashed my medical status. Was I good health? Did I have some of that?”

Perhaps his seeing to my future was an act of teshuvah, of repair, as we approached the Days of Awe. His actions had become more certain and more resolute in his old age. And I started to get kind of pissed off, you know what I mean? Because this was the kind of thing my father always did. Always did. I sat there silently, thinking that I should just get up and leave. Then – Mrs. Fernandez started asking me questions about my medical status. Was I good health? Did I smoke? Do drugs? Drink? Any surgeries?

What I thought was the sound of my head exploding turned out to be Mrs. Fernandez’s phone ringing. “Juiced a mini,” she said and started speaking in Spanish to the person who called. As she spoke, she took a bottle of Liquid Paper out of her desk drawer and began correcting some of the information she had mistyped on the insurance form. “My father and I sat with saying anything for many long minutes, until: “Albert, do you have some of that?” “Some of what,” I asked through clenched teeth. “That stuff she put on the typewriter,” said my father: “The typewriter?”

“Albert, you’re not listening. The stuff she put on the typewriter.” “The white out? Liquid Paper?” “Yes!” he said. “Can you get me some Liquid Paper?”“Why, I wondered, did my father need Liquid Paper? He didn’t do any typing, didn’t deal much with documents. What possible need would my father have for Liquid Paper? I thought around and around and around the matter. And then I remembered something I recently noticed that he had stashed in one of the cabinets in his dining room.

I said: “Dad, you want to send out the Rosh Hashanah cards in your dining room that have Mom and Bubble’s names already printed on them, and you want Liquid Paper so you can white out their names because they’re both dead. Right?” “Yes,” he answered.


At this point in the story, some of you are probably thinking: “Ah, so this guy thought his father was doing him a favor by buying him a life insurance policy, but wasn’t. Very funny. ha, ha, too bad.” Or perhaps: “Ah, so an old man thought it was okay to white out the names of dead people on a pre-printed High Holiday greeting card. Very funny, ha, ha, too bad.” But you true fans of familial dysfunction, especially those with a philosophical bent – you aficionados – will understand how my father’s unfathomable, unanswerable two-word question, “Why not?”, still lurks near the core of my psyche the way the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A* exists at the heart of the Milky Way, a region of darkness where gravity is so strong that no light can escape from it. “Why not?”


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Making a Big Tzimmes

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

My kids love to choose among my various eccentricities and foibles when looking for a topic on which to tease me. And one of the things that cracks them up is my habit of annotating every recipe I try in the dozens of cookbooks that line my bookshelves. I even keep a special pen with red ink for that express purpose, and heaven help the person who touches that pen. It’s just another source of joshing.

Now, some years ago, middle son Avi gifted me with a vegetarian cookbook because he was, coincidentally, a vegetarian. So, when daughter Elana and husband Adam came to stay at the house with some friends they, also being veggies, pulled out that same cookbook and found what to this day is a source of hilarity for the entire family: On every single recipe I had written, “This is delicious, but a real patchke.”

For those unfamiliar with the Yiddish language, the late, great Leo Rosten in his classic book *The Joys of Yiddish*, defined the word *patchke* to mean “to fuss or mess around inefficiently or ineptly.”

Well, I’m not sure if I was that inept or inefficient, but I certainly did fuss over all the slicing, dicing, chopping, sautéing, simmering, etc. involved in preparing those recipes. But it was worth the effort every time. The recipes in that book were uniformly excellent.

Although not etymologically related, the word *patchke* is emotionally connected to another word in the Yiddish lexicon. Again according to Rosten, the word *tzimmes* has its origins in German, from the words zum, meaning “to the” and essen, “eating.” Due to the effort involved in preparing the many ingredients in the carrot-based dish (e.g., peeling, slicing, chopping) and the very long cooking time required, the word has come to mean “a prolonged procedure, an involved business, trouble.”

In other words, a fuss. A *patchke*.

But the casserole known as tzimmes is one of the most traditional dishes that Ashkenazim enjoy at Rosh Hashanah, and it is definitely worth the *patchke*. The dish is traditional in great part due to the symbolism of its ingredients, top among which is the carrot. The Yiddish word for carrot is mern, meaning “to multiply,” and it embodies the hopes for the multiple blessings of health, productivity, and joy we have for the new year. By the way, the fruits and vegetables used in a traditional tzimmes tend to be sweet, just as we wish for a sweet and abundant New Year.

“Tsimmis” is the carrot. The Yiddish word for carrot is mern, meaning “to multiply,” and it embodies the hopes for the multiple blessings of health, productivity, and joy we have for the new year. By the way, the fruits and vegetables used in a traditional tzimmes tend to be sweet, just as we wish for a sweet and abundant New Year.

Carol Goodman Kaufman is a psychologist and author with a passion for travel and food. She is currently at work on a food history/cookbook, tracing the paths that some of our favorite foods have taken from their origins to appear on dinner plates and in cultural rites and artifacts around the world. She invites readers to read her blog at carolgoodmankaufman.com and to follow her on Twitter @goodmankaufman.

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**Tzimmes**

While this recipe does require some peeling and chopping, and a long cooking time, but for the holiday, don’t we like to make a *patchke*? Serves 12.

**Ingredients:**
- 6 carrots, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 3 sweet potatoes, peeled, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 butternut squash, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 8 oz pitted prunes
- 6 cups hot water
- 1 tablepoon oil
- 1 cup orange juice
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. ginger

**Directions:**

1. In a large Dutch oven with lid, heat oil over medium heat; brown meat well. Preheat oven to 325°F.

2. Arrange carrots, sweet potatoes, squash, and prunes around the meat.*

3. Cover pot and place in hot oven.

4. Bake for 1-1/2 hours. Uncover and bake for 1 to 2 hours more, or until the meat is fork tender.

5. Remove the vegetables and fruit to a serving dish. Remove meat to a carving board and slice against the grain.

6. If the sauce in the pan is too thin, combine a tablespoon of cornstarch and the desired consistency, or about 15 minutes to cook the cornstarch.

7. Serve sliced meat topped with sauce and surrounded by fruit and vegetables.

*If you don’t have a Dutch oven large enough, you can simply transfer the ingredients at this point to a large pan, covering it tightly with aluminum foil.
opportunities to explore what Judaism meant to me. I also had a model of how to build community.

My experience with the Middlebury Jewish community quickly exceeded my expectations. In my first two years, I found my closest friends there and was elected co-president of the campus Hillel in the spring of 2020. I was feeling so energized and ready to revolutionize Jewish community at Middlebury, until the evening my friends and I got an email saying there was a deadly virus and I needed to go home.

That first COVID spring, like all of us, I was lost. In a world of forced isolation, I considered those little sugary rendezvous with Caleb as some of my first experiences of Jewish solidarity – growing up as a Jewish kid in rural western Massachusetts, I found that invaluable. There were moments when I felt special and unique and so proud of my Jewishness. But there was, of course, so much that was bittersweet.

It isn’t always easy being a Jewish kid in the Berkshires, and our Federation knew this. It’s why they supported four summer scholarships to Camp Seneca Lake. They supported the college scholarship I received to Middlebury College, where I've joined my school’s first student group concentrating on fighting antisemitism – an exhausting, but deeply necessary, effort.

I'll state the obvious: I couldn't have been as intentional and creative as a Jewish leader without the very intentionality and creativity of the Jewish Federation that stood behind me and my family for roughly 20 years. For this, I am grateful.

As my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who come after me. – Talmud

Thank you to these individuals who through their gift to the Legacy Circle will ensure that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires thrives long into the future. May your name be a Blessing, and may the example you set inspire others to create their own Jewish Legacy.
Dancing With the Ancestors

Checking in with the multi-talented Carolyn Newberger

Carolyn Newberger is busy. You may recognize the Lenox resident’s artwork from The Berkshire Edge reviews of music and dance on which she and her husband, Eli, collaborate. The reviews are thoroughgoing, offering insight into the musical forms in which the performers are working and also conveying a vivid sense of what being in the audience felt like—you come away with the feeling that you missed something if you were not there.

That’s because the Newbergers know their subject from the inside—in addition to being a visual artist, Carolyn is an accomplished flutist and tap dancer, while Eli studied at the Julliard School of Music and earned a degree in music theory at Yale, going on to play the tuba for the New Haven Symphony for several years. And those were just their side gigs—Carolyn enjoyed a noted career in clinical and research psychology at Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and Eli, a pediatrician, worked at the hospital and taught at Harvard, as well.

“When we write these reviews and draw these drawings and put this all together,” Carolyn says of their collaboration, “it’s for us, as well as the community because that’s how we keep activating our senses. It’s almost like meditation where everything is active, even though you seem calm at the center.”

Last March, Carolyn found herself profoundly distressed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, where her father’s side of the family had lived before emigrating to the United States. “As a child, I was raised in a house where the war was just in the background,” she says. She says she was horrified by the war, particularly by the deadly May bombing of a school in eastern Ukraine. “Watching the images of the destruction made me wonder where in this geography my grandparents were from,” she says. “Where did they grow up? Where were they situated?”

By contacting family members and conducting a Google search, she identified their city of origin as Dnipro in Eastern Ukraine, which within the family was remembered by its Tsarist-era name of Ekaterinoslav. “One thing led to another, and I realized that Dnipro had a thriving Jewish community before World War II,” she remembers. “People had rebounded and they had a Jewish center, that they were active in helping other Jews from other parts of Ukraine find safety.” She says she was also affected by the fact that not only was President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine Jewish but that his predecessor was, as well.

And so, she was inspired. “I started by just drawing an image of dancing ancestors,” says Carolyn about the image at left. “The dance is a kind of hora as I think about it, but I wasn’t thinking hora as I did it. I stood at my drafting table and started to draw with my eyes closed and drew the feelings that came out. And of course, dance is very much part of my life because of the Pillow, because I had also been a tap dancer for several years. I drew a circle of dancing ancestors, channeling the floating figures of Chagall, who was from that part of the world.”

Carolyn worked the image of a circle of dancers via collage into an earlier unfinished nature painting of hers to create the larger-scale work that appears on the cover of this paper, “Dancing With the Ancestors, Ukraine.” A vividly-colored circle of figures dances among grey wraiths in a field dotted with sunflowers and red flowers, which Carolyn says represent not only the Jews who survived the war, but also the Ukrainians who helped Jews, including her family members, during their historic persecution. Today’s Ukrainians, she says, “were no longer ‘the enemy’ to me.”

You can see more of Carolyn Newberger’s artwork locally this autumn at the Pleasant Valley Audubon preserve in Lenox in a show called “Visions of Nature,” as well as at The Berkshire Edge website. Visit her website carolynnewberger.com for an extensive overview of her varied projects and links to them.
Shana Tova
Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset Sept. 25th

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