Middle East Update with Ambassador Dennis Ross

On Sunday, November 13 at 6:45 p.m., Federation’s Middle East Update returns with Ambassador Dennis Ross presenting. This free program will be streamed online – please visit our calendar of events page at Jewishberkshires.org.

Following Israel’s most recent parliamentary election (the fifth in the last three years), as well as America’s congressional midterms, Ambassador Ross, one of America’s most experienced diplomatic and Middle East specialists, will provide an inside assessment of the changing strategies and geopolitics in Israel and the Middle East. A question and answer session will follow.

Dennis Ross is an American diplomat and author. He has served as the Director of Policy Planning in the State Department under President George H.W. Bush, and was a special adviser for the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia to the former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Ambassador Ross has published extensively on the former Soviet Union, arms control, and the greater Middle East, including most recently Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.-Israel Relationship from Truman to Obama (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, October 2015). He has authored many op-eds in The New York Times, Washington Post, and other papers and magazines. In addition, he writes monthly columns for US News and World Report and the New York Daily News. He lives in Washington, D.C.

David Sipress on What’s So Funny? A Cartoonist’s Memoir

The New Yorker cartoonist talks to the BJV about his work and upcoming program

On Thursday, November 17 at 6:45 p.m. “Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council” hosts The New Yorker cartoonist David Sipress, whose book What’s So Funny?: A Cartoonist’s Memoir recounts his hapless place in his Upper West Side Jewish family in the age of Sputnik and JFK. This free program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org to register.

Throughout the book, cartoons appear in the narrative with spot-on precision, adding humor and insight to evocative profiles of his family and musings on creativity and art. Sipress’s poignant, compelling story is also a meditation on creativity and the art of cartooning, and the delightful aha! moments in answer to the perennial question aimed at cartoonists: Where do you get your ideas?

Sipress was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from Williams College in 1968 and went on to study Russian History in the Department of Soviet Studies at Harvard University. He left Harvard before completing his degree to pursue a career as a cartoonist.

Sipress has been a staff cartoonist at The New Yorker since 1998. He’s published countless other publications and he was the weekly cartoonist of The Boston Phoenix newspaper for 25 years. He was the 2016 winner of the National Cartoonists Society’s Reuben Award for Gag Cartooning.

David was the co-creator, writer, and host of “Conversations with Cartoonists,” a series of on-stage interviews with New Yorker artists, including Roz Chast, Gahan Wilson, George Booth and many others, at Dixon Place Theater in New York City. He has lectured widely on his work and the art of cartooning.

He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Ginny Shubert, an attorney and activist who works on issues of health and housing.
Helping to Make a Camp Dream a Reality

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

Thank you so very much for the scholarship so that I could go to Crane Lake Camp. Even though the community service was not required, I did a bake sale in May of this year with my friends that raised over $700 for UNICEF that is going to Ukraine. I had an amazing time at camp and I'm so lucky that I got to go. Again thank you so much – I had so much fun!

At camp, I had an amazing time at the activities (my favorite is lake activities), and I worked up enough courage to do the zipline and the high ropes course, which were both so awesome. I was also in the camp play which was fantastic. Additionally, I got to make and eat a delicious grilled pizza at teva ("camping") along with playing games and roasting and eating marshmallows. My camp unit was Lower Bonim (Builders). At my unit Shabbat, I led the Mourners’ Kaddish with two of my friends. Then, at the end of the summer, I won the raffle and got to take home a camp puppy. Her name is Onyx, she’s adorable and I love her so much.

My friend Mollye and I wrote each other letters from camp, because she went to Eisner for the first session and I went to Crane Lake for the second session. We wanted to compare both camps. We both had an amazing time. I really hope I can go back to camp next year, because I loved it so much.

I am very grateful to the Grinspoon Foundation, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire for helping make my camp dream a reality.

Sincerely,
Lila Flax
Great Barrington

Thank You for Camp – From the Blaugrund Sisters

I Especially Loved the Swimming,” by Dalia (age 6)

Dear Federation,

Thank you for giving me money to come to sleepaway camp. It was my first time going to sleepaway camp and I really enjoyed going. My favorite part was playing games with my friends. Also, my least favorite part was the food. I really did NOT enjoy the food and the first few days were really hard because I was homesick, but other than that it was really awesome. Thank you again.

Best,
Irit Blaugrund (Age 8)
Alford

SAVE THE DATE

Chanukah Celebration
The Mount, Lenox MA
December 18, 2022

Stay tuned for more details

FREE NYC DAY TRIP FOR JEWISH TEENS

Museum of Jewish Heritage
Sunday, December 4, 2022

The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do
A Day of Holocaust Education for Teens and Their Parents

7th-10th grade Jewish students from across the Berkshires are invited, with a parent chaperone, to join us for this meaningful day of learning.

You will have an age appropriate guided tour exploring life during the Holocaust followed by a survivor speaker who will share his/her personal story.

FREE for Jewish teens in 7th-10th grade
No affiliation required. Includes bus transportation, admission for teens and parents, guided tour, speaker and lunch.

To register contact your congregation’s school administrator or Dara Kaufman at dkaufman@jewishberkshires.org.

This trip is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Women’s Foundation and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.
In September, the Berkshires lost a pillar of the community, Howard Kaufman. He was 96, lived most of his life locally, and kept the Berkshires as his base of operations while creating a hugely successful business. He accomplished remarkable things and gave back to his home and its Jewish community in myriad ways. If you’re not familiar with his story, I urge you read his obituary on page 10 for an overview of the life of this large-hearted man.

More than anything Howard ever said to me, one thing he did for me remains indelible. It was my father’s yahrzeit and I needed to make a minyan. Chabad’s Rabbi Yisroel Volok was out of town, but made some calls on my behalf. That evening, I was at Chabad and members of my minyan began to arrive. Who should show up but Howard Kaufman? I was astonished to see him because I knew that on the following day, he was moving out of his Berkshires home and relocating to the Boston area to be closer to family. I could not quite believe that this man, who had lived here for so long and who accomplished so much, would, on the eve of his departure from his beloved Berkshires, show up to help make a minyan for someone he did not know very well. To Howard, I was a Jew who needed a helping hand and that was enough.

There are many ways in which most of us cannot be like Howard Kaufman. Showing up for one another is one we can – even if it isn’t entirely convenient, even if we don’t quite feel like it, even if tomorrow we may be leaving a place we love to embark on a new chapter of life. I will always remember Howard’s kindness on my behalf and still draw on that memory when I need some motivation to just show up. In ways that are both apparent and unseen, Howard’s memory will remain a blessing for this community – we are lucky to have known him.

... Howard Kaufman was a man who was humbled by his success and freed by it to do the things he felt were important in life...

In the Jewish Berkshires, show up to help make a minyan for a Jew who needed a helping hand and that was enough.

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Michael Albert and Roman Rozenblyum.

We know why you are here. And we’re here for the same reasons.

The Berkshires.

More than a destination. It’s a way of life. From one season to the next, we understand. It’s a set of experiences, qualities and values that fulfill. We believe your financial advisors should embody these same attributes. It’s why we’re here. We’re here with you. And for you.

October Mountain
Portfolio Management • Financial Planning • Trust & Banking Services
103 West Park Street
Lee, MA 01238
(413) 243-4331
www.octobermountain.com

October Mountain Financial Advisors is a division of S.G. Curtis Investment Management with an office in Lee, MA.
*Trust and Banking services provided by LPL Financial.
A SEC Registered Investment Advisor

The color photography in this issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice is made possible through the generosity of Richard and Cathy Holland and Debra Chudnow and David Wise, honorary publishers. The staff of the Federation and the BJV are deeply grateful.

The Jewish Voice is a publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

Published nine times a year by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Dara Kaufman: Publisher and Managing Editor
Richard and Cathy Holland: Honorary Publishers
Debra Chudnow and David Wise: Honorary Publishers
Albert Stern: Editor
RB Design Co.: Graphic Design and Layout
Jenny Greenfeld: Advertising Sales Representative and Assistant Editor

Editorial opinions expressed in the Berkshire-Jewish Voice are those of the newspaper and not those of any individual. Signed editorials do not represent the view of the newspaper, but rather express the writer’s view.

The Berkshire Jewish Voice is under no obligation to accept any advertisement. It does not guarantee the kashrut of any merchandise or service advertised.

To have the BJV mailed to your home, please send a minimum donation of $18. Next issue publication date: December 7, 2022 – January 22, 2023
Press deadline: October 25, 2022 • Advertising deadline: November 16, 2022
Berkshire-Jewish Voice e-mail: astern@jewishberkshires.org
Phone: (413) 442-4360, ext. 11 Fax (413) 443-6070
Your Federation Presents

The Social Justice Torah Commentary, with Rabbi Barry Block and Rabbis of the Berkshires

Commentary demonstrate, the Torah has a great deal to say about social justice. In this 2021 book, diverse authors delve deeply into each week’s parashah, 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 B’nai Israel in Little Rock, Arkansas and 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 Mussar Torah Commentary, A Life of Navigating the Journey, and A Life of 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.

Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes with Ira Rosen

On Thursday, December 8 at 6:45 p.m., two-time Peabody Award-winning writer and producer Ira Rosen reveals the intimate, untold stories of his decades at America’s most iconic news show. It’s a 60 Minutes story on 60 Minutes itself, and draws on his book Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes. This virtual program is an installment of “Jewish Literary Voices: A Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council.” Register for this online presentation via the Calendar of Events page at jewishberkshires.org.

When producer Ira Rosen walked into the 60 Minutes offices in June 1980, he knew he was about to enter television history. His career catapulted him to the heights of TV broadcasting and into television history. His career catapulted him to the heights of TV broadcasting and journalism, breaking some of the most important stories in TV news. But behind the scenes was a war room of clashing producers, anchors, and the most formidable 60 Minutes figure: legendary correspondent Mike Wallace.

Highly entertaining, dishy, and unforgettable, Ticking Clock is a never-before-told account of the most successful news show in American history. Rosen delivers an authoritative account of the unforgettable personalities that battled for prestige, credit, and the desire to scoop everyone else in the game. As one of Mike Wallace’s top producers, Rosen knows the interview secrets that made Wallace’s top producers, Rosen knows the interview secrets that made Wallace’s news show. It’s a master class in how network newsrooms operate and on the power plays between correspondents, anchors, and the flaring temper that made him infamous.

Writing about his time as senior producer of ABC News Primetime Live and 20/20, Rosen exposes the competitive environment among famous colleagues like Diane Sawyer and Barbara Walters, and the power plays between correspondents Chris Wallace, Anderson Cooper, and Chris Cuomo.

On Thursday, December 27, at 6:45 p.m., “Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council” presents Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes with Ira Rosen. Rosen’s book is a never-before-told account of the most successful news show in American history. Rosen delivers an authoritative account of the unforgettable personalities that battled for prestige, credit, and the desire to scoop everyone else in the game. As one of Mike Wallace’s top producers, Rosen knows the interview secrets that made Wallace’s news show. It’s a master class in how network newsrooms operate and on the power plays between correspondents, anchors, and the flaring temper that made him infamous.

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.

___ $188 Sponsor
___ $72 Patron
___ $36 Friend
___ $18 Supporter

Name to be listed: _________________________________________
I wish to remain anonymous

Your support helps us counteract ever-increasing postal costs and to publish more content.

SEED WHAT YOU READ! BECOME A SUBSCRIBER TODAY!
Yes, I support the Berkshire Jewish Voice! Please accept my voluntary tax-deductible subscription contribution.

$360 Mensch & Honorary Publisher
(Supports color printing in one edition of the Voice)

$/___ Sponsor
Mail check payable to:
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

$/___ Patron

$/___ Friend

$/___ Supporter

(SEED: please add Berkshire Jewish Voice in the memo)

413.637.5075 ~ www.almgrenlaw.com
Paula Kahn Almgren, Esq.
One Wood Street, Lenox, MA 01240
413.637.5075 ~ www.almgrenlaw.com

Anonymous - 3
Jay Levy and Louise Vargas-Levy
Nancy and David Bayer
Phyllis Rivlin
Michael Buckheim
Elizabeth and Eugene Rosenberg
Mimi Cohen
Lawrence Rosenthal
Bruce and Susan Creditor
Deborah Roth
Marte and Paul Singerman
Shirley Rubenstein
Mark Goldfus and Beverly Rubman
Levis Schiller
Terry and Mel Drucker
Steve Simon and Maud Mandel
Caroline and Cindy Elitzer
Richard Simons and Marcie Greenfield
David and Judy Gilberg
Simons
Mark and Karen Graubard
Marte and Paul Singerman
Merle and David Harris
Elisa and Elia Snowe
Ken and Milly Heyman
Linda and David Sornick
Arthur and Louise Hillman
Carol and Steven Targum
Ina Barbara Hoffman
William and Sandra Valley
Tamar Japer
Howard and Debbie Wineberg
Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman
Bruce Wittman and Iona Gaborman
Susan and Michael Leff

Inscribed: Encounters with the Ten Commandments, The Mussar Torah Commentary, A Life of Navigating the Journey, and A Life of 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.
To Remember is Not Enough: Creating a New Holocaust Memorial in Milan, Italy

A program in commemoration of Kristallnacht

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, November 3 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Dr. Steven Rubin for another in his series of current events seminars.

This current events seminar will allow participants to examine and discuss both Israel’s and the United States’ elections. 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.

Please note that proof of vaccination for all who are eligible is required. Masks are optional but encouraged.

Monachina will talk about the particulars of the Memorial and also about how she watched this site develop over a period of 15 years, interviewing the architect there. She writes:

When you enter the Shoah Memorial at the main train station in Milan, Italy, you soon learn that you are at the very site from which Jews and political enemies were deported. The power of the space was used to encourage reflection, because, architect Guido Morpurgo said, “To remember is not enough. We must also think.”

After nearly two decades of work, the construction of the Shoah Memorial at Milan’s Central Station is complete. It was designed by architect Morpurgo at the actual site of deportations in 1943 and 1944. A culmination of much work, the memorial includes a thoughtful approach to the site of deportation, rooms for listening to testimony, a wall of names, and other original features, as well as what the architect considers a memory laboratory, a place for thinking. Those parts of the site include a library and archive, which are the foundation of the Center for the Documentation of Contemporary Jewish History.

Historian of the Shoah in Italy, Liliana Picciotto, in words about this memorial, said she hoped that people who visited might then be ‘inoculated against hate.’

Judith Monachina was a community journalist in the Berkshires when she began to interview people about the Italian Holocaust in 2000. In 2007, she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in journalism and researched the lives and memories of individuals from the Jewish community in fascist Milan, Italy. She studied at the primary Holocaust archive in Italy: The Center for the Documentation of Contemporary Jewish History. This work prompted her to ask: ‘What happens when stories disappear? What do we do with memory?’ These questions ignited her interest in oral history.

Judith is also the project director for the Paper Town Projects, and it working on a documentary about the 200-year papermaking legacy in Lee, MA.

Enjoy life
and let us take care of the rest

• 100% Maintenance free retirement living
• Enjoy the beauty, arts, and culture of the Berkshires
• Reignite your passions
• Progressive levels of care as needed

Call 413-637-7000 to experience Kimball Farms.
continued from page 1

as beautiful as the Berkshires. When
different kind of place?
as a young New Yorker leaving town to a

going to college in the Berkshires, inspi-

cartoonists). The BJV caught up with

means, check them out.

Talk About Something More Pleasant?

account of growing up in a Jewish

mishegoss

grown up in a comfortable,

was published in 2022, when he was in

– his family saga,

was in lecture halls with 200 students,

wonderful teaching that went on, and

were small. There was a lot of really

development, but my intellectual devel-

Russian history. So I can't really say

in 1968, one felt very far away from

that feeling in me. It was an interesting
time. Being in that idyllic environment,

feeling of peace I'd never had before, just

and then you're kind of done. You

quick. You get instant gratification,

creative process. That process is very

I was going to write a memoir, I was a

writing dialogue, which flowed

drinking coffee. So how was I

going to write something in long form?

Having a lot of practice because I

proposer, hardworking jeweler,

smallest, but not least of all, my mother,

trusted, and myself, a gifted child with

and his head in the clouds who

completely
cartoons, because the time it
to earth by their misgivings and his own.

It is a first-rate and deeply humane

education I got there.

in Boston for 15 years. Then I moved

back to New York. And if we're talking

something Jewish about my sense of

example, again, is that we celebrated

very complicated and confusing, as

had written essays for The New Yorker

towards the mass of readers who read the
cartoons.

My family was Jewish. My father

in New York who grew up in a

upper middle class home on the

Upper West Side; he perfectly captures
the anxieties and sense of cultural

was a particularly religious person. My

what I can only call antisemitism, but

humor. And also I grew up in New York

something Jewish about my sense of

Hanukkah and Christmas, so

example, again, is that we celebrated

it as far as comic timing and cartoons,

and patient. My wife says it's because

in front of an audience, for whatever

counts, but also pleasure. I love doing it.

It's a lot of work, mental work. I'm in

perspiration for you.

moments.

Well, growing up, it was always

very complimentary. It's hard to

say as I know the book. And the specific

elements. In my one step into stand-up

choose. "Nothing Interesting Has Ever

relate to the reader almost always first

And the drawing part, which is part of

ration, but also pleasure. I love doing it.

being the perspiration is the way it is.

or something that pops into my head

It's a lot of work, mental work. I'm in

in my studio right now and squeezing my

This is the way I work. I can sometimes

keeps me doing what I do, constantly hoping for those

When I read about your process,

it seemed to me there is more inspiration than perspiration

in my cartooning. Maybe the inspiration is the periphrasis

What you say about the inspiration being the periphrasis is

in it’s a lot of work, mental work. I'm in

my studio right now and squeezing my

brain. But it's not the inspiration that

What has your Jewish identity meant to

you over the course of your life?

privileged and comfortable, and

with a rough draft, and sometimes I

I can work for hours, redrawing and

redrawing, and sometimes it

and I think, well, that's the best

drawing I've done. And I'll hand that

tried to get a few hours to
draw. And sometimes I

to keep a sense for the reader to feel:
"Well, David thought it up and he drew it
directly from his original family that lasted

on some deep, fundamental level – I knew certain

things about myself that I attributed

to my being Jewish, and one of the
things that says it for me: my sense of

I know that there was something Jewish about my sense of

and humor. And also I grew up in New

City. So until I went off to Williams, I

was pretty much surrounded mostly by

people. But when I got to

Williams, I began to understand that

I was different from other people.

I do think in a cartoon a lot of

what I can only call antisemitism, but

non-Jewish friends from my

becoming a particularly religious person. My

identity has pretty much always been

cultural rather than spiritual.
**Your Federation Presents**

**Accidental Gangster: Dutch Schultz and Me**

On Thursday, December 1 at 6:45 p.m., Federation hosts author Harriet Goodman Grayson, whose book Accidental Gangster is based on true events – Harriet’s tales of her grandfather Goldy and her great-grandfather’s days of running booze for Jewish gangster Dutch Schultz through the Rockaways.

**Jewish Community Security Trainings in November**

PITTSFIELD - This autumn, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will sponsor two security training sessions open to members of our Jewish community. Training will be hosted by Temple Adas Yeshurun, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield.

See the insert in this paper for more information.

On Wednesday, November 9 at 3 p.m. – “Key Security Concepts and Greeter & usher Training.” How to create a balance between an open and welcoming environment while maintaining safety and security. This training also provides those who welcome people to Jewish institutions with strategies and tools to foster a welcoming atmosphere while maintaining security.

On Wednesday, November 9 at 5 p.m. – “Active Threat Response Training.” Participants will prepare for an active threat event, including learning steps they can take to protect themselves and their institutions.

Separate registration is required for each training session.

Register online at jewishberkshires.org or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10. A light dinner will be provided for those registered for both trainings.

**Hiding in Plain Sight: Women Writers in Yiddish Literature**

On Thursday, December 1 at 6:45 p.m., we host Anita Norich, Professor Emerita of English Language and Literature and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, whose topic will be “Hiding in Plain Sight: Women Writers in Yiddish Literature.”

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our Calendar of Events page at jewishberkshires.org for links to our programs.

From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, in association with the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County, will sponsor “A Day of Holocaust Education and Remembrance” at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan.

This free program is for b’nai mitzvah and post-b’nai mitzvah students in the 7th to 10th grades. Eligible participants are affiliated or non-affiliated Jewish students in Berkshire County. We further extend the invitation to one parent or chauffeur per family, as well as to one rabbi and one educator from each congregation.

There will be pick-up and drop-off sites in both Lenox (Price Chopper) and Great Barrington (Big Y), exact times to be determined. A kosher lunch will be served after arrival at the museum, and dinner will be en route back to the Berkshires.

There will be a guided tour of the museum and a Holocaust survivor will share a personal story about his or her experiences. Congregations are responsible for communicating trip details to students, obtaining accurate RSVP numbers for their respective classes, and submitting final reservation lists with names of all attendees by November 15. Students unaffiliated with a congregation wishing to attend should contact Dara Kaufman, executive director of the Federation.

For more information, please call (413) 442-4360.

**Peace of Mind**

DURING TURBULENT TIMES

Visit us at our new location at 45 Walker Street in Lenox  
413-445-2481  
riglicom.com

*As SEC-registered investment advisers, Renaissance maintains a Fiduciary relationship with all of our clients, so we are bound legally and ethically to put our client’s interests first. Not all firms are held to this standard.

At Renaissance Investment Group, LLC, our clients have direct access to senior leaders that are able to answer difficult questions about market movements and volatility. With decades of global financial experience we’re here for you every step of the way, helping you to customize and grow a portfolio that manages risk and maximizes returns. So you can stress less and relax more.

Call today to speak with one of our experienced advisors.
### Meals-on-Wheels & Meals to Go – Advance Reservation Required

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Meals to go will be ready by noon for pickup at the Knesset Israel kitchen door, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield. All meals-on-wheels will be delivered by Federation volunteers in the early afternoon.

Please call (413) 442-2200 no later than 9 a.m. to reserve your meal for pickup and to arrange delivery if standing instructions are not in place. All are welcome to reserve meals for pick-up, although delivery may be limited in certain circumstances. The menus listed below are planned, but may be modified depending on availability of ingredients. When making a reservation, please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy. Adults 60 and over: $3 suggested donation. Adults under 60: $7 per person.

Volunteers are Vital! Volunteer drivers who can deliver meals-on-wheels are always appreciated. Please call Molly Meador at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14. The Federation's kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.

### WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

#### OCTOBER

| Monday, 21 | Spaghetti and meat sauce#, noodle soup, beets, white rice, whole wheat bread, and grapes. |
| Monday, 22 | Chicken tenders#, French fries, peas, salad, oat bread, and pineapple. |
| Monday, 23 | Greek pastitsio#, Avgolemono soup (lemon and egg), beans with tomato, pita bread, and apricots. |
| Tuesday, 24 | Closed for Thanksgiving |
| Tuesday, 25 | Turkey pot pie (gluten free without grapes), roasted root vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and apricots. |
| Wednesday, 26 | Closed in observance of Christmas (dark meat only), California blend vegetables, oven roasted potato, rye bread, and apricots. |
| Thursday, 27 | Closed in observance of Christmas (falls on Sunday) |

**NOTE:** Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

#### NOVEMBER

| Monday, 28 | Greek pastitsio#, Avgolemono soup (lemon and egg), beans with tomato, pita bread, and apricots. |
| Tuesday, 29 | Poultry piccata**#, rice pilaf, baby carrots, salad, multi-grain bread, and peaches. |
| Wednesday, 30 | Roasted turkey**#, squash soup, beets, whole wheat bread, and tea biscuits. |
| Thursday, 31 | Roasted chicken**#, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and Mandarin oranges. |

**NOTE:** Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

#### DECEMBER

| Monday, 5 | Meat loaf**#, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, salad, whole wheat bread, and applesauce. |
| Tuesday, 6 | Roasted chicken**#, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and Mandarin oranges. |
| Wednesday, 7 | Hot dogs and beans**#, stuffed pepper soup, salad, hot dog roll, and ears. |
| Thursday, 8 | Spaghetti and meat sauce#, noodle soup, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and grapes. |
| Friday, 9 | Chicken and vegetable skillet**# (dark meat only), California blend vegetables, oven roasted potato, rye bread, and apricots. |
| Saturday, 10 | Red lentil and chick pea stew (vegan)**#, brown rice, salad, oat bread, and tropical fruit salad. |
| Sunday, 11 | Puerto Rican chicken and rice**# (dark meat only), Mexican corn, crusty white bread, and tea biscuits. |
| Monday, 12 | Brisket**#, latkes with applesauce, baby carrots, salad, Challah, and apple dumplings. |
| Tuesday, 13 | Closed in observance of Christmas (falls on Sunday) |
| Wednesday, 14 | Tuna noodle casserole, tomato soup, beets, whole wheat bread, and peaches. |
| Thursday, 15 | Fresh fish**#, vegetable soup, noodle kugel, spinach, salad, Farmer's loaf, and chocolate chip cookies. |

**NOTE:** Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

### MEALS-ON-WHEELS & MEALS TO GO – ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Meals to go will be ready by noon for pickup at the Knesset Israel kitchen door, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield. All meals-on-wheels will be delivered by Federation volunteers in the early afternoon.

Please call (413) 442-2200 no later than 9 a.m. to reserve your meal for pickup and to arrange delivery if standing instructions are not in place. All are welcome to reserve meals for pick-up, although delivery may be limited in certain circumstances. The menus listed below are planned, but may be modified depending on availability of ingredients. When making a reservation, please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy. Adults 60 and over: $3 suggested donation. Adults under 60: $7 per person.

Volunteers are Vital! Volunteer drivers who can deliver meals-on-wheels are always appreciated. Please call Molly Meador at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14. The Federation’s kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.

### WHAT’S FOR LUNCH?

#### OCTOBER

| Monday, 21 | Spaghetti and meat sauce#, noodle soup, beets, white rice, whole wheat bread, and grapes. |
| Monday, 22 | Chicken tenders#, French fries, peas, salad, oat bread, and pineapple. |
| Monday, 23 | Greek pastitsio#, Avgolemono soup (lemon and egg), beans with tomato, pita bread, and apricots. |
| Tuesday, 24 | Closed for Thanksgiving |
| Tuesday, 25 | Turkey pot pie (gluten free without grapes), roasted root vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and apricots. |
| Wednesday, 26 | Closed in observance of Christmas (dark meat only), California blend vegetables, oven roasted potato, rye bread, and apricots. |
| Thursday, 27 | Closed in observance of Christmas (falls on Sunday) |

**NOTE:** Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

#### NOVEMBER

| Monday, 28 | Greek pastitsio#, Avgolemono soup (lemon and egg), beans with tomato, pita bread, and apricots. |
| Tuesday, 29 | Poultry piccata**#, rice pilaf, baby carrots, salad, multi-grain bread, and peaches. |
| Wednesday, 30 | Roasted turkey**#, squash soup, beets, whole wheat bread, and tea biscuits. |
| Thursday, 31 | Roasted chicken**#, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and Mandarin oranges. |

**NOTE:** Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

#### DECEMBER

| Monday, 5 | Meat loaf**#, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, salad, whole wheat bread, and applesauce. |
| Tuesday, 6 | Roasted chicken**#, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pumpernickel bread, and Mandarin oranges. |
| Wednesday, 7 | Hot dogs and beans**#, stuffed pepper soup, salad, hot dog roll, and ears. |
| Thursday, 8 | Spaghetti and meat sauce#, noodle soup, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and grapes. |
| Friday, 9 | Chicken and vegetable skillet**# (dark meat only), California blend vegetables, oven roasted potato, rye bread, and apricots. |
| Saturday, 10 | Red lentil and chick pea stew (vegan)**#, brown rice, salad, oat bread, and tropical fruit salad. |
| Sunday, 11 | Puerto Rican chicken and rice**# (dark meat only), Mexican corn, crusty white bread, and tea biscuits. |
| Monday, 12 | Brisket**#, latkes with applesauce, baby carrots, salad, Challah, and apple dumplings. |
| Tuesday, 13 | Closed in observance of Christmas (falls on Sunday) |
| Wednesday, 14 | Tuna noodle casserole, tomato soup, beets, whole wheat bread, and peaches. |
| Thursday, 15 | Fresh fish**#, vegetable soup, noodle kugel, spinach, salad, Farmer's loaf, and chocolate chip cookies. |

**NOTE:** Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

### MAZEL TOV!

Brad and Lauren Sokol on the birth of their great-granddaughter. Proud parents are Erica Sokol Carroll and Scot Carroll.

Howard Cooper on the birth of two grandchildren.

Eiran and Michele Gazit on the marriage of their son, Adam Gazit to Atar Kishon.

Rabbi Kaya Stern Kaufman on the marriage of her daughter Sophie Shrum to Joe Tracy.

Amy Abramovich on the birth of her grandson, Zachary Lee Weilburg. Proud parents are Emily and Dave Weilburg and his great-grandmother is Marilyn Simons.


Elaine and Bernie Roberts on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Naomi Harper, daughter of Alex and Molly Stein.
Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires Awards $63,425 in New Grants To Benefit Berkshire Residents

In its 13th year, JWF, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, has granted more than 8450,000 to community organizations. JWF is committed to the Jewish mandate of Tikkun Olam – helping to repair the world and making it a better place. JWF carries out its mission by providing funding, volunteers, mentoring and support services to local agencies. JWF has over 180 members who are passionate about giving back to the Berkshire community.

For information about the grants program, please contact Esther Messing, Chair of the Grants Committee at esthermessing@gmail.com or visit JWFB.org.

Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires

JWF recently announced grant awards totaling $63,425 for 16 local organizations. The grants range from $1,500 to $5,000 and run for one year. Funded programs fall into three of the Foundation’s priority areas: Increasing Access to Food, Housing, and Other Essentials for Berkshire Residents; Berkshire Bounty, Berkshire Community Diaper Project, Berkshire South Community Center; Greenagers, Roots & Dreams and Mustard Seeds, Roots Rising, South Community Food Pantry, and The Guthrie Center.

Promoting Self-Sufficiency: Arts in Recovery for Youth, Berkshire Center for Justice, Berkshire Immigrant Center, Community Health Programs, 18 Degrees, and Literacy Network

Empowering Youth and Young Adults: Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center/Girls Inc. of the Berkshires, Central Berkshires Habitat for Humanity, and Railroad Street Youth Project

Grants To Benefit Berkshire Residents

Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires Awards $63,425 in New Grants To Benefit Berkshire Residents

Interested in Volunteering Locally?

Literacy Network of South Berkshire needs volunteer tutors!

Our tutors love what they do!

- Work 1:1 with a local immigrant or US-born adults in learning or improving English language and literacy skills.
- Training and support provided.
- Only 1 hour per week.

Contact Leigh Doherty
ldoherty@litnetsb.org or 413-243-0471

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

SUMMER CAMP 2023
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Supporting the Arts, Culture, Environment, and Social Needs in the Berkshires Since 1984

STONE HOUSE PROPERTIES
WWW.STONEHOUSEPROPERTIES.COM
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA • CHÁTHAM, NY • G. BARRINGTON, MA

(413) 528-9700
www.berkshireradon.com
Berkshire Radon LLC
Radar Testing and Mitigation
NEHC & NERSB CERTIFIED

Experience Matters. Trusted Brands.

Local Business, Local Focus since 1928

Carr Hardware

carrhardware.com

Berkshire ROOFING
413-298-1029
bgroca.net

RESIDENTIAL ROOFING SPECIALIST

©2023 Carr Hardware. All Rights Reserved.
Howard Kaufman, 96, President and CEO of KB Toys, philanthropist, committed leader and volunteer to both Jewish and Berkshire communities

ISRAEL - Howard Kaufman, formerly of Pittsfield and Lenox, died Thursday, September 1, at home in Israel.

Born in 1926 and raised in the Berkshires, Howard was the son of Joseph and Esther (Kittelman) Kaufman. He was the younger brother to Ralph and Elinor, a close-knit family, and they were raised among a large circle of extended family. He graduated from local schools and Williams College. He interrupted his undergraduate studies for Army service during World War II. He served in the Pacific theater for two years managing radar operations, including during active combat in the Battle of Luzon, and for this, he was the recipient of four medals.

While on summer break from a Ph.D. program, Howard met Nancy Rappaport at the Avaloch Inn of Lenox, owned by Nancy’s brother, Skip. Nancy took the train from New York on weekends to help at the Inn. Nancy and Howard married in 1954, and the reception was held at Avaloch. After starting a family, Howard left academia and joined the family business, Kaufman Brothers, Inc. Founded in 1922 by his father Joseph and Uncle Harry, the business began as a wholesale confectionery. By 1945 they had also become a toy wholesaler based on securing a line of toys from Louis Marx and Co., helped along as Howard’s brother Ralph married Dorothy Borden, a member of the Marx family.

Howard later developed a retail toy business and strategy. The retail store concept was intermittently experimented with and took form in 1959 when Howard ended up running the store of a former customer out of necessity. Thereafter, Kaufman Brothers exited toy and candy wholesaling to focus on toy retailing. The first purpose-built store was developed in 1963. Slowly and eventually, the retail stores thrived in parallel with the build-out of highways, suburbs, and malls. Howard became president and CEO, and the company name was changed to Kay-Bee Toy and Hobby Shops, and later on, to KB Toys. Along with a team that included his brother-in-law, Harry (Buddy) Baker, and cousins, the company grew to a retail chain of over 1,300 toy stores, supported by 7,000+ employees, the nation’s largest. The shareholders sold the business in 1981 to Melville Corporation, a holding company that included CVS, Marshalls, Thom McAn, and other retail businesses. Howard retired in 1986.

Throughout his life, Howard was a philanthropist and committed volunteer and leader to both the Jewish and Berkshire communities, for which he received numerous awards and much recognition. Within the Berkshire Jewish community, Howard was a member and lay leader of all local synagogues, delivered meals for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, led the capital campaign to relocate and sponsor Jewish refugees of the former Soviet Union, helped purchase two summer camps for Jewish youth, served on the Sinai Academy Board of Directors, and was a leader of Berkshire County’s State of Israel Bond Campaign. He and Nancy presented two Founders Gifts to Hadassah Hospital, where they are recognized on a retail chain of over 1,300 toy stores, supported by 7,000+ employees, the nation’s largest. The shareholders sold the business in 1981 to Melville Corporation, a holding company that included CVS, Marshalls, Thom McAn, and other retail businesses. Howard retired in 1986.

Howard had a vivid personality and made each interaction memorable. He was approachable and easy to spot with his dapper style and bow tie. He will be deeply mourned and wonderfully remembered. Nancy predeceased Howard. He is survived by his children; Joseph and Elizabeth, Lauren and Mike, Margo and Rick, Daniel and Peshia, David and Jodi; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Ann Rappaport; nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He leaves a legacy of generosity and kindness.

Winifred (Wini) Beverly (Mones) Bell, 94, art coordinator of Pittsfield public schools and The Berkshire Eagle art critic CLEARWATER, FL - Winifred (Wini) Beverly (Mones) Bell, 94, a retired art educator in the Pittsfield Public Schools who also served as art critic for The Berkshire Eagle for 13 years, died quietly in her sleep on Monday, August 15 at her home.

Mrs. Bell was born in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY, on March 7, 1928, to Mae Zuckerman Mones and Samuel Mones. She attended elementary school, high school, and college, all within walking distance of the family home.

She received a BFA from Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY) in 1948 and an M.Ed. in art education from New York University in 1971. She worked as a public assistance caseworker in Columbia County, NY, and later taught Elementary School Art in Dalton, MA, and then the Pittsfield public schools. After rising to the position of Art Supervisor K-6, she took a sabbatical to pursue additional education. After much debate, Wini broke the glass ceiling and was promoted to art coordinator of the Pittsfield public schools K-12. She served in that position until retiring in 1981. Her career as an art educator spanned 30 years and influenced a generation of students.

She was the Eagle’s art critic in the 1970s and early 80s, meeting many up-and-coming artists and artists of great renown.

Her marriage to Lee Bell lasted for 66 years until Mr. Bell’s death in 2015. They loved to travel the world and also to build homes together. She deadheaded thousands of flowers for her husband and his extensive gardens, and she loved to entertain. She also was a strong health care advocate for her husband and others who suffered from kidney failure. She made a point of researching and following the latest diets and ideas on how to prolong a healthy life while awaiting a transplant.
Sweetwood of Williamstown is an energetic retirement community nestled in the gorgeous Berkshire Mountains. Our spacious apartments give you easy access to all the amenities of our community - including concierge services for every need, wellness care, exciting activities, and exercise facilities.

- Plenty of room for your favorite furnishings
- Full-sized kitchens, modern fixtures
- Ample space for entertaining
- Private patios - your own slice of paradise
- Apartments available for sale or rent

413.458.8371
Sweetwood of Williamstown
Independent Living Community
1611 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown, MA 01267

There’s never been a better time for a New Home

Your Federation Presents

Newish & Jewish – “A Warm Welcome” to Our Community

By Elisa Schindler Frankel / President, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Federation hosted its first in a series of “Newish and Jewish” events with a cocktail reception on August 23 at the Bernay Gallery, a fabulous art space in Great Barrington. This well-attended event was a unique opportunity for like-minded individuals to unwind and schmooze, in an intimate and social setting, surrounded by beautiful artwork from the exhibit “Colorplay.” It gave area newcomers the chance to make meaningful connections while celebrating all the enriching programs and events happening in our area.

Special thanks to our co-chairs for this event, Alyson and Richard Slutsky and Amy and Mark Blumkin, and to gallery owners Paula and Lou Friedman. One of the attendees best summed up the evening: “My husband and I enjoyed meeting and reconnecting with lots of great people. Moving to the Berkshires during the pandemic was not the ideal time to be a newcomer, but I am excited to be here now. I deeply appreciate the warm welcome into your community.”

“Newish and Jewish” is a Federation initiative that seeks to bring together those who have recently moved to the Berkshires, moved here during the pandemic, or have transitioned from second- to full-time ownership, to create new community.
Your Federation Presents

Summer Days Drifted Away – But Uh-Oh That Summer Night…

As you read this, it is chilly autumn in the Berkshires – maybe a leaf or two remains on the trees, maybe not. So remember the warmth we generated at Federation’s summer concert, when Rick Recht and The Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective rocked the house at Knesset Israel and had us all on our feet dancing. It was an uplifting evening of singalongs, testimonials from members of our community, affirmations from our young people, and positive energy all around. The concert also raised nearly $6,000 to benefit the ADL’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® anti-bias peer training program in Berkshire County schools. Thank you to Knesset Israel for hosting and to everyone who showed up and made this a highlight of summer in the Jewish Berkshires.
Your Federation Presents
Your Federation Presents

Volunteers Are Vital!

A huge thanks to volunteers who baked, decorated, packed, and delivered this holiday season

Our community sends a huge thank you to all the volunteers for our very successful Rosh Hashanah gift bag program. Some 250 bags were delivered to seniors at home, in facilities, and in our local hospitals. Kudos to the volunteers who decorated the bags, plus the bakers, name collectors, packers, and delivery folks. Yashir Koach – Thank you to all! You helped us start 5783 on a high note!

Molly Meador, Coordinator of Volunteers

A testimonial from Jenny Gitlitz, who helped with the deliveries

I brought my 92-year old father with me to drop off the challah and apples and honey at Yakov and Russshaniya’s place, and it turned out to be the sweetest thing. Russshaniya was beside herself with joy to have an elderly man in the apartment – as both her and Yakov’s fathers have passed away – and she kept fussing over him and calling him “dedushka,” which means grandfather in Russian. And my dad was equally happy to hear me speaking Russian with them for what he said was the first time in his life. It was a lovely visit.

PHOTOS BY THEO MEADOR
Mrs. Bell is survived by her daughters, Kathy Bell of Silver Spring, MD, Ivy (Barril) Berman of NYC, and Cindy (David) Bell-Deane of Pittsfield. granddaughters Kendra Bell-Deane of Pittsfield, Maressa Weber of Natick, MA, and Nathalie Berman of NYC. She was blessed with three great-grandchildren with whom she video chatted regularly during these last few years. She is also survived by her dear friend, Diane Carter Lyons, whom she thought of as her fourth daughter, and her children, Rachael Simon Rittle and Elliott Simon.

A brief memorial was held at Knesset Israel on Thursday, August 18.

Contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Older Adult Lunch Program, 466 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or The Center for Arts Education, 2199 Broadway, Suite 1300, New York, NY 10007.

Norman Moskowitz, 94, active volunteer in the community, great pride in family

LENOX - Norman Moskowitz, 94, passed away on Friday, August 5, after a long and productive life. A resident of Pittsfield since 1956, he had resided for the last six years at Rimball Farms in Lenox. He was the son of Sarah and Irving Moskowitz and was predeceased by his wife, Gertrude ("Trudy"), after 67 years of a loving and happy marriage. He was also predeceased by his brothers, Lester and Steven. Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1928, a proud graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School, Norman earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from City College of New York in 1950 and went on to earn graduate degrees from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) while working full-time as an engineer. In 1956, Norman began working in the Ordnance Division of General Electric in Pittsfield as a product design manager of weapon systems for the Army and Navy, retiring in 1991. He also taught courses at GE on statistics and engineering and was a volunteer math tutor at Pittsfield High School.

As an active volunteer in the community, he recorded books for the blind and dyslexic for 52 years. He regularly donated blood (over 14 gallons), delivered food for Berkshire Bounty, and staffed the visitor center at Tanglewood. At Knesset Israel, he started the Social Action Committee and a sweat equity housing organization known as MICAH.

Devoted to his hobby of woodworking, he created heirloom furniture that his family cherishes while also contributing his talents to Shakespear & Company and other organizations. Always eager to learn and with discipline beyond compare, he left behind boxes of “The Great Courses” on every topic imaginable. He learned to play the clarinet in retirement and joined a quartet that hiked before breakfast and practice. He took advantage of the area’s arts and performance assets and was an avid skier into his 90s.

Norman took great pride in the family he lovingly raised with his wife Trudy, modeling the values of integrity and social justice through his personal example. He leaves behind his daughter, Linda Noonan and husband Robert of Egremont; son Ira Moskowitz and wife Osnat of Modin, Israel; grandchildren Madeline (Benjamin Olson) Noonan; Shira (Roie) Moskowitz Zaifer; Tomer (Adi Bakshi) Moskowitz; Matan and Ori Moskowitz. He enjoyed Zooming with and watching videos of his seven great-grandchildren; Hila, Shai and Tamar Zaifer; Tal and Alma Moskowitz; and Max and Jacob Olson.

Norman’s family asks that contributions be made to The Hilda Banks Shapiro Fund, Berkshire Community Action Council, 1532 East Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. A memorial service will be held at a future date and announced in the pages of her beloved Berkshire Eagle. In the meantime, you’ll find her beneath her favorite tree and go, Red Sox!

Carol M. Cohen, 80, well respected, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister

PITTSFIELD - Carol M. Cohen, 80, passed away early Saturday, September 10, at Berkshire Medical Center, surrounded by her loved ones. She was the beloved wife of Alan Cohen for 60 years, whom she met at Bryant College.

Born in Providence, RI, daughter of the late Louis and Florence (Glantz) Hazen, she lived in Pittsfield for 60 years. She was a well-respected administrative assistant to the president of Berkshire Community College for 20 years, a job she loved and was devoted to. She was a member of Knesset Israel and its sisterhood. Carol was the devoted mother of Lisa Kaufman and husband, Alex, of Providence, RI, and Amy Bloom and husband, Steven, of Houston, TX; dear sister of Michael Hazen and his wife, Lois, of Long Island, NY; loving grandmother of Samantha, Maxwell, Adam, Dayna, Brandon, and Sydney. Grave site services were held Tuesday, September 13, in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick, RI. Donations may be made to the Esther and Samuel Cohen Endowment or the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign

Please remember the Jewish Community in your will.

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 three 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 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA
“Can We Talk About Israel?”
A book discussion sponsored by Hevreh and Temple Anshe Amunim

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and Temple Anshe Amunim are sponsoring a lively discussion with author Daniel Sokatch via Zoom on Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m.

Sokatch’s book, Can We Talk About Israel?, dives into why so many people feel so strongly about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without actually understanding it very well at all. Why does this issue alone turn some classic Jewish liberals into uber-conservatives? Why do compassionate and judicious intellectuals single Israel out for boycotts, sanctions, and despair. And yet each time, the Jewish People drew deep connections to each other and to tradition. This fall, the learning will explore several different themes, with Rabbi Weiner teaching and facilitating classes that draw on the resources available through Project Zug. The classes will be offered using a hybrid model, with the option to join in person or via Zoom. With video lectures to watch in between classes.

Tuesdays in October, November, and December, 10:45 a.m. to noon. In-person at Knesset Israel. Online: Contact Rabbi Weiner for registration information. To register for this class, please first sign up for Project Zug by emailing office@knessetisrael.org.

Can We Talk About Israel?
Daniel Sokatch

Jewish Alliance (now Bend the Arc). In recognition of his work as a public intellectual and opinion-shapers. He has contributed articles to leading newspapers and magazines, including The Forward newspaper’s “Forward 50,” an annual list of the fifty leading Jewish decision makers and opinion-shapers. He has contributed articles to leading newspapers and magazines, including The New York Times, Washington Post, the Forward and Haaretz. Daniel holds an MA from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, a JD from Boston College Law School, and a BA from Brandeis University.

Sokatch’s book is available for purchase online at bookshop.org as well as your local independent bookstore.

For more information please contact Hevreh at (413) 528-6378 or email info@hevreh.org for a link to this program.

Shabbat with Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – This fall, Temple Anshe Amunim offers different opportunities to celebrate Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat
Join Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch at 5:30 p.m. every Friday night for Shabbat services. All are welcome to join in person or via livestream. Please reach out to the Temple office for the link to the livestream.

Torah Study
At 9:30 a.m. every Saturday, Rabbi Hirsch leads a Torah study session. All are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. Please reach out to the Temple office for the link to Zoom.

TAA Young Families Shabbat
On Friday, November 18 at 5 p.m., TAA invites young families to join them in welcoming Shabbat. Pizza will be served.

Temple Anshe Amunim is a Reform Jewish Congregation that promotes engaging and wide-spread participation in services, education, and cultural and social action programs. The Temple, located at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield is an accessible building. For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org or visitansheamunim.org.

Autumn Spirits
A reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season

In February Congregation Ahavath Sholom presented “Sips and Sonnets,” a reading of poems and sonnets for Valentine’s Day, which raised funds for The People’s Pantry. The evening was warmly received and the congregation was able to donate over $500 to the Pantry.

On Sunday, October 30 at 4 p.m., CAS will present “Autumn Spirits,” a reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season. Some of the writers featured will be Keats, Oliver, Paley, Poe, Sexton and Shelley.

This event is also planned as a fundraiser for The People’s Pantry. For information please visit Congregation Ahavath Sholom at ahavathsholom.com. This event will be held via Zoom.

A New Year in Adult Education at Knesset Israel

Hebrew, the Psalms, and Project Zug courses on aspects of Jewish thought

PITTSFIELD – NIF is a leading American Jewish voice that promotes engaging and wide-spread participation in services, education, and cultural and social action programs. The Temple, located at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield is an accessible building. For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org or visitansheamunim.org.

Autumn Spirits
A reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season

In February Congregation Ahavath Sholom presented “Sips and Sonnets,” a reading of poems and sonnets for Valentine’s Day, which raised funds for The People’s Pantry. The evening was warmly received and the congregation was able to donate over $500 to the Pantry.

On Sunday, October 30 at 4 p.m., CAS will present “Autumn Spirits,” a reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season. Some of the writers featured will be Keats, Oliver, Paley, Poe, Sexton and Shelley.

This event is also planned as a fundraiser for The People’s Pantry. For information please visit Congregation Ahavath Sholom at ahavathsholom.com. This event will be held via Zoom.

Shabbat with Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – This fall, Temple Anshe Amunim offers different opportunities to celebrate Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat
Join Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch at 5:30 p.m. every Friday night for Shabbat services. All are welcome to join in person or via livestream. Please reach out to the Temple office for the link to the livestream.

Torah Study
At 9:30 a.m. every Saturday, Rabbi Hirsch leads a Torah study session. All are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. Please reach out to the Temple office for the link to Zoom.

TAA Young Families Shabbat
On Friday, November 18 at 5 p.m., TAA invites young families to join them in welcoming Shabbat. Pizza will be served.

Temple Anshe Amunim is a Reform Jewish Congregation that promotes engaging and wide-spread participation in services, education, and cultural and social action programs. The Temple, located at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield is an accessible building. For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org or visitansheamunim.org.

Autumn Spirits
A reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season

In February Congregation Ahavath Sholom presented “Sips and Sonnets,” a reading of poems and sonnets for Valentine’s Day, which raised funds for The People’s Pantry. The evening was warmly received and the congregation was able to donate over $500 to the Pantry.

On Sunday, October 30 at 4 p.m., CAS will present “Autumn Spirits,” a reading of poems and short pieces celebrating the various shades of the season. Some of the writers featured will be Keats, Oliver, Paley, Poe, Sexton and Shelley.

This event is also planned as a fundraiser for The People’s Pantry. For information please visit Congregation Ahavath Sholom at ahavathsholom.com. This event will be held via Zoom.
Knesset Israel Pilots Jewish Theological Seminary Initiative in November
"Hayyei Sarah: Finding Comfort & Renewal in Jewish Sources," with Rabbi Naomi Kalish

PITTSFIELD – Knesset Israel welcomes Rabbi Naomi Kalish, director of the Center for Pastoral Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, to the congregation on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19. This special study opportunity pilots the JTS Pastoral Education Shabbat with "Hayyei Sarah: Finding Comfort and Renewal in Jewish Sources." Knesset Israel has chosen to build the initiative into a weekend celebrating the ways individuals in our community care for and support each other.

Over the last ten years, Knesset Israel has partnered with the JTS, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring extraordinary Jewish Studies scholars to the Berkshires in July and August. This pilot program with the Center for Pastoral Education represents a broadening of that connection and its extension beyond the summer season.

"Hayyei Sarah: Finding Comfort and Renewal in Jewish Sources" is designed to foster caring connections in communities, using Jewish traditions and texts as sources of consolation and healing. The weekend includes inspiring presentations by Rabbi Kalish on themes related to visiting the sick and building a caring community, musical services, blessings for those who engage in these important mitzvot, and delicious communal meals.

About JTS, the Center for Pastoral Education & Rabbi Naomi Kalish
The Jewish Theological Seminary is a premier institution of Jewish higher education, training thoughtful, innovative leaders who strengthen communities with a vision of Judaism that is deeply grounded in the Jewish past and thoroughly engaged with contemporary society. JTS also provides high-caliber lifelong learning and professional development to its alumni, adult learners and Jewish communities throughout North America.

Every day, spiritual leaders are called on to provide comfort, guidance, and support to people in crisis. The Center for Pastoral Education at JTS has set a new standard in preparing them to receive these calls, through a transformative educational process that is grounded in Jewish tradition, and open and relevant to people of all faiths.

Rabbi Naomi Kalish is the Harold and Carole Wolf Director of the Center for Pastoral Education and assistant professor of Pastoral Education. Prior to coming to JTS, Rabbi Kalish taught clinical pastoral education (CPE) at New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) to students from diverse religious, denominational, national, and cultural backgrounds.

Rabbi Kalish has served on the Interprofessional Education Faculty at Columbia University Medical Center, where she has taught a course, "Spirituality and Healthcare," to students in diverse healthcare educational programs. She has taught chaplaincy and pastoral care courses and programs for the Academy for Jewish Religion, Yeshivat Chovevi Torah, Yeshivat Maharat and JTS.

Rabbi Kalish earned her BA from Tufts University, an MA in Jewish Philosophy and rabbinic ordination from JTS, and a Ph.D. in Education and Jewish Studies at New York University.

Schedule and Registration
The schedule for the weekend includes a musical Friday night service; 5:45 p.m., Shabbat dinner (820/adult, free/children, reservations required at knessetisrael.org/rsvp by Monday, November 14), and Rabbi Kalish’s presentation; Shabbat morning services at 9:30 a.m. with a Dvar Torah by Rabbi Kalish and kiddush lunch to follow.

Community Shabbat dinners at Knesset Israel are supported by a Rekindle Shabbat grant from the Harold and Carole Wolf. To reserve a place, call (413) 445-4872 or email knessetisrael.org. All are welcome.

Musical Friday Night Services at Knesset Israel

PITTSFIELD – This autumn, join Knesset Israel for musical celebrations of Shabbat.

Shirei Shabbat with Community Dinner: Friday, November 4, 5:45 p.m.

Join the Knesset Israel Band for an upbeat musical service including contemporary songs along with traditional Kabbalat Shabbat melodies. Register in advance for the community dinner following the service: knessetisrael.org/rsvp. Dinner is $820 for adults. Free for under 18.

Musical Minyan: Friday, November 18, 5:45 p.m.

The Musical Minyan offers a unique Kabbalat Shabbat experience, with a small acoustic ensemble combining new and traditional melodies to welcome the Sabbath Bride. At times meditative, at times spirited, this musical service is the perfect start to a sweet Shabbat.

Knesset Israel is at 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.
Israel Gets Back Looted Coin Created by Jewish Rebels During Revolt Against Roman Empire

By Asaf Elia-Shalev / JTA

A rare silver coin minted by Jewish rebels in defiance of the Roman empire during the Great Revolt rebellion 2,000 years ago was looted from an archaeological site and traded on the black market. Now, after years of work by American and Israeli investigators, the coin is going back to Israel.

The coin surfaced in 2017 at an auction in Denver with an estimated sale value of $500,000 to $1,000,000, but before it could be sold, American law enforcement officials seized it.

In September, the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office announced that after a years-long legal process, the coin was handed over to Israeli authorities during a recent repatriation ceremony.

“Coins like this were a very in-your-face declaration of independence by the lands of Israel,” Ilan Hadad, a numismatics investigator and archaeologist with the Israel Antiquities Authority, told The New York Times. “They made them by scratching out the images of emperors on Roman silver coins and re-stamping them.”

Word of the looting of the coin from a site in the Ella Valley reached the Israel Antiquities Authority in 2002 through informants. Investigators remained on the coin’s track for years as it was smuggled abroad. Eventually, it landed with collectors in London who put it up for sale at the auction in Denver, presenting the auction house with false documentation of the item’s origin. Officials have not named the collectors.

Thousands of Jewish coins from the Great Revolt are in existence today but there are only three other known quarter shekel pieces, which is what made this case of looting especially significant.

“We are honored to return the Quarter Shekel, an exceedingly rare coin that has immense cultural value,” Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a written statement.

You can now read and share Berkshire Jewish Voice feature stories online! Visit jewishberkshires.org and select Community & Events>Berkeley Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.
Injustice, Injustice Shall You Pursue

A case for making football unfair and entertaining again

By Albert Stern / Special to the BJV

In the early days of football, H-shaped goalposts were planted at the front of the end zone, fixed two-branched obstacles within the field of play. There they remained until 1927, when overseers of the National Football League had a notion – move the goalposts outside the end zone, where fewer players would slam into them and the field would be opened up for more of those “touchdowns” that the fans seemed to like.

In 1933, however, NFL goalposts were for some mysterious reason moved back to the goal line, once again in the field of play, where they remained until 1974 as hazards to the players and an impediment to scoring. To gauge how much human progress can be made in roughly that amount of time, consider that in 1926, Robert Goddard launched the first liquid-fueled rocket. In 1969 – five years soon after the NFL realized that the goalposts were better for goalposts to be at the back of the end zone – human beings walked on the Moon.

Football as it was, when the really big hits were delivered by the goalposts

"If stupidity got us into this mess," Will Rogers once wondered, "then why can’t it get us out?" The NFL is perhaps the only human enterprise to which that proposition does not apply. Like their predecessors, the people who run the NFL today aren’t exactly rocket scientists, yet the league has remained a juggernaut of revenues and ratings despite some severely disconcerting attendant indignities, among them debilitating injuries and thuggish behavior on the field and off. Add national anthem protests to the mix, and television ratings dropped precipitously around while doughy men try to get things right. Then, I’m convinced, injustice, our own and others’ – as opposed to the egalitarian bureaucratic soul suck of waiting for several years, although they have rebounded.

So let’s face facts about football. For starters, most games are uneven contests between teams that are either mismatched or not very good. Moreover, the live-action on the field comprises just 14 minutes or so of a 3-hour broadcast. Now consider football as a purely visual experience. While long passes, big hits, and breakaway runs are thrilling to watch, most of the 14 minutes of live-action consist of images of huge men running a few steps and falling to the ground. In cinematic terms, it would be as if the Godfather consisted of Sonny Corleone’s assassinations at the toll booths and 2 hours and 50 minutes of Clemenza, Luca Brasi, and Captain Mchasker wrestling in shiny pajamas. And this is every single football game, mind you, each one of them lasting as long as Lawrence of Arabia.

How to make this feast for the eyes more gripping? In 1999, the NFL’s mandate implemented instant replay, thereby displaying the same instinct for turgidity as the people who run the NFL, to realize that the was better for goalposts to be at the back of the end zone – human beings walked on the Moon.

When the football was jarred from Broncos running back Rob Lytle’s grip during that championship game, I remember hearing a mounting cry from over the hedges. Goodman was screaming: “Fumble! Yes! FUMMMBBBBBBLEEEE!!!” A few seconds of silence passed as Goodman took in the momentousness of what had just happened to his team, and then: “FUMBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB
“Excuse me, but are you Albert by any chance?”
A surprising encounter in ten parts

By Ruth Kaplan / Special to the BJV

Part One

In August, my husband Toby and I traveled to Lenox for the glorious experience of hearing conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and the Tanglewood Festival Orchestra performing Beethoven’s 9th Symphony. Life doesn’t get much better than that. Our elder daughter had just gotten married the week before, so we needed a respite after spending much of the summer in semi-hibernation due to pre-wedding and Covid concerns. It was a joy to travel with dear friends to the Berkshires, even for a short stay.

A few weeks earlier, I had the opportunity to speak with Berkshire Jewish Voice editor Albert Stern to pick his brain about the universe of Jewish publishing. I had also come to know Albert in my past role as Director of Community Relations at the Israeli Consulate in Boston. I have also published dozens of personal essays and articles, primarily in the online magazine JewishBoston, two of which (stories about the 2021 Striker Olympics and my new grandson’s unconventional bris) Albert reprinted in the BJV.

I told Albert I might be in Lenox in August and he kindly invited me to meet for coffee, schedule permitting.

Part Two

Although my husband and I only planned a two-day stay in Lenox, I really didn’t want to meet Albert, so I reached out to set up a tentative meeting. As I’m sure you can appreciate, when on vacation—even a short one—stuff happens. Our coffee, schedule permitting.

I arrived on schedule, at the meeting place set: Lenox Coffee. But the precise time was a little unsettled. To my surprise, he said he was sorry, but he wasn’t Albert. At this point, I was pretty sure I was meeting with the wrong Albert, and would just wait patiently. Within a minute or two I received a phone call from the real Albert apologetically explaining that he had to attend to an urgent matter and that, not having received a text from me (remember, I wrote to the wrong Albert?), he was uncertain as to whether our appointment was still happening.

Part Three

I naturally, was disappointed, but c’est la vie. These things happen. I asked my husband if he’d get me an iced coffee so we could just hang out for a bit. Just as I went inside the cafe, along came the “PBS Nerd” gentleman holding cup of coffee and a scone. And this is when my luck changed big time.

He turned to me and inquired, “So did Albert show up yet?” I responded that unfortunately, Albert was not able to make it after all, to which he replied, “Baruch HaShem.” When you now think about it, that expression (which means “to me? Am I so obviously Jewish?

Part Four

Natural, I was disappointed, but c’est la vie. Things happen. I asked my husband if he’d get me an iced coffee so we could just hang out for a bit. Just as I went inside the cafe, along came the “PBS Nerd” gentleman holding cup of coffee and a scone. And this is when my luck changed big time.

He turned to me and inquired, “So did Albert show up yet?” I responded that unfortunately, Albert was not able to make it after all, to which he replied, “Baruch HaShem.” When you now think about it, that expression (which means “to me? Am I so obviously Jewish?”

Part Five

Steve shared his amazing life story—or should I say stories. He served in the Peace Corps post-college, traveled extensively in South America, and is fluent in Spanish. In his spare time, he enjoys playing the piano and composing his own music. Steve is a multi-talented man and would just wait patiently. Within a minute or two I received a phone call from the real Albert apologizing that he had to attend to an urgent matter and that, not having received a text from me (remember, I wrote to the wrong Albert?), he was uncertain as to whether our appointment was still happening.

Part Six

Steve had been very devoted to his late wife, a victim of breast cancer who died six years ago. In her final hours with the disease, she spent over the next few days at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York. Steve was by her side every day, commuting from his home. He found it to be financially burdensome to take taxis back and forth, but taking the city bus was too slow and tiring. Someone told him about Via, a shared taxi service very similar to the Israeli “shemrtz” concept. The beauty of Via was you never paid more than $5 per ride. Steve found the service to be totally reliable and pleasant, and he even managed to practice his Spanish with their friendly drivers, who usually lent a sympathetic ear to his challenging 10-hour daily hospital visits.

In this very dark period of his life, the Via service helped Steve immensely.

Part Seven

Less than a month after Steve lost his wife, he received an email from Via asking loyal customers to share any engaging stories regarding their Via use. For example, some riders had found soulmates, while others had secured jobs. At the time, Steve was sleeping a lot and barely speaking with anyone, still trying to cope with his profound loss. Because Via occupied such a special place in his heart, he roused himself and replied to the email, submitting his story as to how comforting Via had been to him during his wife’s terminal illness.

The next day, Steve received another email from Via thanking him for his story and expressing sincere condolences over the loss of his wife. The company also asked him for his home address, as they said they had something they wanted to ship him to express their sympathy and gratitude.

Part Eight

Steve had been very devoted to his late wife, a victim of breast cancer who died six years ago. In her final hours with the disease, she spent over the next few days at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York. Steve was by her side every day, commuting from his home. He found it to be financially burdensome to take taxis back and forth, but taking the city bus was too slow and tiring. Someone told him about Via, a shared taxi service very similar to the Israeli “shemrtz” concept. The beauty of Via was you never paid more than $5 per ride. Steve found the service to be totally reliable and pleasant, and he even managed to practice his Spanish with their friendly drivers, who usually lent a sympathetic ear to his challenging 10-hour daily hospital visits.

In this very dark period of his life, the Via service helped Steve immensely.

Part Nine

So perhaps there’s more for another adventure in Lenox. I still hope to meet Albert and am fairly certain it will happen one day.

Ruth Kaplan is the past director of community relations at the Consulate General of Israel to New England. She is the former director of the CJP Boston-Haifa Connection and supervisor of the young Israeli ambassadors’ program called Shinshinim.” A nearby lifelong resident of Brookline, Ruth has had careers in law and public education advocacy and is passionate about creating people-to-people connections among Israelis and Americans.

Part Ten

So perhaps there’s more for another adventure in Lenox. I still hope to meet Albert and am fairly certain it will happen one day.

Ruth Kaplan is the past director of community relations at the Consulate General of Israel to New England. She is the former director of the CJP Boston-Haifa Connection and supervisor of the young Israeli ambassadors’ program called Shinshinim.” A nearby lifelong resident of Brookline, Ruth has had careers in law and public education advocacy and is passionate about creating people-to-people connections among Israelis and Americans.
The Torah portion Toldot that we read on the Shabbat of November 26 opens with the fertility struggles of Isaac and Rebecca, and Rebecca’s ultimate pregnancy with twins. Esau and Jacob.

As the narrative progresses, we read that one day, the now-adult Esau comes home tired and hungry after hunting in the fields. He finds his brother Jacob preparing a lentil stew and pleads with him, “Give me some of that red stew because I am famished.” Jacob responds by demanding that Esau sell his birthright. Without blinking, Esau agrees, saying, “Here I am going to die, so why do I need the birthright?” He consumes the stew. But when Jacob later receives the birthright blessing from Isaac, Esau becomes furious.

The birthright was of great importance to Jacob because he knew that although both sons would receive some of Isaac’s property upon his death, only the firstborn son, possessor of the birthright, would both get a double portion of property and become the leader of the family. Jacob could see the future and he wanted to mold it to his desires, whereas Esau could only see as far as his immediate hunger.

Then we come to the lentil stew itself. Why was it so important to the story that the poroshu even mentions it? As today, it was customary in biblical times to provide round foods to mourners, in acknowledgement of the circular nature of life. The rabbis explain that Isaac was in mourning over the death of his own father, Abraham. Lentils fit the bill for a bereavement menu.

But if Isaac knew that Jacob was already preparing a meal for him, why then did he ask Esau to go out to kill a deer? Did he intend that the venison stew Esau prepared would be a celebratory meal? Perhaps a fitting dish on the occasion of bestowing the birthright onto his favored, first-born son? Now, the Torah tells us that Isaac was blind, but were his tastebuds also deficient? I ask because those of us who cook know that although we can doctor up ground turkey all we want, it will never taste like ground beef. So, when at his mother Rebecca’s direction, Jacob dressed in animal skins and brought goat stew up ground turkey all we want, it will never taste like ground beef. So, when at his mother Rebecca’s direction, Jacob dressed in animal skins and brought goat stew to his father, how could Isaac not know the difference between the venison and goat stews?

I digress. Back to the lentil. First domesticated in the Fertile Crescent, people have enjoyed lentils for thousands of years. In fact, archaeologists have found evidence of the legume as far back as 11,000 BCE in various spots in the Middle East, from Syria to Jordan and beyond. While historians claim that the Greeks looked at lentils as fit only for the poor, Egyptians liked them so much that they even buried some in the tombs with their dead royalty. A fresco in one tomb at Thebes from around 2400 BCE, for example, depicts the cooking of lentil soup.

From the Middle East, lentils spread throughout Europe. They arrived in the Americas in the early 16th century, courtesy of Spanish and Portuguese explorers, and their protein was valued as an alternative to meat. In a mess of pottage, that is. A mess of pottage — drawing by Rembrandt ca. 1640 (British Museum)

Carol Goodman Kaufman has just published the second picture book in what is planned as a series about nature for young children. Written under the name Carolinda Goodman, Pirate Ships and Shooting Stars is written in rhyme, and its lively starships encourage young children to use their imaginations when looking up at the sky. From rainbows to constellations to pictures in the clouds, Kaufman believes there is much to see if only they lift their eyes.

In addition to her work for children, Kaufman also writes under her “real” name about food history (including for the Berkshire Jewish Voice), and her first novel, a murder mystery, will drop in 2023.

DONATE. * VOLUNTEER. * MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Lentil soup

**A Mess of Pottage: Moroccan Harira Soup**

Serves 12

Harira is a hearty, protein-rich soup that acts more like a stew. It will warm you up on a chilly day. And because red lentils are a major ingredient in the recipe, it’s also a fitting tribute to the week’s Torah portion that occurs two days after Thanksgiving, making it a welcome change from turkey leftovers.

By the way, it’s so delicious that recent dinner guests asked for seconds.

**Ingredients:**
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne, or less if you don’t like your food spicy
- 1 quart parve chicken broth (or the real thing if you prefer)
- 1 cup red lentils
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 11/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, or to taste
- 2 teaspoons dried cilantro*

**Directions:**

In a large pot, heat 3 tablespoons oil over high heat until hot and shimmering.

Add onion and garlic, and sauté until golden, about 4 minutes. Stir in tomato paste, cumin, salt, black pepper and cayenne, and sauté for 2 minutes longer.

Add broth, 2 cups water, lentils and carrot. Bring to a simmer, then partially cover pot and turn heat to medium-low. Simmer until lentils are soft, about 30 minutes.

Taste and add salt if necessary. Stir in lemon juice and cilantro. Enjoy!

* If you like this fresh herb (I’m one of those for whom it tastes like soap), then substitute 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro for the dried.
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.

Anonymous (10)
Ed Abrambs
Norman Avnet*
Barbara Bashkevkin
Robert Bashkevkin*
Linda J. L. Becker
Robert Berend
Shelley Berend
Helene Berke
Lawrence Berke
Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Betty Brauns*
Cipora Brown
Monroe England, in memory of Monroe B. & Isabel England
Dr. Armand V.
Feigenbaum*
Dr. Donald S. Feigenbaum*
Steven Feiner
Diana & Stanley Feld
Lynn & William* Foggle
Elaine Friedman
Eiran Gantz
Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil Wolfson
Jordan & Laura Green
Harold Grinspoon
Ellen Heffan
Ed Jaffe*
Phil* and Rhoda*
Kamins\nElhi Katsman
Marilyn Kaufman
Dara Kaufman
Howard* & Nancy* Kaufman
Lawrence Klein
Sarah Klein
Arthur Kriger*
Fred & Brenda Landes
Beth Laster-Nathan
Andrew S. Levine*
Toby H. Levine
Erna Lindner-Gilbert*
Amy Lindner-Lesser
Allan and Nan Lipton
Helen Maislen*
Ellen Masters
Stuart Masters
Jeffrey May* & Kara
Thornton
Estelle Miller
Robert Newman*
Wendy Robbins
Ken* & Fran* Rubenstein
Stella Schecter*
Arlene D. Schiff
Gary Schaff
Stephen & Deborah
Schreier
Ellen Schwatzberg*
Martin Silver
Sylvia Silverberg, in memory
of Jerome Silverberg
Richard A. Simons & Marcie Greenfield
Simons
Mark & Elisa Snowise
Harold Span* & Rita and Sol Toscher
Memorial Fund
Lisa Fletcher-Udel
Edward Udel
Michael & Joan Ury
Mark & Judy Usow
Henry* & Beat* Voremberg
Alexandra Warsaw
Florece Wineberg*
Rabbi Deborah Zecher & Rabbi Dennis Ross
*Of blessed memory
Robert Silman is the author of four novels, a short story collection, and two children’s books. Her stories have been published by major magazines, including *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic*, and she has won the National Magazine Award for Fiction twice. Her 2018 novel, *Secrets and Shadows*, about a successful man who carries with him a dark secret about the betrayal of a friend before World War II, was chosen as one of the best Indie Books of 2018 by *Kirkus*.

Her new novel, *Summer Lightning*, is a sweeping saga of a Jewish family navigating the turbulent history of 20th-century America. Silman incorporates historical events and personalities into her intergenerational narrative, which unfolds in the Manhattan of Jewish immigrant strivers, bourgeois Brooklyn and Long Island, the 1960s Civil Rights movement in St. Augustine, Florida. Parts of the book are set in the Berkshires, as well.

In September, the *BJV* caught up with the author, who resides in Great Barrington. She talked about some of the themes of *Summer Lightning* and about writing historical fiction through the lens of family and lived experiences. Our interview has been edited for length and clarity.

**BJV Interview: Roberta Silman**

**Summer Lightning** is a sweeping narrative that weaves several storylines together over many decades. How long did you work on it?

Many years. At some point, we all want to write about our childhood, and that’s how it started out. Some people write for revenge or desperation, but I clearly don’t. Some people will recognize my parents in two characters, Belle and Isaac, and I felt that the story of the values that they had given my sisters and me was important. As I got older, I realized that when you’re a kid, you think everybody’s house is like yours. And then you realize that there were all kinds of things happening in some houses that you had no clue about and that not everyone’s house was based on a certain kind of egalitarian values. We had a black maid [like the family in the book] and she was treated with great respect and had a place in our lives. That was part of what I wanted to write about. But I think that there was a part of me, especially in these last seven years (which have not been easy for me), that was sick of reading about all those dysfunctional families that had even greater secrets than I had written about in *Secrets and Shadows* – a lot of sexual aberrations, all kinds of craziness. I thought maybe it would be nice to write about people who are near-normal and have ideals.

**Historical figures have important roles in the book. The first I want to ask you about is Charles Lindbergh – Belle and Isaac meet as he takes off on his historic flight, and then he reappears at various points in the book as his life and career take many dark turns. What does he represent to you within the context of the novel?**

I had a connection to the Lindbergh family because when I worked at *The Saturday Review* in the late 1950s, Anne Lindbergh published a book of poems, which were terrible, and [poetry editor] John Ciardi simply said, “These are terrible poems, and that’s that.” And he was right. [*Editor’s Note: Ciardi caused a kerfuffle with the context of the novel?*]

I got the idea about Belle collecting art. What was interesting about Rivers was that he never could get it together to become, quote, a great artist. He did some wonderful paintings, but he’s always been kind of a fringe figure in American art because he was just all over the place. But in a way, I thought, well, let her be exposed to those people and let’s see what comes of it. And I don’t know, it just seems to fall into place because part of the message there, if there is a message, was that it’s okay.

**You take the book’s title from Alexander Herzen [a 19th-century Russian writer and thinker known as the ‘father of Russian socialism’] – “Art, and the summer lightning of individual happiness: these are the only real goods we have.” To me, that seems like a strange way of putting things. What does it mean to you?**

I think for the Russians, “summer lightning” was a code for happiness. I understood it as those sparks of happiness in our lives and those moments of pure joy and rapture that are present in our lives. That’s the way I felt about the love stories in the novel. Nothing was perfect but those connections. Summer lightning, I think, is a symbol of that connection between people that nurtures them. The summer lightning in Herzen’s quote, and maybe in my book, is also that which is unexpected that comes from the sky. You are not sure about it. It can hurt as well as help. Summer lightning is all the things that surprise and make life worth living and hanging on so dearly.

**Robert Silman has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. She has reviewed books for *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*. She also writes regularly for *The Arts Fuse* website (artsfuse.com). More about her work can be found at robertasilman.com and she can also be reached at rsilman@verizon.net.**
**Music Undefeated!**

Close Encounters With Music’s 31st season lifts off with something old and something new – “Otherworldly Schubert and ‘One Earth’”

Artistic Director Yehuda Hanani

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, November 6 at 4 p.m., Close Encounters With Music (CEWM) returns to the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center for its 31st season with an intriguing afternoon of music: “Otherworldly Schubert and ‘One Earth’.”

The program will feature works from two very different musical orbits – Franz Schubert’s String Quintet in C Minor is a pinnacle of the Classical music canon, while “One Earth,” created by Israeli-American composer Tamar Muskal, receives its world premiere. CEWM commissioned “One Earth,” an adventurous work for a rapper, beatbox artist, tabla player, string quintet, and a treble chorus comprising more than 20 singers.

Artistic Director Yehuda Hanani relates that the motto that kept CEWM inspired during the COVID-19 pandemic was Music Undefeated!” And we followed it with tremendous zeal and did not skip one concert,” he says, delivering streamed performances to loyal subscribers from the empty Mahaiwe, at times “after intermission, we have a piece that is reaching into the soul of Schubert before he died. He never heard it performed, even. If you asked me to choose one piece out of the entire chamber music repertoire, I would choose this one without hesitation. It’s an amazing piece of music. It was not commissioned by anybody. Nobody knows why Schubert wrote it. He was dying. It’s a death-defying piece. There’s nothing morbid about it. It just goes deep, deep into the soul.”

As Hanani and Muskal batted ideas back and forth about the piece, their vision for it became more expansive. Muskal wanted to include a second cello and Hanani, knowing “One Earth” would be on the same program as the Schubert composition, suggested that she write a part for a string quintet. (In November, Hanani will join the Borromeo String Quartet for both pieces.) Muskal had the idea to include a chorus – the 22-member Mount Holyoke College Chamber Singers will be on hand for that.

Muskal says: “I’ve never worked with a rapper before, and I knew that it had to be a collaboration, not a piece I write. The kind of thing I do would not be his kind of thing.” She put out a search through Facebook for a rap artist who could read music, and a musician in Washington, DC, put her in contact with Christylez Bacon, self-described on her website as “multi-tasking between various instruments such as the West African djembe drum, acoustic guitar, and the human beat-box (oral percussion)… with a mission towards cultural acceptance and unification through music.” Bacon founded a cross-cultural collaborative concert series called Washington Sound Museum, and Muskal says, “she found him ‘very interested in all kinds of collaborations.’” She traveled to DC to meet him and shared a sample of her work on musical notation software to see whether he’d feel comfortable with the musical setting. “I played the piece for him and he immediately joined in,” she remembers. “He was, following the music, saw all the changes right away without any problems.”

Muskal says that while she will score the parts for the chorus and strings, “I don’t want to say anything for the rapper and the tabla player whenever they have this improvisation between them. I don’t want to interfere, because first of all I trust them; but also, that’s what they do. I need and I love to respect that and I think that if you tell them exactly what to do, I don’t think they will like it – not because of ego, but because it’s going against what they are. So if I think I know exactly what I want, I shouldn’t take on somebody whose whole life is about improvisation.”

She adds: “It’s their moment and they will be in a good mood and something beautiful will come out at the end of this improvisation. Then the strings come in and then everybody else.” The key, she says, is knowing where everyone is coming from musically. “I want everyone to leave with a positive feeling. The world is so depressing nowadays, and it may sound mad, but that’s what I want.”

Hanani describes “One Earth” as a kind of crossover music, one that uses today’s musical idioms in a way that Classical and Romantic composers may have incorporated folk music into their concert hall pieces “when nationalism was high and every country tried to find its own musical voice.”

About what to expect, Hanani sums up: “We have two wonderful pieces. This world premiere reaches out and tries to embrace the entire world and has a utopian vision for all of us. Maybe this is a lesson that Covid, if there was anything positive about Covid, taught us – that we all live on one planet and there’s no way to escape it. So this piece reaches out and is very global and very outgoing.”

“After intermission, we have a piece that is reaching into the soul of Schubert before he died. He never heard it performed, even. If you asked me to choose one piece out of the entire chamber music repertoire, I would choose this one without hesitation. It’s an amazing piece of music. It was not commissioned by anybody. Nobody knows why Schubert wrote it. He was dying. It’s a death-defying piece. There’s nothing morbid about it. It just goes deep, deep into the soul.”

Just very inspiring. There is anguish in the slow movement, of course, but it’s a cathartic piece of music. So we have reaching out first off with Tamar’s piece and then going all the way deep in with Schubert. And this is how I see this program. That’s what audiences can come to expect when they join us.”

**Maybe this is a lesson that Covid, if there was anything positive about Covid, taught us – that we all live on one planet and there’s no way to escape it. So this piece reaches out and is very global and very outgoing.**

– Yehuda Hanani

CULTURE & ARTS

Close Encounters With Music continues through the spring. 2022-2023 season includes “Grand Piano Trio – Beethoven’s ‘Ghost’ and Archduke” (December 11); “Town & Country: Mendelssohn and Doork” (February 18); “Pictures at an Exhibition” (March 26); “From Bach Brandenburg to Appalachian Spring” (April 23); and “The Escher String Quartet” (May 21). For a full lineup of concerts and more information and tickets, visit cewm.org.