

# Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

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[jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org)

## Celebrate Chanukah at NightWood

*Kindle menorah lights in an ethereal winter landscape at The Mount*



LENOX – On Sunday, December 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., join Federation in a community celebration of Chanukah at NightWood, an ethereal winter landscape of sound, light, and color on the grounds of Edith Wharton's home, The Mount.

NightWood combines music, lighting effects, and theatrical elements in creating seven unique scenes evoking wonder, mysteries, and magic. Tour the grounds and then join together with community members from across the Berkshires for holiday festivities. Federation celebrants can buy discounted tickets and choose from one of three reserved time slots available to tour the grounds.

After viewing the displays, we will meet at the mansion's forecourt to kindle menorah lights marking the first night of Chanukah and celebrate with holiday

**NIGHTWOOD,**  
continued on page 4

## Dispel the Darkness – Shine a Light on Antisemitism

*Federation joins a national campaign to raise awareness*

Drawing inspiration from the story of Chanukah, the Shine A Light initiative is fueled by an unprecedented coalition of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations from across the United States and Canada who have joined together to speak up about antisemitism and send a message that... ONE SINGLE LIGHT CAN DISPEL DARKNESS.

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has joined this effort and invites everyone in this community to participate. We will mark Chanukah through the month of December by posting social media updates, videos, articles, eblasts, and other resources. We hope to see you at NightWood at The Mount on December 18 for Federation's Community Chanukah Celebration, where we will share the



light together. Federation will also host an online program on Thursday, January 26, with scholar Dr. Charles Asher Small, who will discuss antisemitism in American institutions and entertainment.

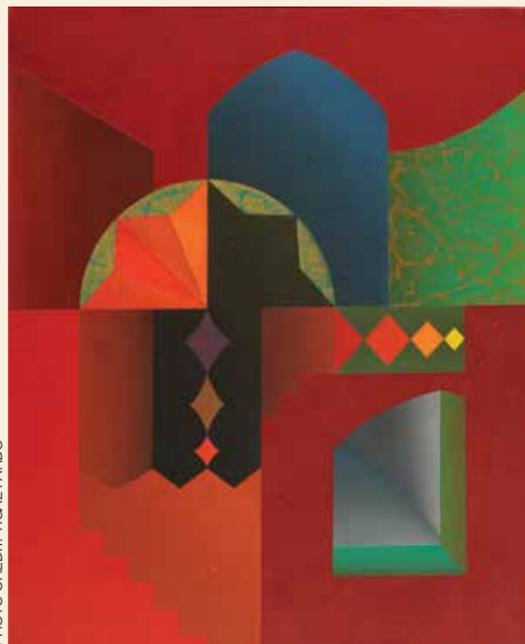
Check out the insert in this paper for details on ways you can help shine a light on antisemitism.

Antisemitism affects us all:

- One in every four American Jews has been targeted by antisemitism over the past year, and nearly four in ten report changing their behavior for fear of being identified as Jewish, or for their safety or comfort as Jews.
- In 2020, according to the FBI, 55% of all religiously-motivated

**SHINE A LIGHT,**  
continued on page 5

## Open the Mind, Open Hearts and Perspectives



The Berkshires connect to Israel's Afula/Gilboa region through Federation's projects with the Mishkan Museum of Art in Kibbutz Ein Harod

"Spirit of Man, Spirit of Place: Artists of the Abu-Shakra Family at Ein Harod" is a large-scale retrospective exhibition at the Mishkan Museum of Art in Kibbutz Ein Harod, Israel, that presents the rich bodies of work of five artists of the same family. Shown here is "Composition," a 1972

acrylic on canvas work by Walid Abu-Shakra. The exhibit is a collaboration between the Umm el-Fahem Art Gallery of Arab and Palestinian art, and the Mishkan, one of the Afula/Gilboa region institutions connected through Federation's participation in the Partnership2Gether program with other New England federations. For more on the Mishkan/Berkshires relationship and how to get involved, please turn to page 23 – and be sure to check out the Shine a Light menorah art project insert in this paper.



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## We are almost there, but we need your help!

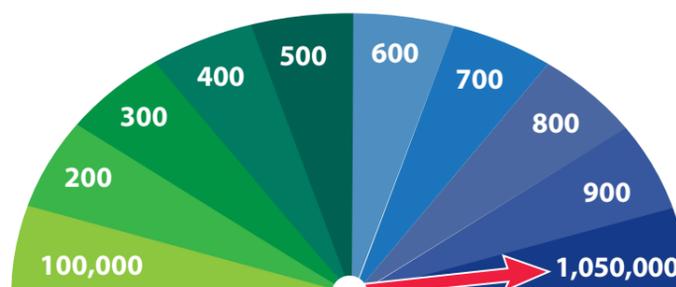
If you have not yet made your gift to the 2022 Annual Campaign there is still time to do so.

Your gift will help us engage the next generation, support the elderly and vulnerable, and sustain Jewish life all year round.

**Donate online at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org)**

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

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**OP-ED**

**RABBI REFLECTION**

# Rededicating Our Community, Our Homes, and Ourselves this Chanukah



By Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch

In just a few weeks, we will celebrate Chanukah in our congregations and our homes. It is a joyous holiday for so many - a time for gathering with family and friends, for bringing warmth and light to our winter season. Perhaps it's a favorite latke recipe, a menorah passed down from generation to generation, or a family dreidel game-night tradition that makes this holiday special for you.

Chanukah literally means 'dedication' or 'inauguration' and is often understood as 'rededication,' recalling the story and lore around the return to the holy Temple in Jerusalem. I have always connected

with that idea of rededication. This Chanukah, I invite us to consider how we can practice rededication - for our communities, our homes, and ourselves.

This year, at my synagogue, Temple Anshe Amunim, we are rededicating ourselves to communal gathering in earnest, after so many compromises and less-

*While virtual options enable us to remain in touch and keep our traditions alive, in-person celebrations create those lasting moments of connection and joy. This Chanukah, this year, let us rededicate ourselves to our Jewish communities*

than-ideal alternatives during the course of the COVID pandemic. Each community is on its own path and journey regarding health and safety; all of us are able to gather more fully this year than in recent years past. Chanukah will truly be a rededication for so many in the Berkshires and beyond, as we reconnect with our communities. I hope many of you will spend Chanukah in person in some way with a Jewish community this year - lighting the menorah, sharing a meal, singing and being together. We delight in our return to community engagement and involvement. While virtual options enable us to remain in touch and keep our traditions alive, in-person celebrations create those lasting moments of connection and joy. This Chanukah, this year, let us rededicate ourselves to our Jewish communities.

This winter, I will have the opportunity to officiate at an especially sweet ritual for members of my community - a *chanukat habayit*, the dedication of a new house. We will hang a mezuzah on the doorposts, embracing the commandments and blessing contained within its scroll, signifying that this is a Jewish home. For so many of us, our homes took on a new level of sanctity during the pandemic. We made our homes our own *mikdash me'at* - a small kind of synagogue or sanctuary. We observed holidays at home, either with immediate family, a small group of friends, or by tuning in our television sets and computer screens to services near and far. Each week on Friday nights, as we reach *L'cha Dodi*, the prayer in which we invite in the Sabbath bride, I acknowledge that we welcome the presence of Shabbat into our Temple's sanctuary, but also, for all those joining our services virtually, into each of our homes. While we rejoice in gathering together in our communal spaces, we have also elevated the sacred activities of our homes, perhaps connecting with the practice of lighting Shabbat candles each week, making challah, or cooking an elaborate Chanukah dinner. Judaism lives both in our synagogues and in our homes. This Chanukah, this year, let us rededicate ourselves to our Jewish home practices and rituals.

It is only natural for our minds to turn toward the close of the year 2022, as our lives integrate both the Jewish and secular calendars. Looking toward 2023 and a new year, many of us make resolutions and commitments. We set goals and wishes, hopes and dreams. Many of these are personal practices we would like to take on - getting in a walk every day, even in the winter; reading a certain number of books; making progress in our personal or professional lives. Looking toward a new year, may we rededicate ourselves to personal exploration and spiritual growth, toward a year of health and happiness, loving homes, and vibrant communities.

Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch is the spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield.

**Letters to the Editor**

## Thank You Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

We wanted to share with the entire community some of the appreciation expressed by recipients of Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires grants, which totaled \$64,000 in 2022.

"This grant is arriving just in time to be factored into our plans to upgrade our facilities for our clients and our many volunteers. We could not do this without community supporters like you." - Nancy Cook, South Community Food Pantry

"Your generosity helps us further our mission to connect young people with their community and the great outdoors in hands-on, meaningful ways." - Will Conklin, Executive Director, Greenagers

"...thank you for your contribution and support. Your donations are vital to our ongoing impact on food insecurity in our community." - Morgan Ovitsky, Executive Director, Berkshire Bounty

"This grant will help participants make strides toward financial independence and self-sufficiency and position themselves and their children for a better future. We couldn't do it without you and we are full of gratitude for your generosity." - Sarah Cook, President and CEO, 18 Degrees

For more information on JWF grants go to JWFB.org.

With best wishes and gratitude,  
Esther Messing and Arlene D. Schiff  
Chair & Vice Chair, JWF Grants Committee

## Yasher Koach to Those Sharing Shabbat in the Jewish Berkshires

From Federation board member Stuart Masters:

Here is a photo from Kimball Farms in Lenox, where my wife, Ellen, and I celebrated Shabbat with some of the residents. Front row on the left is Lillian Bender (a brand-new resident that day, with her son Shaun in the background); Shirley Rubenstein, Margo Yondorf; Iris Krieger, Audrey Salzman, and my wife, Ellen Masters. Carol Walker is in the back, next to Shaun Bender.



It was a wonderful way to welcome Shabbat!

Wishing you Peace and Light at Chanukah and throughout the year.

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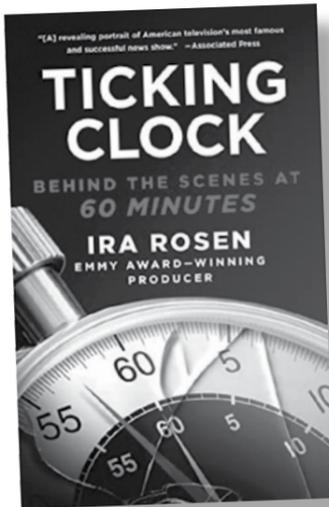
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## Your Federation Presents

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



On Thursday, December 8 at 6:45 p.m., "Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council" welcomes two-time Peabody Award-winning writer and producer Ira Rosen, who will reveal the intimate, untold stories of his decades at America's most iconic news show. His book *Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60*

*Minutes*, is a *60 Minutes* story on *60 Minutes* itself – a wild ride through the world of network news from the late 1970s to the present day.

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.

For the BJV Interview with Ira Rosen, please turn to page 21.

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 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.

#### About Ira Rosen

For nearly 25 years, Ira Rosen has produced some of the most important, memorable, and groundbreaking stories for *60 Minutes*. He has won every major award in broadcast journalism, including 24 national Emmy Awards, placing him in the top ten all-time news Emmy winners in broadcast history. His report on who is responsible for the opioid epidemic won more awards for *60 Minutes* than any segment in the show's 52-year history. A former Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, Rosen was the senior producer and one of the creators of *Prime Time Live* at ABC, a show hosted by Diane Sawyer and Sam Donaldson.

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

On Thursday, December 15 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 at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.

Yiddish novels written by women have remained largely unknown because they were never translated into English or never published as books. Unlike works translated from the language by such male writers such as Sholom Aleichem, Isaac Bashevis Singer, and Chaim Grade, Yiddish fiction by women was long dismissed by publishers as insignificant or unmarketable to a larger audience. But in the past several years, there has been a surge of translations of female writers by Yiddish scholars devoted to keeping the literature alive.

Dr. Norich has discovered works of women writers by scrolling through microfilms of long-extinct Yiddish newspapers and periodicals that serialized novels and other painstaking research. Until Norich began translating and publishing these novels and stories, there had been only one book of Yiddish fiction by a female writer translated into English. Learn with Dr. Norich about this amazing "literature that has been hiding in plain sight, but we all assumed wasn't there."



Anita Norich

**Anita Norich** is Collegiate Professor Emerita of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. She is the translator of *Two Feelings* by Tsilye Dropkin (forthcoming, 2023); *Fear and Other Stories* by Chana Blankshteyn (2022); and *A Jewish Refugee in New York* by Kadya Molodovsky (2019). She is also the author of *Writing in Tongues: Yiddish Translation in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*; *Discovering Exile: Yiddish and Jewish American Literature in America During the Holocaust*; *The Homeless Imagination in the Fiction of Israel Joshua Singer*.

She translates Yiddish literature and lectures and publishes on a range of topics concerning modern Jewish cultures, Yiddish language and literature, Jewish American literature, and Holocaust literature.

### The Art of Chanukah

On Monday, December 19 at 6:45 p.m., Nancy Kotz will explore an overview of artworks related to the miracle of the oil and the re-dedication of the Holy Temple.

"The Art of Chanukah" tells the story of this holiday through art objects from many centuries. You'll see illuminated manuscripts, etchings, woodcuts, photographs, paintings, and Chanukah lamps of marble, brass, silver, stone, iron, and glass. As Kotz reminds us: "Chanukah is both the 'Holiday of Freedom' and the 'Holiday of Lights.'"

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.

**Nancy Kotz** holds a B.A. (Skidmore College, 1984) in Art History and Business, as well as a Certificate in Nonprofit Management (Georgetown University, 2011).

Professionally, Nancy began her career in arts and public policy (Congressional Arts Caucus) before transitioning to the museum world (Smithsonian Institution and National Gallery of Art) where she held positions in museum education and museum retail. Nancy is also the founder and content curator for VisualArtsDC, a social media-based community with over 1300 followers focused on the visual arts in the metropolitan Washington, DC region.



"Chanukah is both the 'Holiday of Freedom' and the 'Holiday of Lights'"

Since 2015 she has been presenting programs in person and virtually to audiences across the country for Jewish Art Education (JAE).

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

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# Your Federation Presents

## Contemporary Jew Hatred in Universities and Popular Culture in America



Dr. Charles Asher Small

On Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 6:45 p.m., respected scholar, author, and speaker Dr. Charles Asher Small will explore issues of contemporary Jew hatred in the United States, including antisemitism in American universities, popular culture, and hip hop.

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.

Dr. Small is the Founder and Executive Director of International Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) and the Director of the Fellowship Training Programme on Critical Antisemitism Studies at Woolf Institute, Cambridge.

Through ISGAP, he has convened groundbreaking academic seminar series, conferences and programming in the emerging field of contemporary antisemitism studies at Harvard University, Yale University, Columbia University, Stanford University, Fordham University, McGill University, University of Miami, La Sapienza University in Rome, the Sorbonne in Paris, the National University of Kyiv, the CNRS (the French National Center for Scientific Research or Centre national de la recherche scientifique), and other top-tier universities around the world.

**Dr. Small is committed to creating scholarly programming and research on contemporary antisemitism at top tier universities internationally, and establishing contemporary antisemitism studies as a recognized academic discipline.**

*He is the author of books and articles including the six-volume Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity and The Yale Papers: Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective (vols. 1-3).*

## From Shtetl to Ellis Island: One Woman's Story

On Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:45 p.m., join Leah Kaplan as she traces the journey of one Jewish immigrant, her maternal grandmother, from her shtetl in Belarus to her arrival on Ellis Island. Kaplan will unpack the larger context of their journey talking about the general movement of Jewish immigrants to this country. If you had family emigrate from Europe, you will certainly be interested



This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.

Leah Kaplan will create a picture of what the turn-of-the-20th-century voyage was like with details about the immigration process, the prevalent conditions, and the rules imposed on immigrants who had little money to travel. Following her extensive study at five major research institutions, including the Red Star Line Museum of Immigration in Antwerp, Kaplan will relate stories of these immigrants and share some surprising facts.

Writes Kaplan: "You probably know that your ancestors left the Old Country to seek a better life in America. Have you ever wondered how they traveled as much as a thousand miles overland to reach an Atlantic port of debarkation? What were the tests they had to endure at the port before even boarding a steam ship to America? What was it like to sail steerage class at the turn of the 20th Century? What further tests awaited them after they arrived at Ellis Island? Join me to learn the answers to these questions and learn about one emigrant who stands for so many."

**Leah Kaplan** is a retired physical therapist. She has a B.S. degree from the University of Michigan.

### NIGHTWOOD, continued from page 1

songs, glow fun, chocolate gelt, and hot drinks. There will be fire pits and heaters to keep everyone toasty – be sure to arrive dressed for the weather, as all activities will be outdoors.

Members of the Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective – Jonathan Denmark, Noah Cook-Dubin, Matt Mozian, and Colin Ovitsky – will be on hand to help kindle the lights of the menorah and lead us in a festive Chanukah singalong.

This special event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, PJ Library, and The Mount. The Mount is at 2 Plunkett Street in Lenox.

#### Tickets

Federation group tickets, available for tours in three time slots, are \$10 for adults and free for children and youths 18 and under. Tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register, visit [tinyurl.com/JewFedChanukah](http://tinyurl.com/JewFedChanukah). Please note, tickets are only available at this URL, and not via Federation's website or office.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED along with proof of full COVID vaccination.

Tours are self-guided and traverse approximately a ¾ mile route through woods and gardens. Pathways are through paved and unpaved areas and may be uneven.

#### About NightWood

NightWood combines music, lighting, and theatrical elements to create eight unique scenes that evoke feelings of wonder, mystery, and magic. It was conceived by Chris Bocchiaro of Clerestory Light, in partnership

with scenic designer Megan Kinneen and sound designer and composer Greg Hanson.

This is the third year of NightWood, a winter landscape inspired by The Mount's unique architecture and history. Building upon last year's captivating scenes, Bocchiaro has expanded the experience with revised soundscapes and three new installations: The Pool, The Glass Garden, and The Heart of the Forest.

NightWood will be on view through January 1. Visit [edithwharton.org/calendar/nightwood/](http://edithwharton.org/calendar/nightwood/) for information.

## Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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## Your Federation Presents

### True Colors: Stories from Jews of Color Exploring Identity and Community

On Thursday, January 23, 2023 at 6:45 p.m., get to know The Braid, a theater company offering diverse array of stories about Jewish identity. They will present "True Colors: Stories from Jews of Color Exploring Identity and Community," humorous, revealing, and inspiring stories about being a Jew in modern times. A moderated Q&A by DEI Consultant and actor/writer, Joshua Silverstein, will follow.

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.

True Colors, a salon theatre show in which Jews of Color share true stories about their yearning for belonging and the rich and complicated question that is identity. While all people face challenges and struggles, Jews of Color have many touching and unique stories to tell about resilience, self-respect, and celebrating the many colors and voices in our community.

The stories in True Colors, ostensibly about Jews who feel "different," actually remind us how very much alike we are. Audiences will meet unforgettable characters who tell personal stories about how they see themselves and how others see them. From The Braid: "Ironically, while many American Jews can reach consensus about a commitment to social justice for others, they do not always embrace diversity in their own community. The enlightening show will explore the impact of living as Jews of Color when inclusion and equity are not always practiced in the Jewish community."

"We are proud to spotlight the experiences of Jews of Color," said Ronda Spinak, The Braid's artistic director. "These are poignant and moving stories of questioning,

of feeling like the outsider, of committing to Judaism... quintessential and universal Jewish stories!"

In True Colors, audiences will hear the story of Rabbi Rachel Buchdahl, daughter of a Jewish mother and a Black/Chinese father, and how she was taught to embrace her diversity and have confidence that the world would embrace it, as well. You will hear about a woman torn between her Jewish heritage and her Latin one, struggling to find her place in either culture. And you will learn of an African American man whose Jewishness confuses himself and others.

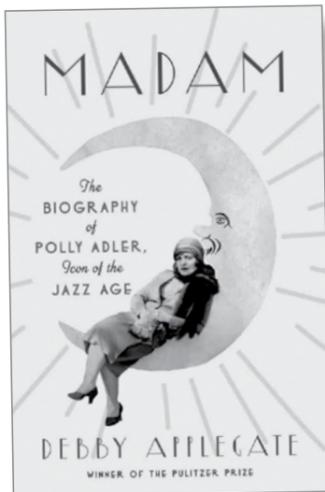
True Colors was created and produced by The Braid (formerly Jewish Women's Theatre) as part of its Salon Theatre season in May 2019 with material curated and adapted by Ronda Spinak, directed by Susan Morgenstern and co-produced by Eric Greene. For more information, visit [the-braid.org](http://the-braid.org).



### Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age, with Debby Applegate

On Thursday, January 12 at 6:45 p.m., join a conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Debby Applegate about her new biography that tells the rollicking story of Polly Adler, Manhattan's most notorious madam, whose decadent parties made the Jazz Age roar. The New York Times Book Review praised *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age* as a "fast-paced" tale of radical transformation" and "a breathless tale told through extraordinary research."

This free program is part of "Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council." It will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to our programs.



*Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age* is a colorful and unusual history of Jewish life told through the perspective of a "good Jewish girl" from a Russian shtetl who immigrated to Brooklyn and rose to become "the Female Al Capone" and one of the most renowned Jewish American women in the 20th century. Polly "Pearl" Adler (1900-1962) was a diminutive dynamo whose Manhattan brothels were more than oases of illicit sex, where men paid top-dollar for the company of her girls; they were also swinging salons where the culturati and high society partied with the elite of showbiz, politics and organized crime.

Writes Applegate: "No one would've guessed that Pearl would become 'the First Lady of the Underworld' when she arrived in America as a 13-year old Russian Jewish immigrant. But Polly's life became a topsy-turvy Horatio Alger tale—a childhood that could be a story by Isaac Bashevis Singer, a wild ghetto adolescence out of a Henry Roth novel, blossoming into a glittering epic of parties and power worthy of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Then Polly wrote her own ending, penning a memoir that shocked the squares of the 1950s and sold over two million copies."

Adler's brothels were underworld salons that catered to everyone from the Vanderbilts and the Rockefellers to Walter Winchell, Frank Sinatra, Desi Arnaz, the Algonquin Roundtable, Dutch Schultz, Meyer Lansky, and, it was rumored, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Applegate immerses the reader in Polly's world and uses her rip-roaring life to unpack what made this era so corrupt, so glamorous and so transformational, showing how this riotous collision of high and low gave birth to modern American culture.

**Debby Applegate** is a historian and obsessive reader whose first book, *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*, won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2007 and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Book Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for biography. It was named one of the best books of the year by the New York Times Book Review, NPR's Fresh Air, The Washington Post, Seattle Times, Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, and American Heritage Magazine.

With her second book, *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age*, she plunged from the world of virtue to the underbelly of vice. It took 13 years of immersion in the archives to research and write and – to give fair warning to all readers – is much racier than the first.

Born and raised to be a proud Oregonian, Debby moved back east to attend Amherst College, where she met her husband, the management writer and consultant (and Pittsfield native) Bruce Tulgan. She was a Sterling Fellow in American Studies at Yale University, where she earned her Ph.D., and now lives in New Haven, Connecticut where she continues to haunt the stacks of the Yale Library.

Debby is also the author of numerous book chapters and articles and has written for the New York Times and Wall Street Journal among other publications. She has taught at Yale University, Wesleyan University, and Marymount College; served on the boards of organizations including the Yale Summer Cabaret, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, and the New Haven Review, and is the chair of Biographers International Advisory Council.

### SHINE A LIGHT, continued from page 1

hate crimes were against Jews, who make up only 2% of the U.S. population.

- Antisemitism persists across society in "polite" conversation as well as in explicitly dangerous and insidious forms, and typically tracks with broader patterns of discrimination, progressions of violence, and the fraying of democracy.

At ShineALightOn.com, you'll find a wealth of resources, including a workplace guide, links to lectures and workshops, a downloadable FAQ about antisemitism, and other timely and compelling ways to get involved.

Visit the ShineALightOn.com webpage and social media outlets Instagram and Twitter to see how other communities are creatively combating antisemitism this Chanukah. Shine A Light encourages Jews and allies to speak up and send a message that antisemitism, in all its modern forms, won't be tolerated in our communities.

You can now read and share *Berkshire Jewish Voice* feature stories online! Visit [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) and select **Community & Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice** for links to highlights of current and past issues.



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## Your Federation Presents

### ne Story

## ORT Rescue Mission Evacuates Families from Zaporizhzhia and Odesa, Secures Safe Accommodation in Western Ukraine

Unlike many other federations, we keep most of the funds donated to our annual campaign right here in the Berkshires. But when unforeseen crises affect the Jewish world beyond the Berkshires, the funds we raise can be used by our partners such as World ORT, a global education network driven by Jewish values. This year, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires provided a \$10,000 allocation to World ORT in support of their work in the Former Soviet Union.



As attacks across Ukraine continue, ORT launched an ambitious mission to evacuate students, teachers and their families from some of the worst-affected areas.

To date, 153 people have been successfully relocated from Zaporizhzhia and Odesa, both home to ORT Schools, to new accommodation in western Ukraine – and it is thanks to the ongoing support of our donors worldwide that this vital assistance has been provided.

Mila Finkelshtein, ORT Ukraine Chief Executive, said: “The evacuations were very difficult as in addition to students and teachers, family members evacuated included elderly grandparents and babies. The trip from Zaporizhzhia took almost 20 hours by bus. We have given people the chance to sleep at night, to study, to work.”

Zaporizhzhia is less than 15 kilometers from the front line. Similarly in Odesa, students and their families are in constant danger. While many thousands of ORT students left their home cities in the past eight months, many remain and are seeking shelter.

Under the guidance of ORT leaders in Ukraine, suitable accommodations have been secured in a hotel in Truskavets, a town close to Lviv and the Polish border.

The hotel provides security and comes with guaranteed heating – a critical commodity now as winter approaches. Children are able to study at the accommodation and parents can work remotely if their jobs allow. It is expected that the group – around 90 percent of whom are from Zaporizhzhia - will remain there until the end of the year. Other families had hoped to escape but

were unable to leave because some of the students’ parents are doctors and must stay to help. Around a dozen more refugees plan to move to Truskavets shortly.

Daria travelled to Truskavets from Odesa with her baby and her son, a sixth grade ORT student. She said: “The situation in our city has started to worsen. The bombings became more frequent. My husband has lost his job and I am on maternity leave, so we agreed to evacuate and now we are here.

“We had a very warm welcome. The children have amazing conditions to study here. Parents were also provided with all the necessities for a peaceful life – we have meals and live in very good conditions. It is warm in the rooms – we have everything we need. We are very happy to be here and thank everyone who contributed to this effort and helped us.”

One mother from Zaporizhzhia said: “We are endlessly grateful for this evacuation, for allowing the children to sleep peacefully, to smile, to run around. Now, in Truskavets, children can continue their studies. We are very thankful and very happy for this opportunity.”

ORT continues to cover a range of needs including security, food, and accommodation requirements.

With missile attacks intensifying in recent weeks, educational institutions across Ukraine have been forced to either close or switch to online learning. Most ORT schools in the country are currently studying remotely.

## Jewish Federations Allocate \$7 Million to Support JDC’s Humanitarian Efforts in Ukraine, Russian ‘Aliyah’

### *An additional allocation was also made by our Federation to this winter relief/survival program*

(JNS) Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) in November announced a new allocation of \$7 million that will contribute to aid for Ukraine in response to widespread power outages as well as in anticipation of a worsening humanitarian crisis in the war-torn country this winter.

JFNA’s allocation will help fund the relief efforts of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which said its staff and volunteers would initially provide “essential, life-saving support” to over 22,000 Ukrainian Jews.

In addition, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires allocated \$20,000 to JDC in winter emergency funding for Ukraine. Last winter, this community raised more than \$100,000 directed to crisis relief in Ukraine.

JDC is providing Ukrainian Jews with supplies including portable heaters and cooking stoves, sleeping bags that can withstand subzero temperatures, rechargeable flashlights and nonperishable foods for the first time, adding to its usual winter-time distributions of warm blankets and fleece-lined clothing, wood and coal, and subsidies for higher utility bills.

“As a new stage in the Ukraine crisis has begun, we have moved from a program of winter relief to winter survival. Among the tens of thousands of Jews we care for in Ukraine, we are seeing a drastic uptick in needs, from sources of sustainable warmth to covering the costs of living every day,” JDC CEO Ariel Zwang said in a statement. “Our staff and volunteers have not stopped our life-saving services within Ukraine, along with those for refugees in Europe, and will continue to ensure that Jews and Jewish communities have the supplies they need to survive the coming months.”

Eric Fingerhut, JFNA’s president & CEO, stated, “The winter forecast in Ukraine is extremely concerning, with the potential for an even graver humanitarian crisis, and our latest allocation reflects our attention to the evolving needs on the ground and our ongoing commitment to provide relief where it is most needed. The North American Jewish community continues to respond in tremendous ways to this crisis, and this collective response is a reflection of our Jewish values that dictate the utmost importance of charity – *tzedakah*.”

The \$7 million JFNA allocation will also help subsidize the costs of Aliyah (immigration to Israel) from Russia.

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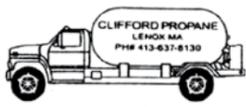
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# Your Federation Presents

## Local Leaders Represent Jewish Federation of the Berkshires at JFNA General Assembly



Executive Director Dara Kaufman and executive board member (and Congregation Beth Israel's president) Natalie Matus at the GA

CHICAGO – Leaders from our Federation joined over 1,200 Jewish communal leaders in Chicago at Jewish Federations' three-day General Assembly in November, where they set the shared Jewish communal agenda for the year ahead and heard from a diverse array of voices on critical issues facing the North American Jewish community. First held 90 years ago, The General Assembly is the most consequential gathering of the leadership of the North American Jewish community, and brings

together Jewish leaders of diverse backgrounds in a space that fosters productive dialogue and debate.

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires sent Executive Director Dara Kaufman and executive board member (and Congregation Beth Israel's president) Natalie Matus to the confab. They will report back on their experiences and impressions in the next Berkshire Jewish Voice.

This year's General Assembly focused on responses to the geopolitical challenges and global events impacting the Jewish community, and challenges and opportunities towards building flourishing Jewish communities. Topics that were discussed include the urgency of Jewish communal security, Jewish Federations' response to the Ukraine crisis and the uncertainties that lie ahead for Jews in Ukraine and Russia, and new initiatives and partnerships to combat the rise in antisemitism.

Global figures, activists, public officials and communal leaders addressed the audience. Noteworthy names include President of Israel Isaac Herzog, U.S. Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Herzog, journalist and news anchor Andrea Mitchell, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Ambassador Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, philosopher and author and filmmaker Bernard Henry Levy, among many others.

The agenda also included a special reception to mark the 60th anniversary of National Young Leadership Cabinet and the 50th anniversary of Lions of Judah, which represent models of leadership for the Jewish world.

During the opening plenary of The General Assembly, Jewish Federations of North America Board Chair Julie Platt announced that since the launch of LiveSecure last year, the number of Jewish communities in North America that have security programs has increased by 42 percent. LiveSecure is a \$130 million investment in Jewish communal security that aims to protect every single Jewish community in the U.S. and Canada through a grant issued by Jewish Federations of North America, with matching funds raised by the local Federation.

Also announced at The General Assembly is an agreement made between the leadership of major Jewish organizations and financial ratings powerhouse Morningstar on a new set of commitments regarding anti-Israel bias in its ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) ratings. The agreement follows months of deliberations between the parties.

"We are living in complex times when antisemitic incidents are increasing at an alarming rate, anti-Israel rhetoric is rampant, millions of people are displaced by war and our communities are overwhelmed by a mental health crisis," said Julie Platt. "These extreme challenges we face require bold solutions and broad collaborations, so that we can effectively strengthen our communities and ensure that they are safe, compassionate, inclusive and vibrant. The General Assembly is a unique opportunity that comes around once-per-year for our communal leaders to come together to tackle these complex challenges, discuss practical steps towards building flourishing Jewish communities and return to our communities invigorated to implement these strategies."



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## LOCAL NEWS

## Celebrate the Festival of Lights with Hevreh!

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts a panoply of Chanukah-themed events this Kislev, with fun events planned for celebrants of all ages.

### Tot Shabbat: Chanukah Style!

On Saturday, December 17 at 9 a.m., join Hevreh for a special Chanukah-themed Tot Shabbat celebration! Sing and dance, and enjoy a special Chanukah activity before concluding with blessings and a Shabbat snack.

### Yachad Chanukah

On Sunday, December 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., families with school aged children are invited to get into the Chanukah spirit with a special family celebration. The day begins with "Boker Tov, Hevreh: Chanukah Edition," and continues with the annual Holiday Gift Wrap in partnership with Volunteers In Medicine.

The celebration concludes with a Chanukah party complete with DJ, party games, dreidels, and holiday treats. Each family is encouraged to bring at least one of the following items to donate for the Holiday Gift Wrap: new/unwrapped soccer or basketballs, art supplies, Legos or other building toys, children's books, or warm winter wear for adults.

This program is generously underwritten by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

### Latke Cooking Party

On Tuesday, December 20, 10 a.m. until it's done! The congregation brings back a beloved Hevreh Chanukah tradition – join other volunteers for a festive cooking party in the Hevreh kitchen frying up enough latkes for the Chanukah Shabbat celebration later in the week. Be in touch with Suzanne Sawyer to RSVP or with questions.

### Menorah Lighting and Soufganyot

On Wednesday, December 21 at 5:30 p.m., the whole community is invited to join Hevreh's Hebrew Skills students and families for a Chanukah candle lighting, and special soufganyot treat to light up the 4th night of Chanukah!

### Shabbat Chanukah: Service + Dinner

On Friday, December 23 at 6 p.m., light up the night with the rabbis, artist-in-residence Peri Smilow, and the Hevreh House Band! Welcome Shabbat and the 6th night of Chanukah together with a festive musical service, followed by a Chanukah potluck and latkes.

## Hevreh Resumes Community Shabbat Dinners

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is thrilled to

resume its monthly Community Shabbat program, which is free and open to the public.

The regular service and dinner events for the community were stopped when the pandemic hit the Berkshires in March 2020.

Upcoming dinners are planned for December 9, 2022 and January 13, 2023.

Community Shabbat is a collaborative project at Hevreh to bring an intentionally intergenerational community together around the Shabbat dinner table. Each of the Community Shabbat events will be hosted and led by Hevreh's rabbis – Rabbi Neil Hirsch and Rabbi Jodie Gordon – and a group of Religious School students, teachers, and families.

Following a service with participation from the students, the entire community will share a festive Shabbat dinner complete with blessings and Shabbat table singing.

To ensure no one leaves hungry, Hevreh is requesting that you RSVP to [info@hevreh.org](mailto:info@hevreh.org) to indicate how many people will be attending.

The Community Shabbat dinners are generously supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation ReKindle Shabbat Grant.

For more information visit [hevreh.org](http://hevreh.org) or call the office at (413) 528-6378.

## Chanukah and Shabbat with Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – As temperatures grow chilly, Temple Anshe Amunim continues to offer different opportunities to celebrate Shabbat.

### TAA Young Families Shabbat - Chanukah

On Friday, December 16 at 5 p.m., TAA invites young families to join together in welcoming Shabbat and celebrating Chanukah. Pizza will be served.

### Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

On Sunday, December 18 at 5 p.m., the congregation celebrates Chanukah with a communal dinner and candle lighting. For more information, please call (413) 442-5910.

### 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.

Temple Anshe Amunim is a Reform Jewish Congregation that promotes engaging and widespread 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](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org) or visit [www.ansheamunim.org](http://www.ansheamunim.org).

## Menorah Kindling with Chabad of the Berkshires

PITTSFIELD – Chabad of the Berkshires' family Chanukah celebration will take place on Sunday, December 25, at 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and Suites, One West Street in downtown Pittsfield. There will be a menorah kindling ceremony and live entertainment.

Community leaders will assist in kindling the giant "Menorah of Freedom." This free program, sponsored by Chabad of the Berkshires, Haddad Dealerships of the Berkshires, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, will be open to the public.

There will be a concert featuring Israeli sensation Yoel Sharabi, hot potato latkes, donuts, Chanukah gelt, a grand raffle, dreidels, and an awesome award-winning family entertainer that will amaze and mesmerize audiences of all ages with his magnificent Bubblemania show.

The evening will include a kosher Chinese dinner at the cost of \$36 per person

RSVP for dinner by December 19. There is no charge for the entertainment – only for the dinner. For more information and to RSVP, visit [jewishberkshires.com](http://jewishberkshires.com).

Chanukah, a celebration of freedom, is highlighted by the kindling of the menorah each night of the holiday. "It is a holiday that enriches our lives with the light of tradition," says Rabbi Levi Volovik, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires. "In ancient times, our ancestors rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem with the menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place."

"Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, brings back fond memories of childhood years and serves to renew a sense of identity," says Chabad's co-director, Sara Volovik. "The Chanukah lights provide warmth, joy, strength and inspiration. Such is the purpose of the community-wide celebrations."

## More Chanukah Fun with Chabad

This Chanukah, Chabad of the Berkshires hosts several holiday-themed events. All are welcome!

### Women's Celebration

PITTSFIELD – On Wednesday, December 21 at noon, Chabad hosts a Chanukah party for women only – "an afternoon that will feed the mind, body, and soul," says co-director Sara Volovik. "Enjoy a Chanukah gourmet luncheon with an assortment of latkes, salads, and delectable desserts while celebrating the ongoing Chanukah miracle!"

Suggested Donation: \$25

Please RSVP to Sara Volovik at (413) 499-9899 or [Saravolovik@gmail.com](mailto:Saravolovik@gmail.com).

com. Address and directions will be shared upon reservation.

### Libations and Menorah at the Apple Tree Inn

On Thursday, December 22 at 6 p.m., join Chabad for a Chanukah menorah lighting and cocktails at the Apple Tree Inn, 10 Richmond Mountain Road in Lenox, across the road from Tanglewood.

### Community Shabbat Dinner

On Friday, December 23, Chabad hosts its Community Chanukah Shabbat Dinner – please contact Sara Volovik at (413) 499-9899 or [Saravolovik@gmail.com](mailto:Saravolovik@gmail.com) for details.



## Jewish Museum Virtual Tour: "Chagall: Love, War and Exile"

On Wednesday, December 14 at 7 p.m., Congregation Ahavath Sholom is proud to announce a third virtual museum tour – "Chagall: Love, War, and Exile," with renowned lecturer Rena Tobey.

This 2014 groundbreaking and courageous exhibit tackled what is easily the most vexing subject in the career of the most beloved of Jewish artists, Marc Chagall (1887-1985), namely: his persistent, indeed obsessive, use of the crucifixion as a symbol of Jewish suffering and persecution. The exhibit traces Chagall's lifelong fascination with the emblem of Christianity, especially in his work created during the Holocaust.

The voice of the artist rings loud and clear as he links his controversial images to specific events: Berlin anti-Semitic riots (1930), Hitler's takeover (1933), deportation of Polish Jews (October, 1938), Kristallnacht (November 1938), massacre of the Vitebsk Jews (1941), among many other Holocaust horrors. Seen here, his work using the crucifixion dates from the early masterpiece, "Calvary" (1912, Museum of Modern Art), to late in his career, "In Front of the Picture" (1971, Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul de Vence, France). Questions immediately arise: why did Chagall use this potentially painful symbol of the Jews' persecutors to symbolize Jewish suffering itself?

Cost: Congregation members \$20; non-members \$25. Information and registration: [ahavathsholom.com](http://ahavathsholom.com).

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## LOCAL NEWS

## Knesset Israel's Families Together Presents 'It's A Wrap: Caring for Our Neighbors'

**A program including brunch, an art project, tzedakah, and parents' discussion group.**

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, December 11 from 10 a.m. to noon, join Knesset Israel's Families Together for 'It's A Wrap: Caring For Our Neighbors.'

The organizers write:

It's become a tradition over the years for Knesset Israel members to collect and purchase gifts for our Adopt-a-Family (a program run by the Department of Children and Families). On December 11, K.I. Families Together will gather for a brunch and a variety of activities, including a holiday story, craft projects to make

decorations for the family that KI adopts, and wrapping the gifts we've gathered.

While the kids are busy with wrapping and decorating, the parents will have a group discussion led by Rabbi David Weiner, where we'll learn about the work of The Department of Children and Families in the Berkshires from Susan Staskin, and discuss how to incorporate mitzvot related to caring for others into family life.

Brunch will be served. Please RSVP at [knessetisrael.org/rsvp](http://knessetisrael.org/rsvp). The more the merrier! Invite friends!

## Keep Growing This Winter – Adult Education at Knesset Israel

PITTSFIELD – The flowers and black bears may go dormant over the winter, but the thirst for knowledge and inspiration does not.

In December and January, Knesset Israel continues to offer adult education opportunities around a variety of themes. From the afterlife and healing, to criminal justice and Hebrew, there's no shortage of chances to come together to learn and grow.

**Monday Afternoon Classes with Rabbi Pam Wax:** After facilitating a course on Psalmistry this fall, Rabbi Pam Wax is back with two fantastic courses to start the winter season:

*Does the Soul Survive: Jewish Views of the Afterlife, Angelology and the Angel of Death:* There is a rich abundance of belief and speculation about the afterlife in Jewish tradition. Join us to explore what our Jewish sources – the Bible, liturgy, folklore, and rabbinic sources – have to teach about this fascinating topic – some of it quite humorous! Four Mondays, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., December 5, 12, and 19, 2022 and January 2, 2023. This hybrid class may be attended in-person or online. Please RSVP at [www.knessetisrael.org/rsvp](http://www.knessetisrael.org/rsvp)

*Rabbinic Stories of Healing and Forgiveness:* The Talmud contains some fascinating stories of rabbinic self-reflection and, even at times, of self-criticism. The class will take a look at some of these Talmudic stories, as well as some Hasidic ones, on themes of healing and forgiveness. Three Mondays, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., January 9, 23, and 30. This hybrid class may be attended in-person or online. Please RSVP at [www.knessetisrael.org/rsvp](http://www.knessetisrael.org/rsvp)

**Hebrew Classes with Rabbi David Weiner:** This ongoing class blends Hebrew reading practice, vocabulary,

grammar, and deeper discussions of content with the aim of helping participants grow in their understanding of the siddur. It's intended for those who already read Hebrew but are looking for greater understanding of the language and the prayer book. Tuesdays, usually 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., but please check the calendar before attending. In-person only.

**Teshuva and Criminal Justice – A Course by Yitzhak Bronstein of Hadar, facilitated by Rabbi David Weiner:** What do Jewish sources say about starting anew after breaking the law, and how can that inform our understanding of modern-day criminal justice?

This course will do a deep dive into *teshuvah* (repentance) and the rehabilitation process after one has committed various types of offenses. Is it ever too late to turn over a new leaf, and what the consequences should be for a communal leader who speaks or acts inappropriately? For example, what should happen to a *shochet*, a community butcher, who fraudulently sold his customers non-kosher meat? What about a politician convicted of bribery who wants to return to public office? Should the damage to someone's reputation or employment ever be permanent? Via Jewish texts, explore complex real-life cases. In doing so, see firsthand how approaching these moral questions through a lens of Jewish tradition can offer unique insights.

The course meets on ten (almost) consecutive Thursday mornings, and participants may attend in-person or online ([bit.ly/thursdaymorningadulted](http://bit.ly/thursdaymorningadulted)). There are video lectures to watch between classes. New participants please contact the synagogue office to register – [office@knessetisrael.org](mailto:office@knessetisrael.org)

Thursday mornings, 10:45 a.m. to noon (hybrid in-person or online). First classes January 5 and 19, 2023.

## A Melodic and Delicious Start to Shabbat at Knesset Israel

PITTSFIELD – Sing in Shabbat at Knesset Israel!

**Shirei Shabbat with Community Dinner:** Friday, December 16, 2022 (Hannuka edition!) and January 20, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. The extended musical family of Knesset Israel relishes the privilege of coming together each month to lead an upbeat Friday night service, including contemporary songs alongside traditional Kabbalat Shabbat melodies. The *ruach* and community feeling at Shirei Shabbat services is irresistible, encouraging all to raise their voices in song and prayer.

The December 16 edition will feature favorite Hannuka songs to celebrate the season in addition to Kabbalat Shabbat.

Register in advance for the community dinner following the services:

[knessetisrael.org/rsvp](http://knessetisrael.org/rsvp). Dinner is \$20 for adults, free for <18.

**Musical Minyan:** Friday, January 13 and January 27, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. The Musical Minyan offers a truly unique Kabbalat Shabbat experience, with a small acoustic ensemble providing the backdrop for the Friday night service.

The music comes from Israel, Eastern Europe, the US, and South America, with 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 and spiritual Shabbat. But be forewarned: the samba-inspired "L'cha Dod" may get stuck in your head for the whole week!

## Young Family Programs at CBI – Chanukah Cookies and a Songfest Around the Bonfire

NORTH ADAMS – This is an exciting time for free family programming at Congregation Beth Israel. From a Chanukah cooking class to our annual bonfire and songfest, as well as fun family services, you are invited to participate and meet other young families.

**Make Chanukah cookies** with your children with professional baker Caleb Wolfson-Seeley on Sunday, December 11, at 1 p.m. "Cooking with Caleb – Let's Make Chanukah Cookies!" is one of our most popular family programs. Families will learn how to make cookies and be able to take them home to enjoy together. Last year there was an overflow crowd, so don't miss out! RSVP at [cbiberkshires.com](http://cbiberkshires.com) so there will be enough supplies for all to enjoy.

Don't miss **the annual community Chanukah Bonfire and Songfest**, Friday, December 18 at 5 p.m. Join celebrants around the bonfire in CBI's beautiful backyard at the foothills of Mount Greylock for singing, a dreidel spinning contest, hot apple cider, and homemade latkes and donuts. Bring your own camp chair / folding chair, and dress warmly! Rabbi Rachel Barenblat will lead the Chanukah songs with her guitar. All are welcome – families and adults of all ages – at the Chanukah bonfire and songfest! RSVP at [cbiberkshires.com](http://cbiberkshires.com).

**Families Celebrate Shabbat** on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., in a joyful, engaging and participatory family service led by Rabbi Jarah Greenfield. All are welcome, and there will be roles for children of all ages.

On Saturday, January 21 at 4 p.m., get out of the house and join Rabbi Rachel and teacher (and resident storyteller) Jane Shiyah in the CBI sanctuary for Havdalah & Storytime! You'll hear stories that uplift Jewish values with audience participation and laughter, and then ritually end Shabbat with song, grape juice and fragrant spices, and the shadows cast by a braided candle as darkness settles over the hills.

CBI family programs are free and open to all thanks to the generosity of CBI members and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

See all scheduled family programs at [cbiberkshires.com/upcoming-family-events/](http://cbiberkshires.com/upcoming-family-events/).

### Shabbat at CBI

Weekly Shabbat services continue, with Saturday morning services scheduled on December 10, 24, and 31, 2022 and January 7, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. On Friday evening, December 16 and January 20 at 7 p.m., join together for beautiful, musical Kabbalat Shabbat services led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat.

Please RSVP for all programs and events at [cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events/](http://cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events/). Masks are required when indoors.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Berkshire Jewish Voice welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. Letters are printed upon space availability. The BJV reserves the right to edit all letters for content, length, and style. The BJV does not print anonymous letters, insults, libelous or defamatory statements. Published letters do not represent the views of the Federation, its board of directors, or the newspaper, but rather express the views of their authors. For verification purposes, please include full name, home address, and a day and evening telephone number.

Send letters to: Berkshire Jewish Voice, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or email: [astern@jewishberkshires.org](mailto:astern@jewishberkshires.org).

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**The Harold Grinspoon Foundation's JCamp 180® to invest \$25 million in Jewish Camps**

**The Forward Together matching grant aims to strengthen foundational learning and cultural commitment for Jewish youth**

AGAWAM – JCamp 180, a core program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), will support more than 100 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps over the next five years with the \$25 million Forward Together matching grant. Forward Together will provide unrestricted support to the camps along with capital investments for the physical improvements that are necessary for camp success.

Harold Grinspoon, benefactor and co-founder of the HGF, believes camps are among the most important assets of the Jewish community, providing impactful experiences for Jewish young people to become enculturated in Jewish traditions, values and identity.

"I never was able to go to a Jewish camp, but I know they are crucial ways for young people to plant the roots of lifelong Jewish connections," says Grinspoon, who has invested more than \$55 million dollars in Jewish camps through JCamp 180 over the past 28 years. "I was overjoyed to have visited

multiple camps in person this past summer after two summers away due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I saw camps brimming with life, although continuing to struggle with significant mental health, staffing, and infrastructure challenges after the pandemic. The Forward Together grant renews my commitment to helping position Jewish non-profit overnight camps for long-term sustainability for generations."

Forward Together is a 1:3 matching grant where the HGF disburses \$1 for every \$3 the camp raises. Each camp will receive a base allocation of funds; if they raise four times the allocation within the grant period, the camp will receive a \$10,000 bonus

JCamp 180 Director Sarah Eisinger says the timing of the grant is critical as camps seek to build on past fundraising successes. "The Harold Grinspoon Foundation support for Jewish summer camp is enduring and we are proud to make this commitment over these next five years," says



Eisinger. "This support will give the camps the resources and tools to maintain and steward their current donors and attract new ones. We hope this match gives the camps the confidence to continue sharing the power of Jewish camp so they can be sustainable into the future."

**About JCamp 180**

JCamp 180 works with more than 100 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps and nearly 40 nonprofit Jewish day camps across North America, providing them with grants, consulting, training and resources, and providing their professional teams and lay leaders with professional development programs to build their organizational effectiveness. JCamp 180 believes that when Jewish camps are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources for long-term organizational excellence they will operate thriving camps that create lifelong Jewish connections.

**Virtual Symposium: Researching Jewish Roots in Bessarabia**

The Bessarabia Special Interest Group (Bessarabia SIG) and JewishGen invite all to participate in a Virtual Winter Symposium, a series of live online presentations to run from Tuesday, December 13 through Thursday, December 15, 2022.

"Sessions will explore historical experiences of our ancestors in Bessarabia," writes group leader and organizer Yefim Kogan of Lee, "as well as assist your family research and expand your understanding and appreciation of their culture."

Meet presenters from Canada, Germany, France, Brazil, Moldova, Ukraine, the United States, and

perhaps others. Presentations will delve into ideas and issues that are relevant not only to Bessarabia but also to other regions. Topics include:

- "Borderlands: Traces of Jewish Life in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova"
- "How to teach family history to children and grandchildren"
- "Even a single old photograph can be useful in telling a story"
- "From klezmer to maestro: Jewish musicians in the cultural life of Bessarabia and Moldova"
- "Rediscovered Rashkov: 300 years of Jewish History"

For a full schedule of the symposium, visit [jewishgen.org/bessarabia/TPL\\_Base.asp?id=30](http://jewishgen.org/bessarabia/TPL_Base.asp?id=30).

Yefim's last BJV article, "Why Are Jews from the Former Soviet Union Often Called Russians?"

appeared in July 2021. You can reach him at [yefimk@verizon.net](mailto:yefimk@verizon.net). For more information on the JewishGen Bessarabia group, visit [jewishgen.org/bessarabia/](http://jewishgen.org/bessarabia/).

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# Celebrate Chanukah at NightWood



**Chanukah at the Mount**  
**Sunday, December 18 from 6-8 pm**  
**The Mount, 2 Plunkett Street, Lenox, MA**

### Immerse Yourself in NightWood

Stroll through an ethereal winter landscape and immerse yourself in sound, light, and color. NightWood combines music, lighting, and theatrical elements to create seven unique scenes, including four new installations, that evoke wonder, mystery, and magic!

### Online Purchase of Timed Entry Tickets Required

Federation Group Tickets: Adults \$10, Kids 0-18 free. Three time slots available. **Limited tickets available first come, first served.** Registration and more info at: <https://tinyurl.com/JewFedChanukah>

### Menorah Lighting and Holiday Fun

After your NightWood tour, join us at **7:30 pm at the Mansion Forecourt** as we kindle the menorah lights and celebrate with live music, Chanukah songs, glow fun, chocolate gelt, and hot drinks! If you finish your tour earlier, there are heaters to keep you warm.

### This Event is Exclusively Outdoors. Dress Warmly!

Trails can be uneven and require secure footing. Self-guided route is 3/4 of a mile through the woods and gardens and includes both paved and unpaved pathways.



Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

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# Your Federation Presents

## Little Hands Art in the Park

By Molly Meador / Coordinator of Volunteers and PJ Library

On October 23, PJ Library families gathered at Stockbridge playground to make some art and make some new friends! We did an art project that was as fun and easy for little hands as it was for their older siblings. Grownups got to connect while the kiddos played and we all enjoyed a perfect fall day.

And as we were packing up and leaving I thanked everyone for coming. One of the kiddos said, "we should thank you – this was so much fun!"



## BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

### Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

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

Please call the organizations directly to confirm service times or to inquire about membership.

Learn more about our Jewish community and find great events on the community calendar at:

**JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG**

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

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

**B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 326**

**Chabad of the Berkshires**  
450 South St., Pittsfield, MA  
(413) 499-9899,  
jewishberkshires.com

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

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

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

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

**Jewish Federation of the Berkshires**  
196 South St., Pittsfield, MA  
(413) 442-4360, jewishberkshires.org

**Jewish War Veterans**  
Commander Robert Waldheim  
(413) 822-4546, sellit4@aol.com

**Knesset Israel**  
*Conservative*  
16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA  
(413) 445-4872, knessetisrael.org

**Temple Anshe Amunim**  
*Reform*  
26 Broad St., Pittsfield, MA  
(413) 442-5910, ansheamunim.org

# Your Federation Presents

## Federation Helps Make Our Jewish Community More Secure

Supporting a safe and secure community is a priority for our Jewish Federation. Thank you to Dan Levenson of CJP – Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Officer Darren Derby of the Pittsfield Police Department for presenting at our community security training in November. And thank you to Temple Anshe Amunim for hosting us.

Federation recently allocated \$45,000 in grants to Chabad of the Berkshires, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Kneset Israel, and Temple Anshe Amunim to support the hardening of security at their organizations.



# JOYFUL

May your spirits be merry and bright as you gather with friends and family. Wishing you a holiday season of joy and peace, and a prosperous new year.

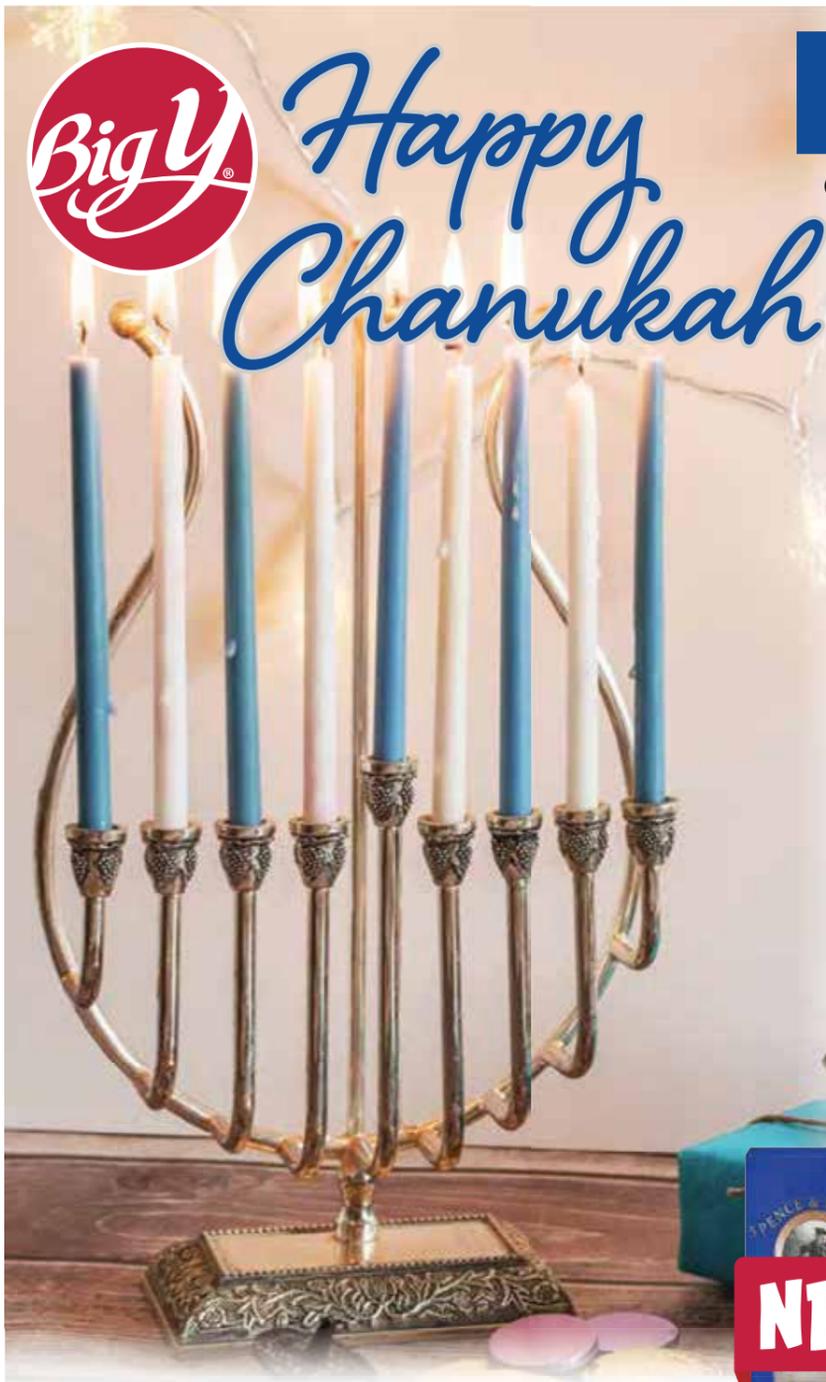


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**Potato Latkes with Apple Sauce or Tzimmes**



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lb

**Washington State Royal Gala Apples**



**2.19**

**Gold's Horse Radish**  
6 oz



**3.99**

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# Connecting with Community

## Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

### 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?

Gluten Free Main Entrée \*\* and Dairy Free Main Entrée #  
Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

### DECEMBER

**Thursday, 8**..... Hot dogs and beans\*\*#, stuffed pepper soup, salad, hot dog roll, and pears.

**Monday, 12**..... Spaghetti and meat sauce#, noodle soup, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and grapes.

**Tuesday, 13**..... Chicken and vegetable skillet\*\*# (dark meat only), California blend vegetables, oven roasted potato, rye bread, and apricots.

**Thursday, 15**..... Pumpkin lasagna roll-ups, salad, broccoli, Italian bread, and cookies.

**Monday, 19**..... Red lentil and chick pea stew (vegan)\*\*#, brown rice, salad, oat bread, and tropical fruit salad.

**Tuesday, 20**..... Puerto Rican chicken and rice\*\*# (dark meat only), salad, Mexican corn, crusty white bread, and tea biscuits.

**Thursday, 22**..... Brisket\*\*#, latkes with applesauce, baby carrots, salad, Challah, and apple dumplings.

**Monday, 26**..... Closed for Christmas (falls on Sunday).

**Tuesday, 27**..... Tuna noodle casserole, tomato soup, beets, whole wheat bread, and peaches.

**Thursday, 29**..... Fresh fish\*\*, vegetable soup, noodle kugel, spinach, salad, Farmer's loaf, and chocolate chip cookies.

### JANUARY

**Monday, 2**..... Closed for New Year's Day (falls on Sunday).

**Tuesday, 3**..... Stir fried chicken\*\*#, Thai red curry noodle soup, brown rice, rye bread, and pineapple.

**Thursday, 5**..... Macaroni and cheese, tomato soup, beets, salad, potato bread, and peach cobbler.

**Monday, 9**..... Meat loaf\*\*#, vegetable soup, mashed potatoes, peas, Farmer's loaf, and applesauce.

**Tuesday, 10**..... Orange glazed chicken\*\*#, brown rice, mixed vegetables, salad, pumpkin bread, and pears.

**Thursday, 12**..... Fish sticks, salad, green beans, baby carrots, hamburger bun, and apricots.

**Monday, 16**..... Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Tuesday, 17**..... Penne "carbonara," light minestrone soup, broccoli with garlic, garlic bread, and grapes.

**Thursday, 19**..... Fresh fish\*\*, mushroom barley soup, rice pilaf, green beans almondine, multi-grain bread, and cookies.

**Monday, 23**..... Sloppy Joes\*\*#, baby carrots, roasted Brussels sprouts, salad, hamburger roll, and Mandarin oranges.

**Tuesday, 24**..... Turkey stew\*\*#, noodles, salad, wheat bread, and parve cookies.

**Thursday, 26**..... "Chicken" souvlaki (soy based chicken), lemon rice, tzatziki, shredded lettuce, falafel on the side, pita bread, and baklava.

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

### Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?

Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-2200.



## MAZEL TOV!

**Drew Zuckerman** (son of **Rabbi Rachel Barenblat** of Congregation Beth Israel) on his bar mitzvah.

**Frederic Rutberg** on receiving the Massachusetts Governor's Award in the Humanities.

**Phyllis and Joel Curran** on their 65th wedding anniversary.

**Ira Lieberman** on his 80th birthday.

**Nan and Allan Lipton** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

**Susan Miller** on her art installation at the Berkshire Museum.

**Ellen Masters** on being honored with one of the MICAH awards from Berkshire Interfaith Organizing.

### Knesset Israel 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

#### ONGOING MINYANS

Saturday, ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday, ..... 8:45 a.m.  
Tuesday, ..... 7 p.m. Zoom only  
Thursday, ..... 7 p.m., Zoom only  
Friday, ..... 5:45 p.m.



#### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, December 9 ..... 4:02 p.m.  
Friday, December 16 ..... 4:03 p.m.  
Friday, December 23 ..... 4:06 p.m.  
*(Light Chanukah candles before Shabbat candles).*  
Friday, December 30 ..... 4:10 p.m.  
**2023**  
Friday, January 6 ..... 4:17 p.m.  
Friday, January 13 ..... 4:25 p.m.  
Friday, January 20 ..... 4:33 p.m.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL!



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## OBITUARIES

### Jane Reusche, 90, loved being a therapist, devoted to family and friends

PITTSFIELD – Jane Reusche, 90, passed peacefully on Wednesday, October 19.

Jane spent much of her life living in New Jersey, later moving to Massachusetts to be near her children and grandchildren. She earned her master's degree in Social Work from Rutgers University and enjoyed a long career as a social worker, working in both New Jersey and Massachusetts. She loved being a therapist as it was her life calling.

Jane, above all, was devoted to her family and friends. She took great delight in the accomplishments of her four children and nine grandchildren. She was an avid reader, moviegoer, bridge player, and advocate for women. She loved and valued conversation, whether in person or on the phone, and kept in touch with friends and her extended family. She loved nothing more than to sit at her kitchen table with a cup of tea and catch up with whoever was in front of her.

Over her long life she lived in Jersey City, West Orange, Livingston, and Summit, NJ. She also lived in Pittsfield and South Hadley, MA. She was married to Alick E Verney III and later to Frank L Reusche. Both husbands are deceased, as is Gail Spooner, Jane's sister. She also enjoyed the companionship of Daniel Sullivan in her later years.

Jane is survived by her son, Steven Verney and wife Kay; daughters, Kim Barry and husband Jim, Kerry Stone and husband Gregg, and Alison Wight; grandchildren, Jamie, Michael, Jonathan, Ryan, Forrest, Heather, Sophie, Dylan, and Sam; great-grandchildren, Caroline, Asa, Daniel, and Layne, all of whom gave her much happiness.

There was a private family burial at the North New Salem Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held in Amherst.

Since Jane loved books and libraries, please send a donation to one of the following community libraries: The New Salem Library, The Wendell Library, The Warwick Library, or the Pittsfield Library.

### Diane Molly Ditman, 62, library aide at The Berkshire Athenaeum

PITTSFIELD – Diane Molly Ditman, 62, died on Monday, October 24, at Berkshire Medical Center.

Born in Pittsfield on January 31, 1960, daughter of the late Edward J. and Barbara A. (Dubosar) Ditman, Diane attended local schools and graduated from Pittsfield High School. She attended Curry College and received her bachelor's degree in communications. Diane was a library aide for many years at The Berkshire

Athenaeum, Pittsfield's public library.

Diane leaves her brother and sister-in-law, Jeffrey and Tammy Ditman of Merrimack, NH; sister and brother-in-law, Robin and Alan Kimmelman of Hillsborough, NJ; her longtime companion Dave Sweeney and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, October 27, at Kneset Israel Cemetery. Donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at [nationalmssociety.org/](http://nationalmssociety.org/).

### Carmi Rapport, 91, successful attorney, devoted to family and community

GREAT BARRINGTON – Carmi Rapport, 91, passed away on Tuesday, November 8.

Carmi was born in New York City on August 10, 1931, to Albert and Sara Rapport. After a short sojourn in Palestine, the young family moved to Hudson in 1937, and later to Great Barrington.

Carmi graduated from Searles High School and Yale, class of 1953. Carmi served in Korea, returned home in 1955, and earned his law degree from Columbia Law School. In January 1956, while in law school, he met Marilyn Levitt. They dated that year and married on December 23, 1956.

Upon graduation from law school, Carmi and Marilyn moved to Hudson, NY, and he joined his father's law practice and the community.

Carmi had a long and successful law career, retiring in his mid-80s. He practiced with his father as Rapport and Rapport, and later as Rapport, Meyers, Griffen, and Whitbeck. He was a member and officer of the Columbia County Bar Association, member and officer of the Hudson Lion's Club, board member of the Columbia Memorial Hospital, board member of Columbia-Greene Community College, Trustee of Congregation Anshe Emeth, and in more recent years, chair of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and board member of WAMC. For many years, he served as attorney to the Town of Greenport. In addition, Carmi gave of himself in innumerable unofficial ways, offering his time, wisdom, legal and practical advice to persons too numerous to count.

Carmi was an avid golfer and opera enthusiast. He loved NYC plays and shows and attended Tanglewood all summer. He played sharp-eyed bridge, produced a robust tomato crop every summer and most recently was intrigued by orchid tending. Above all, Carmi was devoted to his family.

Carmi leaves his wife, Marilyn; children Sara, Seth and husband Marc, and Daniel and wife Anne; four grandchildren, Alexander, Jesse, Benjamin, and Eli; brother-in-law Henry Levitt and wife Deborah; and niece Sarah. Carmi will be greatly missed by so many.

A memorial service was held on Friday, November 11 at Congregation Anshe Emeth, interment followed at Ahavath Sholom Cemetery in Great Barrington.

Please feel free to donate to the American Heart Association.

### Isaak Saltanovich, full of life, with a great sense of humor

PITTSFIELD – Isaak Saltanovich passed peacefully surrounded by his family on Monday, November 7, at Berkshire Medical Center.

Born in Odessa, Ukraine, in 1930, his childhood was during World War II and he was a Holocaust survivor.

During his younger years, he served in the army for four years, often relocating from one location to another. One of the places that he moved to was Belarus, where he met his future wife, Nina. They were married for 69 years. While in Ukraine, Isaak worked in a beverage production factory. He was a supervisor, managing a team responsible for automated production. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1995 to Berkshire County.

Isaak was full of life, with a great sense of humor. He loved playing chess, skiing, skating, bicycling, and driving. He also enjoyed physical fitness and taking long walks around his neighborhood daily.

He was very handy and very technologically and computer savvy. He had the latest version of everything and was better on his iPhone and computer than some young people!

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Isaak is survived by his wife, Nina; sons Boris (Inna) and Leonid; and granddaughters Julia and Alla.

Graveside services were held on Thursday, November 10 at Kneset Israel Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshire for Ukraine in Crisis Fund in care of the Flynn & Dagnoli-Bencivenga Funeral Home, 5 Elm St. Pittsfield MA 01201.

### Honorable Richard Jerome Israel, 91, spent life in public service, selflessly devoted to clients, constituents, country, and religious congregations

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Honorable Richard Jerome Israel, 91, died on Monday, November 7 at Fairview Hospital.

Richard was born on December 9, 1930, in Slatersville, RI, to Fred and Cecile (Kantrowitz) Israel.

Richard attended Classical High School in Providence, RI. His academic achievements led to his admission to Brown University, where he earned a B.A. in English Literature. He then attended Yale Law School. He spent the first several years of his career in partnership with his father, Fred, in Woonsocket, RI. Richard spent a life in public service, selflessly devoting himself to his clients, his constituents, his country, and his religious congregations.

He joined the Rhode Island Army National Guard in 1955, serving over 20 years and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He left his law partnership in 1967 to serve as an Assistant Attorney General in RI and was twice honored to be elected to serve as the Attorney General of the State of RI. In 1974, he returned to private practice. In 1984, he was nominated to serve as an Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Superior Court. He retired from the bench in 2000, serving in senior status until he stepped down from his judgeship.

Richard is survived by his wife Lana Israel (Goldberg), whom he married on November 20, 1977, in Woonsocket, RI. The extraordinary depth of their mutual love and devotion defined the

remaining 45 years of Richard's life and brought him infinite happiness. They enjoyed opening their home to the large blended and extended families for holiday dinners and other celebrations. The welcoming warmth of their home was felt by every guest and was a testament to their marriage. But they were never happier than when they sat and read together, enjoyed fine art and literature, attended performing arts, or had a quiet dinner in their beloved Great Barrington.

Richard is also survived by his brother David Israel (Karen); sister Judith Israel; two daughters, Susan Mollohan and Karen Mollohan (Brian); five sons, Eric Israel (Susan), Jonathan Biller (Victoria Rand-Biller), Kenneth Biller (Hope), Cameron Biller (Kara), and Michael Biller; 16 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Friday, November 11, at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, Great Barrington, led by Rabbi Barbara Cohen. Burial immediately followed at Ahavath Sholom Cemetery, Great Barrington. Please consider donations to The World Wildlife Fund.

### Joy Robin Dronge, 87, passion for the arts, education and unwavering love for family and friends

STOCKBRIDGE – Joy Robin Dronge, 87, died on Sunday, November 6, in Fairview Hospital from pneumonia and complications from cancer. She was surrounded by family and received exceptional care from her doctor and nurses.

She was a talented musician, composer, teacher, scholar, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, friend, and so much more.

Joy was a trained flutist who studied at Music and Art, Juilliard, and Hunter College, as well as many other programs. She had her work performed at Tanglewood, Boston University, Lesley College, Simons Rock College of Bard, Spencertown Academy, Edward Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, American Women Composers of Massachusetts Concerts at the First Parish Church in Watertown, Kripalu Center, and community television, among others.

The co-founder of the Stockbridge Sinfonia fifty years ago, Joy taught music in the Pittsfield public schools for 14 years. Before teaching in the Berkshires, she taught 3rd grade in the New York City public schools. She was a three-time participant in the Creating Original Opera, a program of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and has received several grants from the Massachusetts Council of the Arts.

She continued to compose through the Berkshire Music School with her beloved teachers and friends Alice Spatz, Norman Thibodeau, and Tracy Wilson.

Her greatest joy was her four children, Risa, Amy, Michael, and David Graubard, and her two granddaughters, Rebecca Rose and Emma Pearl Payne. She also loved spending time with her companion Sam Barnes. She is remembered for her passion for the arts, education, equality, and unwavering love for family and friends.

Her death is preceded by her parents, Al Dronge and Dorothy Abrams, her daughter Risa Graubard, and her brother Mark Dronge. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, sister, nieces, nephews, and many friends.

As one of her friends said: "I loved her, and she loved me. What more could you ask for?" She is missed, and her music will live on.

The family requests donations to Stockbridge Sinfonia and/or Ahavath Sholom.

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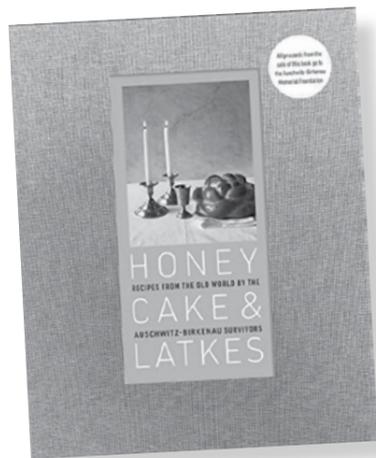
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ldoherty@litnetsb.org or 413-243-0471

## BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

## “What I Could Have Done...”

By Alex Rosenblum / Special to the BJV



My son-in-law AJ Reisman – amateur chef, prolific blogger, published children’s author, and product manager at a startup Arbor focused on bringing families together through shared history – sent me a text message with a recent article from The New Yorker titled, “Recipes from the Survivors of Auschwitz,” by Hannah Goldfield. The introductory blurb read: “Survivors of the Holocaust meet up to launch a cookbook – recipes for matzo-ball soup, kogel mogel, and Marion Wiesel’s onion-less latkes, favored by her husband, Elie.”

“What do you think?” wrote AJ.

“Nu, what do I think?” – I asked myself this question over and over again, without reading past the introduction. “Recipes from the Holocaust” simply did not make sense to me. In my ignorance of the contents of the article,

I was annoyed and perhaps even angry. To put Auschwitz and recipe in the same sentence was the perfect oxymoron – a hurtful, incongruous use of words.

And so, in response to my son-in-law’s inquiry, I, a son of an Auschwitz survivor, sat down to memorialize my thoughts and answer him. By coincidence, at the very same time AJ prepared his daily blog with The New Yorker article as his central theme. Fully prepared after reading and digesting the article, AJ, a fourth generation American, pointed out to his readers:

“Food is how we remember families, honor tradition, and understand stories.”

“From the story of Exodus, “That night, they are to eat the meat, roasted on the fire; they are to use it with matzo and marror.”

“It’s through recipes that we can remember and understand kin. Even if we do not know our ancestors, we taste a flavor of their life. And when you break bread with a family recipe, stories get shared, and you never forget history.”

Only later did I bother to read Hannah Goldfield’s wonderful account of the Auschwitz survivors who celebrated the recent publication of the cookbook, *Honey Cake and Latkes: Recipes from the Old World by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Survivors*, at the Neue Museum in New York. (The museum’s patron, Ronald Lauder, is also chair of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation, which organized the publication of the book.) The survivors described how the excruciating pain of cruel days and nights in the death camp was slightly alleviated by the inmates’ conversations about the food from the pre-war days in the *haym* (pre-war home) that they so dearly missed and longed for. In their own small way, these memories kept many alive.

Not surprisingly, I was tainted by my own inability to fully relate to my own father, Yidl Moishe Rosenblum’s, survival of Auschwitz. Auschwitz was not a topic often discussed in *der haym* (our house). My two younger brothers and I culled secondhand information about *der khurbn* (holocaust) in Auschwitz from our mother, who had managed to survive Bergen-Belsen. Occasionally, we would overhear the few surviving *landsleit* (friends from the same town) who would get together and, over a *glayzeleh bronfn* (glass of whiskey), quietly and somberly talk about the *lahger* (concentration camp) days – to me, half-understood stories of pain, horror, starvation, and *mazel* in surviving.

I turned to my wonderful wife of fifty years, Sabina, and told her about The New Yorker article my son-in-law forwarded to me and my initial reaction to it. Sabina was the *rikhtike yankee* – the real American – in our family, born in Brooklyn with parents born in Manhattan. Her Bubbie Sadie and Zeydeh Louie Laybish arrived in Ellis Island from the Pale of Russia circa 1905. In the late 1960s, all three generations lived in an extended family setting in Bensonhurst, which is where I courted my wife. And Zeydeh Louie was my winning connection. No other suitor could get past Zeydeh Louie in his rocking chair near the home entrance. Once I was able to engage him with discussions of pogroms, the voyage to America, and living on the Lower East Side – all in my *tzebrokheneh* (broken), but passable, Yiddish – I became his choice as the boyfriend with the best *khosen* (groom) potential.

Upon our marriage, Sabina became a real *ballehbosteh*, working full time as a teacher, managing our house in Brooklyn and the weekend home in the Berkshires, and raising our two daughters. Early on, she decided that it was time to show the in-laws her own American-style cooking prowess. She prepared a sumptuous vegetarian meal with pastas and numerous vegetables and soup. After the meal, she turned triumphantly to my father and inquired as to his reaction to this grand vegetarian meal. My father smiled, nodded, and declared to the

family, “*zayer git* – very good!” As my wife walked toward the kitchen with the tray of empty dishes, my father turned and whispered into my ear, “*Takeh, zayer git... ober, vos hot geshen tzu a shtikl flaysh un broyt?*” (“Really, very good – but what happened to a piece of meat and bread?”)

Only years later did I tell my wife what my father had said to me that day in confidence. I simply could not explain with any comfort and certainty why bread was important to him. What remains to this day is some form of a legacy and memory of ‘Auschwitz and food’ based on the passive participation of my brothers and me in an unusual ritual at our family’s Friday night Shabbos meals. We listened and watched without understanding, and I’m not sure I understand even today.

The Shabbos lights were lit, the wine was poured, and the *khallah* was torn apart and passed around. My father would pause and stand up while holding a small piece of *khallah*, then show it to us and say, “*Vos ikh volt gehkent teayen in lahger mitt dos shtikl broyt!*” – “What I could have done in the concentration camp with this little piece of bread!”

Ramblings from me, a child of survivors and an old man now, or an important lesson for *dee ayniklekh* (the grandchildren) from their father and their grandfather, saved and passed on for posterity?

**Alex Ziske Rosenblum** is an attorney and the Berkshire Jewish Voice’s *bronfn* (whisky) correspondent, whose last article for this paper was the second installment of his history of Jews and alcoholic beverages. He has a home in Richmond.

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# Berkshire Hills Hadassah News Update

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### Hadassah's Areas of Focus:

- Advancing Health Care & Medicine
- Connecting to Israel & Zionism
- Advocating for Change

### What We Do

Whether we're fighting for Holocaust and anti-hate education funding in schools, discovering groundbreaking medical advances, or setting a young person on a path to success — our global impact brings healing to the world. During these difficult times it is good to know Hadassah can be of help to refugees from Ukraine both on site and through our Youth Aliyah Villages. Like students throughout the United States, Israeli youth have started a new school year. Setting a record in enrollment, Hadassah's Meir Shfeyah's Youth Aliyah Village has 678 students on the first day of school. Shfeyah carries on the rich tradition of Youth Aliyah, which from its inception in 1934 has rescued and educated thousands of needy, at-risk youth from Israel and around the world.

### Our Hospitals

Supported by generous donors in the United States and around the world, the Hadassah Medical Organization's (HMO) two Jerusalem hospitals are innovative and compassionate global leaders in medical care, treatments and research serving more than a million women, men and children a year, regardless of religion, race or nationality.



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Rosalind Kopfstein, President

Contact us at:  
Berkshire Hills Hadassah  
PO Box 187  
Pittsfield, MA 01202

or at:

[www.Berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com](mailto:www.Berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com)

*Happy  
Chanukah!*



## BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

## TRAVELING WITH JEWISH TASTE

## A Jewish, Afro-Atlantic Memoir as Told Via Food



By Carol Goodman Kaufman

*Koshersoul*, Michael Twitty's latest book, is a memoir as told through the lens of foodways. The book, as the author avows, "is not an academic journey, and it's purposely not a cookbook." Rather, it's a collection of memories and meditations on his life attempting to merge his Afro-Atlantic roots with his Jewish identity or, as he states, "what it means to be a person with multiple families." He takes his inspiration from the global Jewish and African diasporas by tracing the history of foods and their meanings in their respective cultures.

Black, gay, and a convert to Judaism at the age of 22, Twitty tells a story that is at times uplifting and other times depressing. He has faced enormous challenges while attempting to bridge divides among people. Through the various experiences he's had, whether working as a Hebrew School teacher or a caterer, relationships have run the gamut from welcoming, respectful congregants and loving students to encounters with a racist rebbetzin whose vitriol made me cringe with embarrassment for our people. A light unto the nations she was not.

And as if he weren't already battling racist and anti-gay hatred, Twitty encountered virulent antisemitism while speaking at, of all places, a food festival. When he had the audacity (naïveté?) to mention the Jewish version of sambusak that has its roots in the foods of the Silk Road, Iranian and Armenian Muslim women attacked him for using the word "Jewish." Other participants shunned him. Memories of the shameful Durban women's conference came to my mind.

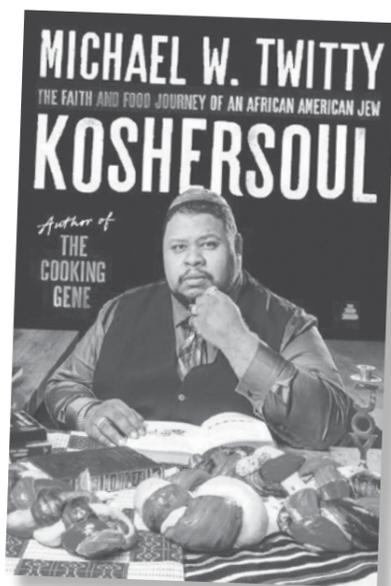
As he promised at the outset, *Koshersoul* is not a cookbook, so it's only in the last chapter that actual recipes appear, arranged by their relevance to specific holidays and Shabbat. I chose to prepare three. First up was "Jamaican Jerk Chicken Spaghetti" that merges Twitty's Afro-Caribbean roots with what I assume must be the Sephardic experience of the Italian diaspora. The recipe required four pots, three glass measuring cups, and five measuring spoons. So, yeah, it was a *patchke*, but it was well worth the effort. The chicken was moist and flavorful and went surprisingly well with the pasta.

"Black-Eyed Pea Fritters," on the other hand, were definitely not worth the tremendous effort of soaking and peeling the skins off the little legumes, a process that took many hours. Although the fritters were golden brown and crispy, they had no flavor. I ended up smothering mine in mustard while Joel used ketchup. (Just FYI, the discarded skins look like a Halloween set-up of fake eyeballs. Perhaps the source of the bean's name?)

Much less work with a tastier outcome was the "Yam Kugel." To be botanically correct, however, the main ingredient is sweet potato. Yams and sweet potatoes are entirely different species of plants. Yams have rough, dark brown skin that is often compared to tree bark, and their flesh is dry and starchy like a regular potato. Sweet potatoes, on the other hand, have smooth reddish skin, softer flesh, and are much sweeter. And while sweet potatoes originated in Central or South America, the yam's origin is in Africa.

Having said all that, the kugel, no matter what it's called, was delicious. However, it was so sweet that it felt more like a crustless sweet potato pecan pie than a side dish.

Last autumn, Michael W. Twitty spoke to cookbook author Adeena Sussman about *Koshersoul* as part of our "Jewish Literary Voices" series presented with the Jewish Book Council. You can view a recording of that conversation at: [youtube.com/watch?v=A3NqzAKDnwI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3NqzAKDnwI).



Michael Twitty's jerk chicken spaghetti

## Jamaican Jerk Chicken Spaghetti

If you don't like your food spicy, then use jalapeno peppers instead of habaneros. And you can really use any vinegar; malt is not necessary.

**Note:** This is Twitty's original recipe with one change. Although Twitty presents himself as *shomer Shabbat* and the title of the book does use the word "kosher," I found at least one reference to mixing meat and milk. Let's give him the benefit of the doubt and assume that the copy editor was at fault. I have removed the offending ingredient from the recipe.

## Ingredients:

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts	1 teaspoon allspice
1 teaspoon kosher salt	½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon black pepper	2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 small red onion	1-2 seeded orange habanero peppers
4 cloves garlic	4 scallions, chopped
2 tablespoon flat leaf parsley, chopped	½ cup canola oil
1 tablespoon (or more) chopped fresh ginger	1 regular old oblong box of pasta – preferably whole wheat or 2x the fiber...
2 tablespoons vinegar, preferably malt	2 cups grape tomatoes, washed and sliced in half
1½ tablespoons turbinado sugar, coconut sugar, organic brown or blonde sugar	1 cup bell pepper mixed (optional)
2 tablespoons dark rum	1 cup or more chicken broth
The juice of 2 limes	2 tablespoons margarine or oil
½ teaspoon cinnamon	Chopped flat leaf parsley and scallions to garnish
1 teaspoon dried thyme	

## Directions:

Place the chicken in a bowl and rub with the salt and pepper, prick all over with a fork.

The rest of the ingredients from the red onions to the oil should be blended together until pureed. Place over the chicken and marinate for 4-6 hours.

Begin the sauce by breaking down the tomatoes. I usually place a tablespoon or two of olive oil in a pan and add a little garlic, (you can add the optional bell pepper here) and place the tomatoes in a pan over medium heat, stirring occasionally the tomatoes will start to breakdown in about 20 minutes.

Adjust the heat accordingly and watch them like a hawk. Don't let them burn but make sure you stir and squish them until they give up their liquid and soften significantly.

Remove the chicken from the marinade.

Food safety alert:

Because you are using a marinade that raw chicken has been in, sustained heat is the only way to make sure you kill any germs. Cook a half cup of the marinade in with the tomatoes and add the chicken broth. The process should take around 20 minutes from boil to simmering over a low heat. Let the sauce develop, bubble and cook without burning it!!! Turn down to a low heat and stir occasionally.

If you have a grill pan sear the chicken for ten minutes each on both sides.

Place in a preheated 375 degree oven for about ten minutes loosely covered with foil.

Start your spaghetti or linguine and cook according to recipe on box!

Chicken should not be overcooked. Remove and allow to rest for five minutes and thinly slice. Place the chicken in the sauce. Add the margarine or oil to the pasta and toss with the chicken and sauce.

Garnish each plate with parsley and scallion.

**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 stanzas 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.

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CULTURE & ARTS

# The Happy Mistake That Gave Us the “Soup Almond”

How did a bureaucratic mix-up during Israel's 1950s austerity period lead to one of Israel's most unique culinary innovations? How did an Ashkenazi Jewish Passover recipe end up on the holiday table of every Jewish Israeli, and where does the distinctive yellow color of the soup almond come from? In short, here is the story of Israel's prized “shkedei marak.”

By Amit Naor / National Library of Israel



Advertisement for Osem soup almonds. Designer: Otte Wallish, from the Eri Wallish Collection, the Ephemera Collection, the National Library of Israel

Nothing fills us with more pride than the list of exclusive Israeli inventions, right? Every year during the Independence Day ceremony, we are reminded of how we invented drip irrigation, the cherry tomato and the disk-on-key. But there is one Israeli invention that is a special source of national pride and that no holiday table dares be without—the “soup almond”.

Yes, we are referring to those crunchy, yellow, crouton-like additions to soup, which miraculously appear just about everywhere during holiday season in Israel. “Soup almond” is a literal translation of the Hebrew term *shkedei marak*, which is sometimes used even by English speakers (you know who you are), though others prefer “soup mandels,” “soup nuts,” or the Yiddish *mandlakh*. We set out on a mission to discover how this unparalleled genius invention came about.

After all, what's the point of soup if it doesn't have a little something extra—chopped vegetables, dumpings, noodles, croutons or whatever strikes one's fancy. This is how soup

becomes a satisfying and heart-warming dish, and this was also the thinking of the Osem company's food engineers.

It was the early 1950s, the days of *tzena* – Israel's national austerity plan. Two years earlier, Osem had come up with another brilliant invention to deal with the rice shortage. They called it *petitim*, tiny toasted pasta balls sometimes referred to as “Ben-Gurion rice” (or “Israeli couscous” in later years). The company was now facing another rationing crisis. According to the story on the Osem website, each manufacturing plant received a monthly allowance of flour. It's not clear whether human error or some other unfortunate accident was to blame, but one month the Osem plant did not receive its flour allowance.

Everyone is familiar with the saying, “when life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” In this case, the lemons were 300 kilograms of oil gifted to the Osem company to compensate for the missing flour. Lemonade was going to be a long shot, but during a time of severe shortage, Osem wasn't about to pass on the offer. But what to do with so much oil? According to company's website, they decided to use the oil to fry flour. And lo and behold—a miracle: this is how the soup almond as we know it was born. The color of fried flour may not be very appealing, so a bit of turmeric extract turned them a bright yellow.

Osem's soup almonds didn't appear out of thin air, of course.



Ad for Osem soup almonds. Designer: Otte Wallish, from the Eri Wallish Collection, Ephemera Collection, National Library



Passover advertisement for zup mandeln, from the Yiddish Newspaper Forverts, April 4, 1943

First there were *zup mandlen*, “soup almonds” in Yiddish, which were added to the soup that Ashkenazi Jews ate during Passover. They were made from matzah meal and egg and were apparently much larger, perhaps more similar to the matzah balls (*kneidlach*) that many know today. But, unlike the matzah ball which is boiled, the homemade soup almonds were either baked or fried, just like today's soup almonds.

Like any product created by accident or under improvised circumstances, the initial appearance of the Osem soup almonds did not resemble what they look like today, and there were also variations in name and use. In the beginning, Israeli soup almonds were made in two forms: one was diamond-shaped and flatter (but larger than today's version), and the other was oval like an egg and was called an “egg almond.” The home-made Ashkenazi soup almonds may have been the inspiration, but the company believed that the fried flour morsels might also have other uses. Early newspaper ads and posters preserved in the Ephemera Collection at the National Library of Israel recommend adding the egg almonds to cold or hot drinks, and even to a glass of beer. Feel free to try this at home and let us know what you think.

The product evolved over time. It was adapted to the local market and was given new and sophisticated packaging. The soup almond finally settled on its square and puffy shape, unique yellow color, salty taste, becoming a must-have product on every holiday table, because how can you eat soup without it? Today you can buy *shkedei marak* in a resealable bag or in a plastic container. And companies besides Osem make them as well. Some even eat them by the handful as a snack—hold the soup! Who are we to judge?

This article originally appeared on the National Library of Israel's English language blog: [blog.nli.org.il/en/](http://blog.nli.org.il/en/)

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## CULTURE & ARTS

### BJV Interview: Ira Rosen

**The award-winning news producer talks about his career in television, his memoir, and the state of the media today**

byline Albert Stern



On Thursday, December 8 at 6:45 p.m., "Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council" welcomes renowned television news producer Ira Rosen. His book *Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes* chronicles a career that began in a media landscape dominated by major newspapers and three network news outlets in the late 1970s and that continues in today's 24-hour news cycle driven by cable news and the Internet. For details on this online program, please see page 3.

In late November, the Berkshire Jewish Voice caught up with Rosen, who had just returned from a trip to Israel. He talked about his book and shared thoughts about the current state of the media. Our interview was edited for length and clarity.

**Although *Ticking Clock* is a short and manageable book, you cover so much ground from when you started in the 1970s, a time when the mainstream media were the gatekeepers of the news, all the way up to the Internet age, where there are news sources coming at you from many different directions. What was better then about the way news was delivered to the public and what's better now?**

I think back then – and I don't want to sound like an old f\*\*t – but the storytelling was a lot better. One of the things that *60 Minutes* did in its heyday was to present both sides of the story. One of the stories that I loved was something called 'Driving While Old.' Harry Reasoner did this story a long time ago about old people in Florida, some of whom really shouldn't have kept having a [driver's] license, and about the judge who needed to decide whether to take their license away or not. If they kept their license, they might be a danger to people on the road; but if the license is taken away, the judge ruins these people's lives – they can't see their friends, go to the supermarket, golf, whatever it is they do.

[*60 Minutes*' executive producer] Don Hewitt used to call this a "Hey, Mildred Story" – as in, "Hey Mildred, come over here. What do you think?" "God, get the guy off the road." "No, no, you're going to kill the guy if you do that." That was the cacophony that existed on a person's couch on a Sunday night. People would argue about that sort of thing. We gave you both sides of a story that allowed you, as the viewer, to decide. Today, people are watching TV and the news, for the most part, to have their ideas reinforced. So if you're pro-Democrat, you know what network to go to. Pro-Republican, you know where to go. People are having that sort of critical thinking on stories and ideas, and that is something that I think is horrible about what's happening today. *60 Minutes* is falling into that trap, as well. I can't remember the last story that I saw on the show which gave you both sides of the coin and allowed you, the viewer, to decide what you believe in. I think I've missed that.

I think what you do is present both sides of the story. [Journalists now] do this "We-called-him-up- and-he-refused-to-comment" kind of thing, that sort of gives the appearance of fairness. But even when I was doing stories about the opioid industry, I always spent some time with the opioid people, who were obviously involved in distributing drugs that killed a lot of people. I said to them, "I want to know what your ideas are. Tell me what your thinking is." I would always try to reflect their positions in a story because I think you, as a viewer, want to hear what their side of it is. That actually makes your story stronger against the people you're exposing.

**So that kind of segues into my next question. We're speaking just a couple of days after CBS News reported that indeed the Hunter Biden laptop is real. It's a true story. That's about two years after the news about the authenticity of the laptop broke, and the CBS reporter seemed, to me anyway, to be following the same breadcrumbs that the New York Post reporter did to confirm her story back then. In a *60 Minutes* interview Leslie Stahl did with Donald Trump before the election two years ago, she repeatedly said that this information cannot be verified. And it didn't seem like she had much interest in verifying the story. So do you think this adherence to particular political narratives is causing today's mainstream media to suppress stories? Given your historical perspective as an investigative reporter trying to get to the bottom of malfeasance and corruption, how does that make you feel?**

Well, I think Leslie's one of the fairest correspondents I know – she is really right down the middle. I think when she did that Donald Trump interview, I think nobody had any certainty about the validity of the computer. The New York Times didn't, the Washington Post didn't. You're right. The New York Post did, but the New York Post is the New York Post. So I think that, just to be fair to Leslie, when she did that interview, there were a lot of questions evolving, and it really wasn't her job at the time or her story at the time to go looking at that particular computer. She was there to do an interview with Trump. But anyway, I think your question really is, is there a bit of a slant in terms of some of these stories? From what I know, there is absolutely a bias in certain news organizations. And that's really unfortunate. I mean, before the election in 2020, I think there was some discouragement about going after Biden, who was running against Trump, in certain quarters of the media. So I think there were certain slants that were going on and it makes me sad that that sort of thing exists.

**But how do you feel it affects public trust in the mainstream media, particularly now? You also have the very powerful entities of social media. Just to go back to the Hunter Biden laptop, Facebook would not allow you people to post stories about it, nor would Twitter, et cetera, et cetera. I mean, it seemed like the news was being suppressed. Why should we trust a news source now?**

Well, I think the facts they're printing are generally accurate – but what you don't know is what they're excluding. It's the exclusion that sort of worries me right now. Journalism schools are doing something called news literacy, basically teaching students to be critical readers of the newspapers and TV to be able to, in terms of what they read, analyze it on their own. I think in many ways that doesn't exist [among consumers of the news]. People, like I said, go to have their ideas reinforced, not to have them challenged.

**One of the great things also about your book is it does give us an incredible behind-the-scenes look into the personalities of TV news presenters. It seemed like there was definitely some bridge burning that might have been going on on your part. And you were that frank about the people you worked with because...?**

Who are you talking about specifically? I mean, Mike Wallace is the main character of the book, and I felt I needed to write an honest portrayal, both good and bad. I'm pretty open about his genius in terms of what he did. On the other hand, I'm also pretty open about how he treated me. It's not something that I'm the first one to report. Chris Wallace, at his father's funeral, talked a little bit about it. Morley Safer, in the final interview with Mike, talked about it. He actually used the word "prick" to Mike's face, saying that "you are one." I could have written a book where everybody is great, and everyone works together; but it would not have been an honest book. And I felt I needed to write an honest book.

**What fallout has there been for you professionally and personally?**

People who actually read the book love the book. And the people who didn't read the book didn't like the book. So I think in terms of the fallout, some people aren't talking to me now, but they weren't talking to me before I wrote the book. So it's not much of a loss in that regard. When you write these things, half the people are going to really love it. And the producers I work with would talk to me for hours about the book on the phone, loving it and kvelling over it. Others who hadn't had a chance to read it would say, well, why did you write this or that? But they haven't read it within the context of the larger story. So when I approached the book, I wanted to let the chips fall where they may.

**You were a pioneer in the use of the hidden camera to expose people involved in your stories. How do you feel about the way that it's being used now by, let's say, Project Veritas?**

I think Project Veritas is despicable, but the use of hidden cameras in mainstream media has really gone away. After Food Lion, which I wrote a bit in the book, it kind of disappeared. [Editor's Note: In 1997, a federal jury ordered ABC to pay Food Lion more than \$5.5 million in punitive damages for a hidden-camera expose on the grocery store chain's sanitation practices. ABC ultimately won the case on appeal, but the legal wrangling was prolonged and the cost of litigation was high.] Project Veritas is doing [hidden cameras] in an entrapment kind of way. When we did our hidden camera stories, the key was to be a fly on the wall, to go into a place and let the wrongdoing expose itself. So if you're in a nursing home, for example, you expose the abuses that are going on. You go to the packing plant, you see how they're treating the animals, and you didn't try to influence what you're seeing. What you did was you were capturing what the abuses were and the wrongdoing. What Veritas is doing is trying to entrap you, trying to get you to say something or do something that you normally would not do. They train their people to do that. So it's a totally different world.

We had a society of professional journalist standards checklist that we had to go through – almost the equivalent of a search warrant for the police. You couldn't do it unless you got all these various levels of approval.

**Towards the end, you write about [hedge fund heiress and conservative activist] Rebekah Mercer. [Editor's Note: Rosen writes, "It seemed with the election of Trump**



With Mike Wallace

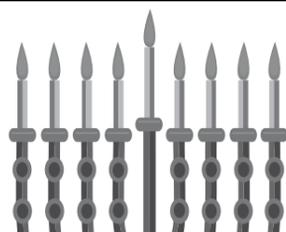
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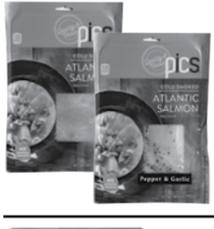
CULTURE & ARTS



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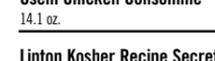
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IRA ROSEN INTERVIEW,

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the characters I began to hang out with were outliers who were ruling the world. None fit that definition more than Rebekah Mercer.”] You describe her penthouse and the vast amount of wealth that she has. [At the meeting of the conservative Gatestone Institute,] she all of a sudden finds herself being a little bit unsettled [by Home Depot co-founder Kenneth Langone’s concern about the issue of income disparity, which Mercer calls out as “socialism”]. You write “those at the lunch were a little surprised at her...calling attention to what those present understood – they like their rich and privileged life and don’t want anything to disrupt it.” The portrait that you paint towards the end of your book makes it seem like everyone is in bed together, that all these forces like the news and business and the legal system and Congress are all working together, looking out after similar interests, their rich and privileged lives?

Yeah, it’s very perceptive on your part that that stuck out. I mean, the fact is that congressmen need to raise money in order to stay in Congress. Where is the best place to get money? A Fortune 500 company. But they want something for the money. So there’s this symbiotic relationship. I kind of really liked Rebekah Mercer. I’m not saying I liked her politics, but I liked her energy, her smarts, and she was open enough to have spirited conversations. She’s a believer that global warming is a hoax. I think it’s quite real. And so we would have interesting conversations about this. And that’s what I was saying to you at the beginning of this conversation, about *60 Minutes* in its heyday, which is to be open to having a different point of view.

But what if the press is part of that symbiosis?

I think the tension really manifested itself during the Trump years. I felt this and I know this anecdotally from friends of mine in the mainstream media – not CBS, but other places where some people were very fearful of Trump winning again. And I think they either held back stories or didn’t encourage stories that would be a diminishment of Biden. I think that’s where the laptop thing that you asked about earlier came into play. They’re not saying it’s not real, but it could be real on November 11 instead of being real on November 8. Personally, I think there’s no doubt it was real. However, I also felt – again this is just me personally – that it was a bit of a sideshow. Jimmy Carter had Billy Carter, if you remember, who had this relationship with Libya. Each president has a member of their family they may not be proud of.

But the press covered Billy Carter. It’s not like they said Billy Carter wasn’t real.

No, but the difference is they covered Billy Carter, but they didn’t blame Jimmy Carter for Billy Carter’s problems. Remember when Billy Carter peed in front of a house? They didn’t say *Jimmy Carter’s brother* urinated in front of the house. It was a separate story, and nobody thought differently about Jimmy. My thinking is that [while Hunter Biden’s] computer is real, I think it’s a sideshow. Unless you could show that Joe Biden benefited financially or did something out of his way to cause [Hunter] not to get prosecuted, I don’t think it has any relevance.

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CULTURE & ARTS

# Between Earth and Sky: The Berkshires, The Clark, and the Mishkan Museum of Art

By Tanya Fredman / Special to the BJV

I walk up the white stone stairs to begin my day as an educator at the Mishkan Museum of Art in Kibbutz Ein Harod, Israel, and a graceful flock of pelicans catches my eye. The birds arc through the sky, making their yearly pilgrimage south to Africa in search of warmer weather. Here in northern Israel, this is the telltale sign of winter's approach, not the crisp golden leaves and dazzling reds and yellows that crown the Berkshire hills. Though worlds apart in some ways, Kibbutz Ein Harod's Mishkan Museum of Art and the Berkshires community share a tremendous amount in spirit.

Hanging above the entrance to my family's small Kibbutz home—a short distance from the Jordanian border—is a hand-painted wooden sign that reads, in delicate letters on a painted pristine lake, "Welcome to the Berkshires." "Why?" our friends and neighbors ask. "What are Berkshires?" ask our fellow Kibbutz members.

I moved to Israel 11 years ago with my husband, Len Pader, who spent his summers since childhood in the Berkshires. I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and we met in college at Brandeis University. I remember the first time he took me to visit his family in Lenox. As we pulled off the Mass Pike, enveloped by blue-green hills, he turned to me and said, "Welcome to the most beautiful place on Earth." As an artist and art educator, I immediately fell in love with the way nature, art, and community seamlessly blend into one another, each only enhancing the other's exquisiteness. Even after moving to Israel, we knew that we would keep the magic of the Berkshires in our lives, and are lucky enough to return often to visit family and bring our three children to explore the forest of sculptures at the Mount, move to the beat of dancers at Jacob's Pillow, picnic on the lawn at Tanglewood, and be mesmerized by exhibits at the Clark, Mass MOCA, and so much more.

My family and I flock between our life in northern Israel – with my role as an art educator at the Mishkan Museum, our Kibbutz Shluhot community, my children's school, and my husband's work – and our families in the US. I often feel not unlike the migrating pelicans, as poet Leah Goldberg wrote in her poem "Pine":

*Perhaps only migrating birds know -  
suspended between earth and sky -  
the heartache of two homelands.*

In the Partnership2Gether connection between the Berkshires community and the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel, and specifically with the museum, I found a bridge between two worlds. I first became involved with the partnership in 2018 when I participated in Project ZUG, an artistic collaboration that paired Berkshires artists with artists in the Afula-Gilboa region to learn together from the Book of Psalms and create artwork inspired by the texts. I learned over Skype with Berkshires artist Jeff Kramer and together with the other ZUG artists, we exhibited our work in the foyer gallery of the Miron Sima auditorium at the Mishkan Museum

*Time and again, Mishkan educators witness how the process of encountering and creating art in the museum allows students to express their own inner spark*

of Art in October 2018. That initial connection between the Berkshires and the Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod has led to a growing number of collaborations and a beautifully developing partnership.

The Mishkan is the beating heart at the center of the broader community. As the largest art museum in northern Israel, it is a leading cultural center for artistic excellence, education, and enrichment, and hosts rotating exhibits accompanied by research, publications, and a variety of cultural events and seminars for diverse local and national audiences. Museum founder and kibbutz pioneer Haim Atar wrote in 1938, "In the founding of Ein Harod, we accepted upon ourselves something very great for us and for our children...we must deepen the spiritual foundations of our lives, educate ourselves through a life in art, for if not—we will sink into that which is insignificant in life and it will determine us. For building

art—is also building the life within us."

As I pass a portrait of Haim Atar, painted by Moshe Mokady in 1927, during my daily tours with children at the museum, I can't help but dare to feel a bit of camaraderie. Albeit in circumstances I will never be able to imagine, this pioneer left his home and everything he knew in Ukraine in 1921 in order to build a new life in the Land of Israel. He sought to preserve the memory of and connection to the past while shaping a new world, one steeped in art, for future generations. I believe he too knew the feeling of the migrating pelicans.

In Ein Harod, Israel's first kibbutz and the paradigm of a social start-up, Atar and other founding pioneers created the Mishkan Museum in 1937, the first cultural start-up in Israel. Theirs is a story of faith in the power of art to connect us to the past and give hope for the future, and of vision and endurance against all odds to establish a museum as a beacon of hope and memory in a new nation. Together with architect Samuel Bickels and politician Aaron Zisling, Atar began what would become one of the most significant collections of Israeli and Jewish art in the world, today numbering 20,000 works. Each of these works tells a story, and each offers an opportunity for connection with the past and imagining the future. As educators at the Mishkan, my colleagues and I facilitate opportunities for encounters with these artworks for children of all ages that encourage them to ask, reflect, and dream.

The Wuerzburg Parochet (Torah curtain) is one example of an opportunity to encounter the past. It is the centerpiece of the exhibition "The Unbroken Thread" currently on display at the Mishkan, featuring rare synagogue textiles from



"Olive Tree at Ein Jarrar" by Walid Abu-Shakra, 1980, drypoint engraving.

PHOTO CREDIT: BY YIGAL PARDO

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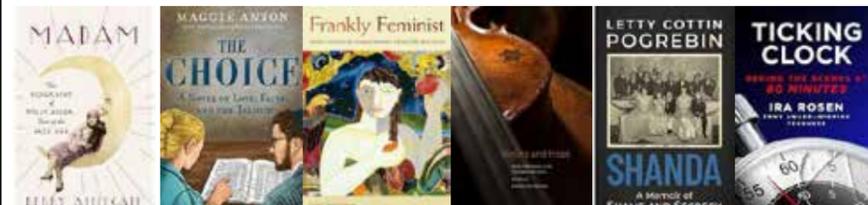
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## CULTURE & ARTS

### BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY,

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PHOTO CREDIT: SAGI MORAN

Wuerzburg Torah Curtain, 1881, Wuerzburg, Germany

Jewish communities of late 19th century Europe in conversation with Israeli artists working today. Exhibition curator Dvora Liss shared the incredible story of the survival of this Torah curtain with members of the Berkshires community in a live "ZoomArt" virtual museum tour in May 2022. The preservation of the curtain made in 1881 in the German town of Wuerzburg, despite the destruction of the synagogue and the annihilation of the Jewish community by Nazis, is one example of the Mishkan Museum's dedication to preserving the memory and legacy of Jewish communities who have otherwise disappeared.

The Mishkan's collection of *Chanukiyot* (Menorahs) is a favorite among children and adults alike. Collected from Jewish communities spanning the globe, they remind us that despite all hardship we have, we can continue to create sparks of light and spread the light onward. Time and again, Mishkan educators witness how the process of encountering and creating art in the museum allows students to express their own inner spark. Youth from diverse backgrounds find connections



PHOTO CREDIT: RON ARDA

Menorah, 18th century, Poland, Copper

with one another. Children who were afraid to speak find their voices in brushstrokes. Youth at risk, teens in drug rehabilitation programs, and children with mental and emotional challenges— all find their own unique corner of the studio and way of expressing themselves. Families come during school holidays and create multi-generational connections by making art together.

The Mishkan's newest exhibition, on display from November 2022 through May 2023, is a groundbreaking opportunity for inspiration and illumination. "Spirit of Man, Spirit of Place: Artists of the Abu-Shakra Family at Ein Harod" is a large-scale retrospective exhibition curated by Dr. Housni Shehada and Dr. Galia Bar-Or, which presents the rich bodies of work of five artists of the same family, exhibited for the first time together in a museum. The exhibit is a collaboration between the Umm el-Fahem Art Gallery, founded in 1996 to exhibit Arab and Palestinian art, and the Mishkan Museum. The multi-generational

dialogue that emerges from the exhibition outlines a familial and communal existence, rooted in the complex political, cultural and social reality of Israeli society. Exhibiting the Abu-Shakra Family exhibition alongside the Mishkan's permanent collection exhibition and Judaica wing, which include spaces dedicated to the Jewish historical narrative, opens up an opportunity for a meeting and dialogue between narratives, cultures, and values. Orit Lev-Segev, director of the Mishkan Museum of Art, says of the exhibition: "In the face of voices who seek to close us off, we seek to open. To open the mind, to open hearts and perspectives, to create a pluralistic space for getting to know each other, for discussion, for dialogue."

The educational programs accompanying the exhibition are vital now more than ever. When the discourse in society seeks to alienate us from one another, art offers us an opportunity to come together with respect. Focusing on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills, the program encourages local Arab and Jewish school children to find common interests and

*When the discourse in society seeks to alienate us from one another, art offers us an opportunity to come together with respect.*

values through art, and deepen their connection to their own identity while developing their understanding and appreciation for another community's cultural heritage. This encounter between art and people in the respectful space of the Mishkan Museum of Art will create a ripple effect of understanding that will impact visitors' families and communities and make a significant contribution to the fabric of shared life in Israel.

One of the lessons learned from the COVID period was the power of connecting beyond our borders. In 2021, we collaborated with the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, one of my favorite places to visit on our Berkshires trips. Together with Mishkan Head of Education Development Ofri Gardi-Cohen and Clark Director of Education Ronna Tulgan Ostheimer, we developed "Disruption and Reemergence," a museum program for teenagers to explore responses to times of change through art in different historical periods and today.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires generously sponsored local Israeli teenagers' participation in the program, visiting the



PHOTO CREDIT: AVA BESSOR

Preschool children celebrating Chanukah at the Mishkan

Mishkan and encountering artworks from both the Mishkan and Clark collections and embarking on their own artistic journeys of creating change through art. Students use the two museum collections as a platform for exploring ways cultures experience change and have an opportunity to ask questions to peers in the US in a video conference. "Disruptions and Reemergence" continues this year, as do other opportunities for connection between the Berkshires and the Mishkan Museum through ZoomArt virtual tours, resources and art workshops, and of course in-person visits and group programs.

When I leave the Mishkan Museum of Art after a day of exploring with local Israeli youth, I gaze beyond the Kibbutz lawns and homes to the Biblical Gilboa mountains beyond and know that connecting to our past and to one another through art will help us create a better future. And as the last birds make their way from the sky before the setting sun, I am reminded of another set of rolling hills, in a land across the sea, where the sun has only just risen on a community that shares a belief in the power of art to bring people together, to find meaning in the past and make a difference for the future, and that there, 6,000 miles away, a beautiful Berkshires day is about to begin.

**Tanya Fredman** is an educator at the Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod, and lives in Kibbutz Shluhot, Israel with her family. For more information on the ZoomArt virtual museum tour and workshop and other ways to connect with the Mishkan Museum of Art, please contact Federation or email Tanya Fredman at [TanyaFredman@gmail.com](mailto:TanyaFredman@gmail.com).



משכן לאמנות עין-חרוד (חל"צ)

Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod

Come see the magic of the Mishkan for yourself. This May 2023, join other art lovers in Israel for a one of a kind, behind the scenes, well curated Art and Culture trip on behalf of the Mishkan Museum of Art! Details and registration here: [arts-and-culture.forms-wizard.biz/](https://arts-and-culture.forms-wizard.biz/)