

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pittsfield, MA
Permit No. 19

Vol. 31, No. 2

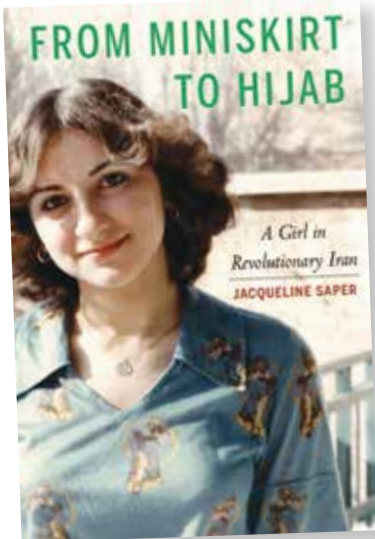
Shevat/Adar 5783

February 21 to March 19, 2023

jewishberkshires.org

From Miniskirt to Hijab, with Jacqueline Saper

Memoir recounts life in a Jewish family in post-revolution Iran



On Thursday, March 2 at 6:45 p.m., Federation hosts Jacqueline Saper, who will talk about the experiences she recounts in her compelling memoir, *From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran*. Born in Tehran to an Iranian Mizrachi father and a British Ashkenazi mother, Jacqueline has been a bridge between the East and the West since birth. Saper's comfortable childhood and adolescence ended at eighteen with the 1979 Iranian Revolution. The Shah was ousted, Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile, and Iran became an Islamic theocracy. Almost overnight, she went from wearing miniskirts to wearing the hijab, by force. She continued to live in the Islamic Republic for eight more years, hiding in the basement as Iraqi bombs fell over the city during the Iran-Iraq War. Saper finally escaped Iran with her husband and two young children in 1987.

In this timely talk, we will get to the heart of Ms. Saper's story of "how extremist ideologies seized a Westernized, affluent country and transformed it into a fundamentalist Islamic society." She will also talk about her experiences as an immigrant to the United States, where, after starting with few resources, she and her family members all were able to join the professional class and prosper.

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org for links to our programs. If you buy Saper's memoir via bookshop.org, a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the local Bookstore in Lenox.

THE BJV INTERVIEW WITH JACQUELINE SAPER APPEARS ON PAGE 20

"Frankly Feminist: Short Stories by Jewish Women from Lilith Magazine," with Susan Weidman Schneider and Yona Zeldis McDonough

On Thursday, March 16 at 6:45 p.m., join in a conversation with editors Susan Weidman Schneider and Yona Zeldis McDonough about their ground-breaking Jewish feminist short story collection, *Frankly Feminist: Short Stories by Jewish Women from Lilith Magazine*.

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org for links to our programs. This program is a part of "Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council."

Moderating this program will be Rabbi Elyse Frishman, the editor of *Mishkan T'filah*, the Reform movement's prayerbook. Purchase the book at bookshop.org and a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the local Bookstore in Great Barrington. A limited number of copies of the book will be on loan from Federation in Pittsfield – call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10 for availability.



As the editors write:

Short story collections focusing on Jewish writers have – no surprise – typically given women authors short shrift. This new volume represents the best Jewish feminist fiction published in *Lilith Magazine* and does what no other collection has done before in its geographic scope, its inclusion of 21st-century stories, and its Jewish feminist focus.

This collection showcases a wide range of stories offering variegated cultures and contexts

FRANKLY FEMINIST,
continued on page 4

Inside

Inheriting & Creating Tradition	2
Your Federation Presents	4-9
Annual Report	10
Thank You, Donors!	11-13
Local News	14-15
Culture & Arts	17-20

Caught Moments, Odd Angles, and Awkward Poses

Actress/Artist Lisa Edelstein charms with off-kilter family portraits



Many of us know TV star Lisa Edelstein for her role in *House, M.D.*, but locally, many folks also know her as Bonnie and Alvin's *shayna* daughter – the Edelsteins had homes in the Berkshires and were members of Knesset Israel for years. During the pandemic, Lisa tried her hand at painting, creating watercolors that were recently on view in an NYC gallery. For more on Lisa Edelstein's painting and Berkshire memories, please see the story and BJV Interview on page 18.

On the coldest Berkshires day in living memory, our Jewish community did not hibernate.....

We CHAI-bernated together...

...and lived large at Federation's warm and festive Hootenanny Havdalah on February 4. Thanks to all for bundling up and coming out – please see page 9 for more.



Rabbi Reflection

Every Generation Inherits Tradition. Every Generation Creates Tradition.

By Rabbi David Weiner / Knesset Israel



Rabbi David Weiner

I have been chanting the Megillah annually for nearly 30 years, since the first Purim after my bar mitzvah. I enjoy the dramatic scenes, the punchy and ironic dialogue, and the book’s multiple levels of meaning. Studying the text in depth brings any number of profound messages, some of which stand in tension with each other. This book is about disguises and hierarchy, exile and power, patriarchy and politics, God’s role in history and God’s absence from it. Fanciful, the book is meant to appeal to children; still, adults find in it a sophisticated commentary on some of the most challenging struggles in the story of the Jewish people. Yet for me, even just holding the scroll and chanting from it is a religious experience. Like a Torah, every scroll of the

Book of Esther is the original.

Sometimes, holding the Megillah, I wonder about the origins of this distinctive holiday. Surely there was a time, decades or centuries after the fall of the Persian Empire, that the ink was fresh on the first copy of the Book of Esther, and Purim was a brand new holiday. Unlike Passover or Sukkot, even the most pious among us cannot argue that this book or this holiday is a part of Judaism because God put them there. So discussions of the establishment of Purim recorded in the Talmud, rather than avoiding questions of the holiday’s origins, provide us with insights into religious creativity and the beginnings of tradition.

From the Talmudic conversation, we learn that popularity was a key factor in establishing this holiday. Rav Shemuel bar Yehuda imagines:

Esther – perhaps the queen, perhaps the book – once sent a message to the sages, “Set my day as a holiday for the generations!” The sages nervously responded, “But you stir up jealousy among the nations of the world!” And Esther replied, “My story is already written in the Chronicles of Medea and Persia” (Megillah 7a).

Despite its potential for incitement, despite its cheeky political humor, despite the Jews’ status as a people living under the thumb of other nations, Purim simply could not be suppressed. The cat was already out of the bag. No matter what ‘they’ might say, this triumph demanded a grateful, celebratory, and enduring national response – an annual holiday. The impulse came from the people, not their leaders.

The Jews chose Esther. The Jews chose Purim. Long before their leaders finished deliberating the pros and cons, the Jewish people established a new tradition, and God decided that was alright.

Next, the Talmud turns to the question of who decided the book was holy, and why. Several rabbis proffer specific verses from the book that prove the prophetic gifts of the author. Rabbi Eliezer notes that the scroll informs us of Haman’s thoughts, a report no ordinary human being (besides Haman) could make with confidence. Rabbi Akiva reflects on the impression Esther left on a crowd, which implies that the author reads the minds of the multitude. But these possibilities and others are dismissed – literary devices like narrative style and figurative language testify to the author’s skill as a writer, not to his credentials as a prophet.

So if Esther isn’t holy because it is a work of prophecy, then why is it in the Bible? The matter remained unresolved for hundreds of years until Samuel taught: “Had I been among those earlier scholars discussing this subject, I would



Painting of Purim by Arthur Szyk. Published in Arthur Szyk: Six paintings of Jewish holidays (1948)

have given a better reason. The book says, ‘*Kiyemu v’kiblu haYehudim*,’ which I understand to mean that the Jews accepted Esther’s word and decree, and then their decision was upheld on high.” Rava, Samuel’s friend and study partner, agrees wholeheartedly. The Jews chose Esther. The Jews chose Purim. Long before their leaders finished deliberating the pros and cons, the Jewish people established a new tradition, and God decided that was alright.

It turns out that chanting Esther from the scroll is not only a *mitzvah*, it’s an excuse for a spring party, a connection with the Jewish people all over the world and throughout time, and an opportunity to start conversations about important themes. Chanting Esther is also a tribute to Jewish religious creativity. So are the other rituals of Purim – listening to the Megillah, sending *mishloach manot* food baskets, making gifts to the poor, and attending a Purim party. Including Purim in our people’s calendar underscores the message: Every generation inherits tradition. Every generation creates tradition.

Just like choices made by our ancestors, our religious choices, as a community and as a generation, will leave an impact. Purim might remind us of the high stakes – and great reward – of innovation in Jewish life.

Rabbi David Weiner is the spiritual leader of Knesset Israel in Pittsfield.



ISRAEL TRAVEL & STUDY GRANTS FOR YOUTH

The Michael Nathaniel Shute Endowment Fund

provides grants to Berkshire area youth for educational travel or study in Israel.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Awards are made within 45 days of receiving the application. Additional funding is available through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Download an application at jewishberkshires.org

or pick one up at the Federation’s office
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

THE FUTURE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IS IN YOUR HANDS.



HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THE JEWISH FUTURE?

To create your Jewish legacy contact: Dara Kaufman
dkaufman@jewishberkshires.org, (413) 442-4360, ext. 12



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES



AJC Survey: U.S. Jews Felt Less Secure After Colleyville Synagogue Attack

The survey of Jewish adults was conducted for AJC, a nonpartisan organization, by the independent research firm SSRS.

Is antisemitism rising in America? How have American Jews been impacted by antisemitism? How does the general public view antisemitism? The AJC study, the largest of its kind, is based on parallel surveys of American Jews and the U.S. general public on their perceptions and experiences of antisemitism in the U.S.

Nine out of ten American Jews believe the cancer of antisemitism is spreading in the United States. Eight out of ten believe Jew hatred has been on the rise in the last five years. And neither age, political affiliation, nor level of religiosity makes much of a difference in who feels that way.

The vast majority of Jews believe the extreme political right (91%), extreme political left (71%), and extremism in the name of Islam (86%) present an antisemitic threat in America. In fact, 31 percent of American Jews say they are less secure than in 2020 and nearly one in four respondents said the Jewish institutions to which they belong had been targeted by antisemites.

At a time when American public discourse renewed its focus on hate, racism, and xenophobia, AJC's survey shows that U.S. adults were far less likely than American Jews to have heard about the wave of violent antisemitism in May. Only 48 percent of the general public said they had heard "a lot" or "some" about Jews being attacked during that period, compared to 71 percent of American Jews who said the same.

Significantly, of the large majority of American Jews who heard about the attacks on Jews in May 2021, 72 percent said it made them feel less safe as Jews in the United States.

Many of the antisemitic attacks in May of 2021 targeted Jews who could be identified as Jewish because of their clothing or something they were displaying. This has led a sizable portion of American Jews to question whether they should display their Judaism. Twenty-two percent of the U.S. Jews said in the past 12 months they have avoided publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might help people identify them as a Jew. One out of four Jews said they avoided posting content online that would broadcast them as Jewish.

What does it say about America that approximately four out of every ten American Jews (39%) have changed their behavior out of fear of antisemitism?

There is widespread recognition among American Jews – and among the general public – that hostility toward Israel and hatred of Jews are closely intertwined. Anti-Zionism – that is, the belief that Israel has no right to exist – is viewed by more than 80 percent of American Jews and the general public as antisemitic. This includes 92 percent of Republicans and 83 percent of Democrats.

The overt antisemitism of the anti-Zionist movement has emerged most recently in the U.S. in the form of battles over intersectionality and clashes of identities. In several cases, social justice activists representing a variety of causes have tried to exclude Jews who support the Jewish state, as most do.

DONATE.  VOLUNTEER.  MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



The color photography in this issue of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* is made possible through the generosity of **Robert Baum** and **Roberta Silman, honorary publishers**. The staff of the Federation and the BJV are deeply grateful.

**Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt
and the BJV delivery team, Colin Ovitsky
and Roman Rozenblyum.**

Paid advertisements do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires or its members.



**Published nine times a year by the
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires**

Dara Kaufman: Publisher and Managing Editor

Robert Baum: Honorary Publisher

Roberta Silman: Honorary Publisher

Albert Stern: Editor

RB Design Co.: Graphic Design and Layout

Jenny Greenfeld: Advertising Sales Representative
and Assistant Editor

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

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

To have the *BJV* mailed to your home, please send a minimum donation of \$18.

Next issue publication date: **March 20, 2023 – April 30, 2023**

Press deadline: **February 6, 2023** • Advertising deadline: **March 2, 2023**

Berkshire Jewish Voice e-mail: astern@jewishberkshires.org
Phone: (413) 442-4360, ext. 11 Fax (413) 443-6070

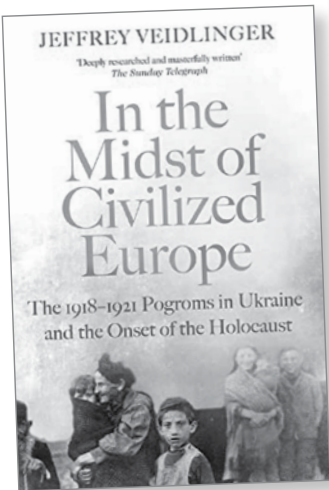
Your Federation Presents

In the Midst of Civilized Europe: Jews and Ukraine in Times of War

On Thursday, February 23 at 6:45 p.m., join Jeffrey Veidlinger, Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, who will talk about his latest book, *In the Midst of Civilized Europe: The 1918-1921 Pogroms in Ukraine and the Onset of the Holocaust*, a finalist for the Lionel Gelber Prize, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, a Times of London "Book of the Week," and a Kirkus Top Nonfiction Book of 2021.

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

Between 1918 and 1921, over 100,000 Jews were murdered in Ukraine by peasants, townsmen, and soldiers who blamed the Jews for the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. In hundreds of separate incidents, ordinary people robbed their Jewish neighbors with impunity, burned down their houses, ripped apart their Torah scrolls, sexually assaulted them, and killed them. Largely forgotten today, these pogroms – ethnic riots – dominated headlines and international



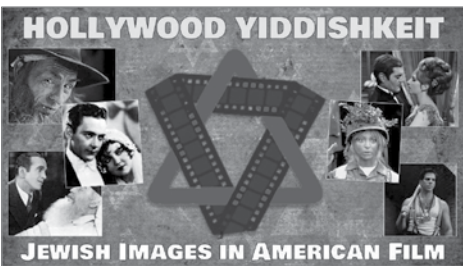
affairs in their time. Aid workers warned that six million Jews were in danger of complete extermination. Twenty years later, these dire predictions would come true.

Drawing upon long-neglected archival materials, including thousands of newly-discovered witness testimonies, trial records, and official orders, Veidlinger shows how

this wave of genocidal violence created the conditions for the Holocaust and continues to haunt Ukraine to this day. This talk will look at the historical fate of Jews in Ukraine during times of war with a focus on the pogroms of the First World War, the Holocaust, and the Russian-Ukrainian War of 2022.

Jeffrey Veidlinger is also the author of the award-winning books, *In the Shadow of the Shtetl: Small-Town Jewish Life in Soviet Ukraine*, *The Moscow State Yiddish Theater: Jewish Culture on the Soviet Stage*, and *Jewish Public Culture in the Late Russian Empire*. His writing has appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Tablet Magazine*, and *The Forward*.

Hollywood Yiddishkeit: Jewish Images in American Film



On Thursday, March 9 at 6:45 p.m., join entertainment historian John Kenrick for a multi-media look at how the depiction of Jews on screen has evolved over the years: "Hollywood Yiddishkeit: Jewish Images in American Film."

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

If you think it all began with *The Jazz Singer*, then in Al Jolson's words, "You ain't heard nothing yet!" How did early silent films rely on ethnic stereotypes? When did screen depictions of Jews and

their culture evolve? How have films dealt with the Holocaust and its survivors? And how have recent films dealt with formerly ignored aspects of Jewish life? With fascinating film clips and behind the scenes stories, entertainment historian John Kenrick examines a rich but rarely discussed cinematic legacy.

Entertainment historian **John Kenrick** has worked in the theatre at every level from amateur to Broadway, eventually serving as personal assistant to six Tony Award winning producers, including the team behind the original production of *Rent*. He has taught musical theatre history courses at New York University's Steinhardt School, The New School University, and Philadelphia's University of the Arts. John's books include *Musical Theatre: A History*, and he is featured in *The Cambridge Companion to Operetta*. He is one of the curators for the new Museum of Broadway, and is the creator of the educational website Musicals101.com.

FRANKLY FEMINIST,

continued from page 1

and points of view: Persian Jews; a Biblical matriarch; an Ethiopian mother in modern Israel; suburban American teens; Eastern European academics; a sexual questioner; a Jew by choice; a new immigrant escaping her Lower East Side sweatshop; a Black Jewish marcher for justice; in Vichy France, a toddler's mother hiding out; and more.

Organized by theme, the stories in this book emphasize a breadth of content, and our hope is that in reading you'll appreciate the liveliness of the burgeoning self-awareness brought to life in each tale, and the occasional funny, call-your-friend-and-tell-her-about-it moment. Skip around, encounter an author whose other work you may know, and be enticed by a title or an opening line. We hope you'll find both pleasure and enlightenment – and sometimes revelation – within these stories.

Susan Weidman Schneider is a founding mother of *Lilith*, the "independent, Jewish and frankly feminist" award-winning Jewish women's magazine. She has been its editor-in-chief since its debut in 1976. The magazine and her books, articles, and lectures are often credited with changing the way women shape their roles and the world around them. Schneider's groundbreaking reporting has covered, among other subjects, Jewish women's philanthropy, the Jewish stake in abortion rights, gender stereotypes of Jews, and the positive effects of feminism on Jewish life.

Yona Zeldis McDonough is the author of nine novels, two of which are published under the name of Kitty Zeldis, as well as over 35 books for children. Her short fiction, articles, and essays have been published in anthologies as well as in numerous national magazines and newspapers. For over twenty years, Yona has been the fiction editor at *Lilith Magazine*. She works independently to help aspiring writers polish their manuscripts. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

DONATE. ✨ VOLUNTEER. ✨ MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



OPEN HOUSES
June 11 & 25
1-3pm

A REFORM JEWISH SUMMER CAMP



EISNER DAY CAMP

LOCATED IN GREAT BARRINGTON, MA



Campers 4 years old to rising 2nd graders

All campers must be "up to date" with Covid-19 vaccinations.

Week-long sessions:
June 26 - August 11, 2023

Optional pick-up & drop-off service
Financial assistance available upon request

Attentive, caring
and energetic staff!
Day Camp fun includes
boating, swimming, farm,
sports, crafts, drama and music!

413.528.1652 | eisnercamp.org | eisnerdaycamp@urj.org

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

Anonymous – 1
Linda Burghardt
Michael and Helene Greenberg
Jonathan Kramer
Faith Newmark
Charles Wohl and Alba Passerini

6 Households have given in 2023

Thank you to our supporters!

The *Berkshire Jewish Voice* extends a very special "thank you" for the generosity extended by those who have sent in their contributions for voluntary subscriptions to the paper.

SEED WHAT YOU READ! BECOME A SUBSCRIBER TODAY!

Yes, I support the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*! Please accept my voluntary tax-deductible subscription contribution.

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

____ \$180 Sponsor

____ \$72 Patron

____ \$36 Friend

____ \$18 Supporter

Mail check payable to:
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
(Please add *Berkshire Jewish Voice* in the memo)

Name to be listed: _____

☐ I wish to remain anonymous

Your Federation Presents

Too Long, Too Foreign...Too Jewish?
The Politics of Jewish Name Changing



Professor Kirsten Fermaglich

On Thursday, March 23 at 6:45 p.m., we host Kirsten Fermaglich, a professor of History and Jewish Studies, Michigan State University, for a program based on her 2018 book, *A Rosenberg By Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America*.

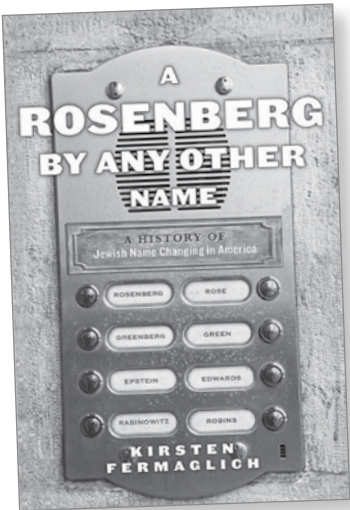
This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org for links to our programs.

Our images of name changing are frequently clichés: movie stars who adopted new names or Ellis Island officials who changed immigrants' names.

Dr. Fermaglich upends these cliches by examining previously unexplored name change petitions. In 20th-century New York City, thousands of ordinary Jews legally changed their names to respond to institutionalized antisemitism. While name-changing allowed Jewish families to achieve middle-class status, the practice also became a source of family pain and community stigma.

Join Dr. Fermaglich for a deep dive into this often misunderstood story.

A Rosenberg By Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America (NYU, 2018) was awarded the Saul Viener Book Prize by the American Jewish Historical Society in June 2019. Purchase the book at bookstore.org and a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to the local Bookstore in Great Barrington.



Dr. Fermaglich is also the author of *American Dreams and Nazi Nightmares: Early Holocaust Consciousness and Liberal America, 1957-1965* (Brandeis University Press, 2006) and the co-editor of the Norton Critical Edition of *Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique* (2013), with Lisa Fine. She is currently pursuing two research projects: one looks at antisemitism in the federal government, and the other focuses on the migration of Jewish academics to college towns throughout the South and Midwest in the years after World War II.

Tu B'Shevat Birthday Party with PJ Library

By Molly Meador / Director of PJ Library

On Sunday, January 29, families gathered to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, with a Birthday Party for the Trees! We made tree pictures, using collage, markers, and paint. Then we read the PJ Library book *Happy Birthday, Tree!* by Madelyn Rosenberg, talked about how trees grow, and practiced growing fast and slowly, and took turns being sunshine, wind, and rain to help each other's trees grow. Then we returned to our art to add to what we had made, adding animals, dinosaurs, and even Transformers – everyone needs trees! We finished up with cupcakes and sang happy birthday!



Here to help

“Greylock is the only place that would help me with my very first car loan. They are respectful, courteous, patient and very helpful with any situation. I couldn't be happier.”

Auto Loan

Rates as low as: **5.74** % APR*


GREYLOCK
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
www.Greylock.org



*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Hurry, offer available 2/1/2023 - 2/28/2023. Offer subject to credit approval. Rate is determined by model year and credit score. Up to 110% of value. Purchase money only. Assumes 60 monthly payments of \$19.21 per \$1,000 financed. Other rates and terms are available. May not be combined with any other coupon or offer. Insured by NCUA.



Your Federation Presents

Kosher Community Seder 5783

Enjoy a traditional Passover experience on the first night of the holiday



PITTSFIELD – Come out for a first night of Passover community Seder on Wednesday, April 6 at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road.

Participants will enjoy a traditional kosher Seder experience with plenty of explanation, insight, and song, enhanced by musicians with instrumental accompaniment. Enjoy all the ritual foods, ceremonial wine, and a delicious four-course

Passover meal prepared by Chris Goetz of KI.

Vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon advance request. Attendees are invited to bring their own kosher for Passover table wine.

Rabbi David Weiner of Kneset Israel will serve as Seder leader. Children of all ages, extended family, and community friends are welcome.

The cost is \$45 for adults and \$22 for children ages 5 through 17. Children 4 years and under are free of charge. Advance reservations and payment are required by March 22. Financial assistance is available to all who might need it – please contact Dara Kaufman at Federation at dkaufman@jewishberkshires.org or by calling (413) 442-4360, ext. 12.

Reservations can be made by calling the Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10 or online at www.jewishberkshires.org.

The Seder is sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires in collaboration with Kneset Israel.



Volunteers Are Vital!

We are grateful to Federation volunteers Stuart and Ellen Masters for helping Kimball Farms residents celebrate Shabbat. If you are interested in volunteering to conduct a short Kabbalat Shabbat service for residents at a local senior residence, contact Molly Meador at mmeador@jewishberkshires.org.





Heirlooms Jewelry

Wearable history in Roman glass & silver.

Exquisite, affordable jewelry from Israel.

heirloomsjewelry.com

The Mews, 36 Main St., Stockbridge, MA ■ 413.298.4436



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



JEWISH DAY CAMP 2023 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



Federation and Eisner Day Camp have teamed up to make day camp affordable for every family!

Eisner offers a \$100 per week, per child discount to families whose children are enrolled in a Berkshire school district year-round. Families may also apply to Federation for an additional \$100 per week in financial assistance.

DEADLINE: APRIL 30

Download an application at jewishberkshires.org or email federation@jewishberkshires.org to receive the link.



Nature, culture, community – Kimball Farms Life Care



Discover retirement as it was meant to be at Kimball Farms Life Care Community. Nestled in beautiful Lenox, Mass., on 63 stunning acres, Kimball Farms is conveniently located near Tanglewood and many other cultural attractions.

A variety of services provided by our award-winning, caring, professional staff can offer those 65 and over the freedom of independence and a meaningful, rewarding lifestyle. This is all enhanced with the security of knowing you can add care as you need it – all for your monthly fee.

Kimball Farms offers:

- Independent living apartments
- Assisted living apartments
- Memory Care
- Skilled Nursing Care

Call 800-283-0061 today to schedule your tour at Western Massachusetts' ONLY Life Care Community.




235 Walker Street
Lenox, MA 01240
800-283-0061
www.kimballfarms.org

AN AFFILIATE OF INTEGRITUS HEALTHCARE



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




The Berkshires.

More than a destination. It's a way of life. From one season to the next, we understand.

It's a set of experiences, qualities and values that fulfill.

We believe your financial advisors should embody these same attributes.

It's why we're here. We're here with you. And for you.



Portfolio Management • Financial Planning • Trust & Banking Services*

103 West Park Street
Lee, MA 01238
(413) 243-4331

www.octobermountainfa.com

October Mountain Financial Advisors is a d/b/a of St. Germain Investment Management with an office in Lee, MA.
*Trust and Banking Services provided by Lee Bank.

A SEC Registered Investment Advisor

Your Federation Presents

One Story

Unlike many other federations, we keep most of the funds donated to our annual campaign right here in the Berkshires. But we also invest in Jewish life around the world. Last year, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires provided an allocation of \$90,000 to The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), which since 1929 has provided the global framework for Aliyah, ensuring global Jewish safety, strengthening Jewish identity, and connecting Jews to Israel and one another. Our partner JAFI conveys the voice of the Jewish People to the State of Israel to help shape its society – this is how your campaign dollars change lives every day.

70,000 People from 95 Countries make Aliyah in 2022

The most olim in more than two decades arrived in Israel this year, representing a dramatic increase from 2021

JNS – Some 70,000 people from 95 different countries immigrated to Israel in 2022 with the assistance of The Jewish Agency for Israel, in cooperation with the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration.

It was the most olim in 23 years and a dramatic increase from 2021, when about 28,600 immigrants arrived in the country.

Jewish Agency data for the period between January 1 and December 1, 2022, shows that 37,364 olim arrived from Russia; 14,680 from Ukraine; 3,500 from North America, with assistance from Nefesh B’Nefesh; 2,049 from France; 1,993 from Belarus; 1,498 from Ethiopia as part of Operation Tzur Israel; 985 from Argentina; 526 from Great Britain; 426 from South Africa; and 356 from Brazil.

Approximately 27% (about 19,000) of this year’s olim are young people between the ages of 18 and 35, who will boost Israeli society and the economy, including professionals in fields where there is a labor shortage in Israel such as medicine, engineering and education. Around 24% (16,500) of the olim are ages 0-17; 22% are between 36 and 50 years old; 14% are aged 51-64; and 13% are 65 and over.

“It was a dramatic year that emphasized the value of mutual responsibility among the Jewish people and during which the Jewish Agency helped strengthen the resilience of Jewish communities, empowered weaker



New immigrants to Israel dance the hora in Jerusalem

populations in Israel, brought tens of thousands of olim, saved lives from all over Ukraine and brought them to a safe harbor in Israel,” said Jewish Agency Chairman Maj. Gen. (res.) Doron Almog.

“Aliyah is of existential importance to the State of Israel, both at the practical and moral level. It expresses the nature of Israel as the state of the entire Jewish people and the strategic partnership between Israel and world Jewry. The tens of thousands of olim who came to Israel this year will help build the resilience of Israeli society and will be a major growth engine for the Israeli economy,” he added.

The Jewish Agency’s operation to rescue Ukrainian

Jews following Russia’s invasion in February was unprecedented in its scope. The organization opened centers to receive the wave of Jewish refugees and provide them with warm beds, meals, medical care and activities for children.

A total of 290,000 meals were distributed in these centers and thousands of the refugees, including hundreds of seniors and Holocaust survivors, were brought to Israel on rescue flights. Emergency grants were also transferred to strengthen Jewish communities within Ukraine, and 354 tons of personal equipment was collected in Israel and distributed to refugees in Ukraine.

In light of the surge in arrivals, the Jewish Agency is preparing to operate a new model of “open absorption centers” where young olim will live in the same apartment building and receive community support services. The Jewish Agency will also open a first-of-its-kind center for lone soldiers (those without family members living in Israel who can help them) in Tel Aviv as part of the Wings program.

The program, a joint initiative of the Jewish Agency, the Meraze Foundation, the Spirit of Israel social action platform and Keren Hayesod, provided a supportive framework for 2,200 lone soldiers this year – from those preparing for military service to those who have been discharged and are establishing their lives as civilians.

One More Story

Finding Her Place and People in Israel



Since the moment she decided to move to Israel from Costa Rica, Micaela started studying Hebrew with a private teacher twice a week. Still, she knew her Hebrew skills would still have a ways to go upon arriving in the Jewish state, so she decided to help ease her transition to life in Israel, she’d enroll in an Ulpan (Hebrew learning) program.

Micaela, 26, made Aliyah on May 11, 2022, a date she considers her “second birthday” now, and her experience at The Jewish Agency’s Ulpan Etzion in

Haifa has been even better than she imagined.

The Jewish Agency’s Ulpan Etzion program is Israel’s flagship intensive Hebrew learning program designed specifically for young immigrants who hold college degrees. The five-month-long experience provides a solid academic Hebrew foundation for those who wish to develop their language skills in Israel and also gives young adults the opportunity to meet other Jews from around the world who are newcomers to Israel as well.

At Ulpan, Micaela has class Sunday through Thursday, with plenty of free time in the afternoon for lunch, followed by homework and studies, then grocery shopping, socializing, or running by the beach. She’s also been taking advantage of the many activities available in Haifa, from free traditional Israeli dance classes to concerts and museum visits.

And while Micaela always felt Israel was a part of her before making Aliyah, her connection to the Jewish homeland has strengthened since becoming an olah chadashah (new immigrant). Likewise, her relationship with Judaism has grown.

“It still amazes me to be surrounded by people who know what Shabbat is or who have their own Pesach traditions,” reflected Micaela. “Growing up, I always had to explain to my friends what my traditions were like, which was fine because they were all so interested and respectful. However, it is really incredible to feel you are not the different one.”

After finishing Ulpan, Micaela, who has a degree in industrial engineering, plans to pursue a master’s degree in Machine Learning and Data Science at Reichman University in Herzliya. In the meantime, she’s enjoying every challenging but rewarding minute of Ulpan.

“Ulpan Etzion has helped me improve my Hebrew level to a point where I feel comfortable having conversations in Hebrew. But beyond Hebrew, Ulpan Etzion created a place where I made friends that I know will be there for the rest of my life, friends that have the same struggles as I do and who are also figuring out their place in Israeli society,” shared Micaela. “I honestly believe Ulpan gives olim (immigrants) a smoother landing to Israel and the tools needed to feel confident in their new home.”

It’s never too early to START PLANNING for your best senior living.

Don’t struggle with aging at home and the isolation and challenges it can bring. Life at Geer Village means less stress on you and your family, and more chances to live life with renewed energy and purpose!

- Benefits of planning:
- Make an informed and confident decision—you are ready when the time comes.
 - Avoid the stressful search for care when an emergency arises.
 - You have the peace of mind knowing there’s a secure plan in place.

We believe in supporting seniors throughout all stages of life. Contact us today to learn more.



Scan code to learn more



At Geer Village, our rates are all inclusive and affordable. Call 860.824.2625 to schedule your in-person or virtual tour.



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 Kneset 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.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 21.....Breaded chicken cutlets#, egg drop soup, spicy dipping sauce, egg rolls, white rice, Oriental vegetables, rye bread, and pineapple.

Thursday, 23.....Vegan lentil stew**#, brown rice, salad, multi-grain bread, and cherry pie.

Monday, 27Roasted chicken**#, mixed bean soup, noodles and onions, roasted broccoli, whole wheat bread, and applesauce.

Tuesday, 28.....Pepper steak with Korean barbecue sauce**#, mango juice, white rice, Oriental vegetables, salad, white bread, and Mandarin oranges.

MARCH

Thursday, 2.....“Pepperoni” pizza, beets, salad, and fruit cocktail.

Monday, 6Meat loaf**#, chicken soup, peas and carrots, mashed potatoes, rye bread, and pears.

Tuesday, 7.....Poultry pot pie** (GF without crust), rice, salad, whole wheat bread, and hamantashen.

Thursday, 9.....Italian Day (dairy), minestrone soup, Italian beans, garlic bread, and apricots.

PLEASE NOTE: 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.

Monday, 13.....Salisbury steak, turkey soup, salad, potatoes O’Brien, rye bread, and grapes.

Tuesday, 14.....Tex-Mex Day (dairy), brown rice, salad, fruit salad, and peanut butter cookies.

Thursday, 16.....Beef barley stew (with brisket)#, hearty Tuscan bread, and applesauce.

Monday, 20.....Shepherd’s Pie**# or lamb based pastitsio (chef’s choice), chef’s choice of soup, broccoli, pumpernickel bread, and chocolate babka.

Tuesday, 21.....Asian glazed chicken**#, mini egg rolls, mixed vegetables, rice, multi-grain bread, and cranberry oatmeal cookies.

Thursday, 23.....Fish chowder with corn**, dairy chopped suey, oven roasted Brussels sprouts, challah, and Mandarin oranges.

Monday, 27Pasta delight (dairy), tomato soup, beets, salad, bread TBA, and cookies.

Tuesday, 28.....Closed for Passover Preparation.

Thursday, 30.....Closed for Passover Preparation.

MAZEL TOV!

Maxine J. Stein, on wrapping up her role as CEO of Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts.

Adam Lehrer on his super special birthday.

Kneset 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, February 24.....5:18 p.m.
Friday, March 3.....5:27 p.m.
Friday, March 10.....5:35 p.m.
Friday, March 17.....6:43 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL!



Carrie Lobovits Wright
REALTOR®

CURIOUS ABOUT REAL ESTATE
IN THE BERKSHIRES?
Let's get in touch!
CARRIE@THEBERKSHIRES.COM
413-212-1865

JAN PERRY REALTY + ASSOCIATES, LLC
431 North Street Pittsfield MA 01201

You can now read and share *Berkshire Jewish Voice* feature stories online!

Visit jewishberkshires.org and select **Community & Events>Berkshire**

Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.

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.



Concepts of Art

65 Church Street
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-4845
www.conceptsofart.com

Free Pack Of Shabbat Candles

With every purchase of \$100 or more

Schilling TV

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

- TV, Audio, WiFi
- Outside Digital Antenna
- Wall Mounted TV's
- Cell Antenna's

413-443-9235
215 Fourth Street, Pittsfield, MA • Since 1948

SONY
LG SAMSUNG
SONOS DENON

We deliver

Julia Kaplan Event Photographer

Serving the Berkshires
From small events to family portraits
to large, informal events

973-590-7276

JuliaBKaplan@gmail.com

Your Federation Presents

“A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.”

So opined one of our Sages, the late Carl Reiner, about winter weather. Like it or not, snow covered the ground and a record-breaking chill froze the Berkshires solid on February 4 – nevertheless, more than 70 hardy community members showed up (and 50 more joined on the livestream) for Federation’s Hootenanny Havdalah. You all made it one of the warmest gatherings of the year.

Thanks to our affiliates for co-sponsoring this spirited evening of song, to the musicians (and guests who sat in to jam) for playing their hearts out, and to Kneset Israel and Rabbi David Weiner for being such gracious hosts.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Henry Simkin and Frances Simkin Schiller and Dr. Stanley and Fay Simkin Scholarship Fund
Annually awards one or two scholarships to graduating seniors who have demonstrated leadership and participation in the Berkshire Jewish community.

Deadline: April 22

Download an application at jewishberkshires.org
or pick one up at the Federation’s office
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires – Distribution of Resources in 2022

\$1,348,861

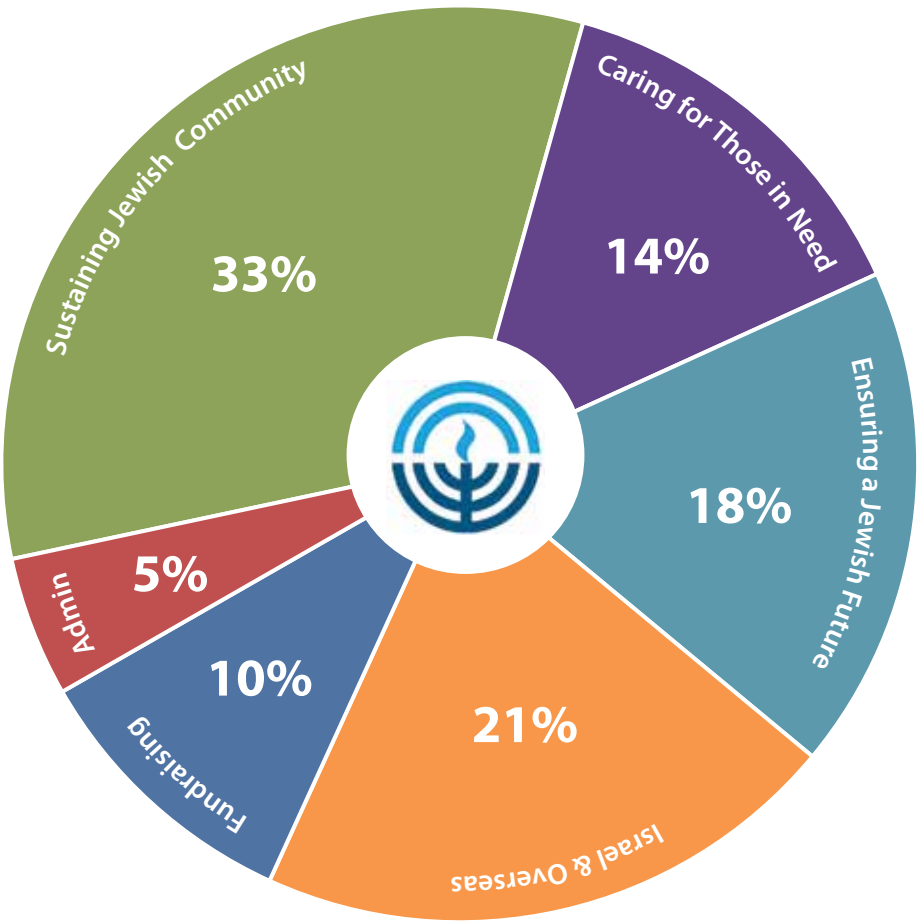
Includes distribution of Annual Campaign, earned income, grants, and endowments as of December 31, 2022

Sustaining Jewish Community

- Berkshire Jewish Voice
- General Programming
- Jewish Community Day
- Shabbat Across the Berkshires
- Chanukah at the Mount
- Community Havdalah Concert
- Middle East Update
- Connecting with Community Program
- Knosh & Knowledge Program
- Community Calendar
- Community Relations & Advocacy
- Holocaust Remembrance Event
- Jewishberkshires.org and E-news
- Program Grants for Local Congregations
- Jewish Federations of North America

Fundraising

- Annual Campaign Development
- Communications & Marketing
- Legacy Circle Program
- Major Donors Program



Israel & Overseas

- | | |
|---|---|
| Jewish Agency for Israel | Ethiopian National Project |
| Joint Distribution Committee | Haifa Women’s Crisis Shelter |
| Ukraine Emergency Assistance | Israel Association for Child Protection (ELI) |
| World ORT | Meir Panim |
| Partnership2Gether- Afula Gilboa | Neve Michael Children’s Village |
| Mishkan Ein Harod & Clark Art Collaboration | Yad LaKashish |

Caring for Those in Need

- Food & Emergency Assistance
- Hebrew Free Loans
- Friendly Visitors Program
- Community Social Worker
- Meals on Wheels
- Older Adult Kosher Lunches
- Older Adult Holiday Care Packages
- Tikkun Olam Volunteer Opportunities
- Ahavath Sholem Cemetery
- Essential Needs Collections
- Jewish Family Services of Western MA
- Abundance Farm Food Program

Ensuring a Jewish Future

- PJ Library Books & Resources
- Family Programming
- Family Volunteer Opportunities
- Jewish Education Grants to TAA, KI, CBI, and Hevreh
- ADL A World of Difference® Program
- Israel Travel/Study Scholarships
- Jewish Camp Scholarships
- Public School Advocacy
- Taglit Birthright
- UMASS Hillel
- Williams College Jewish Religious Center

Building Community | Strengthening Identity | Caring for those in Need

Across the Berkshires

- Kosher Hot Meals & Care Visits**
Provided more than **3,400 nutritious meals, 414 holiday packages, and visits** for hundreds of older adults.
- Social Services**
Provided case management and counseling, through a Jewish lens, by a licensed social worker to more than **87 community members.**
- Emergency & Specific Assistance**
Provided **75 holiday food cards, emergency grants, and interest-free loans** to provide a safety net for community members.
- Jewish Education**
Provided a high-quality Jewish education for **127 children and young adults** through Jewish education grants to TAA, KI, CBI and Hevreh’s religious schools.
- Family Programming**
Engaged over **200 parents, grandparents, and children** in Jewish programming and *tikkun olam*, strengthening their connections to the Jewish community and helping them build supportive relationships with Jewish peers.
- PJ Library & PJ Our Way**
Distributed more than **1,936 books and CDs** to **163 children**, nurturing their Jewish identity and helping their families embrace Jewish values and traditions.

- Camp, Israel, and Campus Life**
Funded transformative Jewish camp and Israel experiences for **38 local youth** and enhanced Jewish life for over **2,500 college students** at UMASS Amherst and Williams College.
- Community Programming**
Engaged more than **5,000 participants** in celebrating Jewish life and connecting as a community through more than **82 cultural, educational, and holiday programs.**
- Berkshire Jewish Voice**
Primary resource for **over 5,000 readers**, engaging our community in Jewish life and broadening our spiritual, political, and cultural understanding.
- Community Relations & Advocacy**
Provided **a proactive voice and advocacy** combating anti-Semitism in our community and supporting anti-bias training for over **2,300 students and educators** in Berkshire County schools.
- Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) Network**
Engaged over **200 volunteers** in more than **2,000 hours of service** to the Berkshire Jewish Community.

In Israel & Overseas

- Through our partners, **The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and World ORT**, our Federation helped fund:
 - Lifesaving emergency assistance for more than **50,000 Jews** fleeing the fighting in war-torn Ukraine.
 - Resettlement services and job training for more than **46,000 Jews fleeing Ukraine and Russia** for a new life in Israel.
 - Food card, meals-on-wheels, homecare, winter relief, and medicine to more than **90,000 of the world’s poorest Jews.**
 - Food cards, medical treatment, and activities for more than **21,000 at-risk children.**
 - Jewish education, camp, and Israel experiences for more than **6,500 youths in the Former Soviet Union.**
- In addition, we provided direct support in Israel** to after-school programs for **at-risk students**, shelter for **battered women**, a supportive home for **abandoned youth**, counseling for sexually **abused women**, food security for **low-income individuals and youth**, and assistance for the **frail and elderly.**

This is just a sampling of how, together, we made a difference in the lives of others this year.

The 2022 Annual Campaign raised \$1,170,600

Thank You for Making a Difference!

“It is not what one says, but rather what one does that makes all the difference in the world” – Pirkei Avot 1:17

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires acknowledges the tremendous effort of over 1,152 donors and many community volunteers who helped make the 2022 campaign a resounding success. Together, we bring dignity and care to the vulnerable, engage the next generation, and create meaningful Jewish life across the Berkshires and beyond.



*** denotes Lion of Judah~woman's individual gift of \$5,000 or more**
denotes individual donations
^ denotes of blessed memory

Sustainers

(\$18,000 & Above)
Helene Berger *
Robert Bildner & Elisa Spungen-Bildner
The Feigenbaum Foundation, Inc.
Stuart & Ellen Masters * #
Ronald & Karen Rettner
Schnesel Family Fund
Irv & Carol Smokler
David Strassler

Pacesetters

(\$10,000 - \$17,999)
Anonymous Donors - 2
Robert Baum
Linda J.L. Becker *
Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Robert & Kristen Clarfeld
Oliver & Cynthia Curme
Fredric Friedman & Cathy Demain Mann
Peter & Julie Gale
Rebecca Gold Milikowsky *
Rita J. & Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, Inc.
Edward & Susan Kopelowitz
George & Lizbeth Krupp
Jeffrey Leppo & Marjorie Safran * #
Danny & Margie Levin
John & Nina Lipkowitz
Messinger Family
Claudio & Penny Pincus
David & Carrie Schulman * #
Judd & Susan Shoval
Richard & Alyson Slutzky *#
Jeffrey Solomon & Audrey Weiner
Michael & Joan Ury

Builders

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)
Anonymous Donors - 1
Richard Budson & Judy Bergman
Elias A. Cohen Foundation, Inc.
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook #
Hezzy Dattner & Lynne Galler
Eitan & Malka Evan
Lynn Foggie
Susan Gold
Harold Grinspoon & Diane Troderman
Alan & Liz Jaffe
Stephen & Leslie Jerome
Julia Kaplan *

Elihu & Marilyn Katzman
John Kimelman
William & Shirley Lehman
Ben Liptzin & Liz Schneider
Estelle Miller *
Rabbis Rex Perlmeter & Rachel Hertzman
Bernard & Elaine Roberts * #
Michael & Barbara Rosenbaum
Robert & Joan Rubinstein
Leonard Saxe & Marion Gardner Saxe
Gary & Arlene D. Schiff * #
Abby Schroeder *
Jack & Margo Schwartz
Sharon Siegel *
Spitz-Tuchman Family Fund
Mark & Judy Usow #
Howard & Deborah Wineberg #
Jacob & Dora Wineberg Fund
Joshua Yurfest & Kathleen Fraker #

Investors

(\$1,800 - \$4,999)
Anonymous Donors - 3
Harold & Denyse Adler
Marion F. Adler
David & Kyneret Albert #
Michael P. & Susan Albert
Kenneth Amron & Ruth Frommer
Arnie Angerman & Shira Nichaman
Stephen & Shari Ashman
Barry & Marjorie Berg
Ethan & Jamie Berg
Steve & Nancy Bernstein
Charles & Brenda Block
Rabbi Neal Borovitz
Simeon Brinberg
Roger & Lara Brown
Carr Hardware Co.
Eric & Lisa Chamberlain
Jeffrey & Beth Cohen
Mimi Cohen
Michael & Roberta Cohn
Brenda Curtis
Justin Davies, Mara Goodman-Davies & GE matching grant
Harold & Nanci Deutsch
Ann Dorfman
Myron & Ann Falchuk
Eugene Fidell & Linda Greenhouse
Jack & Joyce Finkelstein
Kenneth Fishman & Lisa Wendell
William & Sandra Flannery
Larry Frankel & Elisa Schindler Frankel
Rabbis Danny Frelander & Elyse Frishman
Ellis & Joanna Fribush
Joel Friedman & Marian Faytell Friedman

Ralph & Audrey Friedner
Paul & Joan Gluck
Stan Greenfield & Gaye Moelis
Ed Grossman
Louis Grossman
Aaron Gurwitz & Susan Abramowitz
Lynne Harrison
Jim Heeger & Daryl Messinger
Ken & Mimi Heyman
Mark Hoffman & Debra Ilberman
Leonard & Harriet Holtz
Barry & Marjorie Jaffe
Gene & Miriam Josephs
Abraham & Linda Kadish
Lynne Kaplan
Jane Karlin
Alan Kaufman & Deborah Roth
Ofer & Dara Kaufman
Ed Koenig & Gayle Moskowitz
Chet & Carol Kolton
Sam Kopel & Sari Scheer
Livingston & Saranne Kosberg
Roy & Leslie Kozupsky
Lynne Leavitt
Susan Frisch Lehrer
Marvin & Helaine Lender
Milton Lestz & Adam Irick
Judith Levin
Ira & Phyllis Lieberman
Sanford Lipton
Paul & Judith May
Edward & Carol Oshinsky
Lawrence & Marsha Pacernick
Steven & Helice Picheny
Lawrence Rosenthal (*in memory of Bette Sue Rosenthal*)
Paul Rosenthal & Elaine Hantman #
Jeffrey & Karen Ross
Milton Rubin & Barbara Mandler
Michael & Raquel Scheck
Zelda & John Schwebel Family Foundation
Sue Shimelman
Ben & Elaine Silberstein
Bernard & Lisa Silverman
Gene & Hope Silverman
Richard Simons & Marcie Greenfield Simons #
Beryl & Lainey Simonson
Mark & Elisa Snowise #
Kara Thornton
Henry Tulgan
Edward Wacks
Arthur & Terry Wasser
Rabbis Donald Weber & Shira Stern
Bruce Wintman & Jonna Gaberman
Sergey & Natalya Yantovsky #

Wasserman-Streit Y'DIYAH Memorial Fund
Harvey & Janis Zimble #

Major Donors

(\$1,000 - \$1,799)
Anonymous - 2
Bernie & Beth Abramson #
Irwin & Mary Ackerman
Roy Aibel & the Aibel Family
Murray & Barbara Akresh #
Alan & Deborah Annex
Michel & Abby Araten
Hillel & Liliana Bachrach
Stephen Bazil
Alan & Judith Benjamin
Deborah Bergeron
John Bergman & Laura Bergman-Hazen
Ronni Bernard
Ellen Bernstein
Barry & Carol Beyer
Don & Rosetta Bierman
Mark & Amy Blumkin
Peter Bodnar & Robin Weiser
Judith Bookbinder & Larry Fischer
Lawrence & Joan Brotman
Donald & Jadwiga Brown
Dan & Jerri Buehler
Terry & Bonnie Burman
Rabbi Barbara Cohen
Laurence Cohen
Howard Cooper
Joel & Phyllis Curran #
Chuck & Ada Beth Cutler
David Davis & Sheila Drill
Jerome & Brenda Deener
Gerald & Lynn Denmark #
Mel & Terry Drucker
Chip & Cindy Elitzer
George & Ginger Elvin
England/Scott Family Fund
David & Lea Finck
Jim & Patty Fingerroth
Peter & Nancy Finn
Steven & Renee Finn
Zachary & Laura Fluhr
Gerald Freedman
Stephen & Madalyn Friedberg
Shirley Friedman Yohalem
Daniel & Rosele Frishwasser
Harold & Jill Gaffin
Steven & Nancy Gallant
Jeff & Judy Gelfand
David & Judy Gilbert
Jane Glaser
Marc & Suze Goldman
Irene Goldman-Price

Richard Greene & Lindsay Crampton
Renee Gross
Mary Jane Handler
Susan Harlap
Ronald & Miriam Hinds
Richard & Cathy Holland
John Huffaker & Pattie Lipman
Richard & Marianne Jaffe
Danny & Elaine Katz
The Ezra & Tati Katz Philanthropic Fund
Judy Katz
Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman
Laurence & Joan Kleinman
Alan Kluger & Amy Dean
Ed & Roz Kolodny
Benjamin & Sandy Krause
Cary & Beth Lakenbach
Fred & Brenda Landes #
Mordi & Monica Lapin
Sally Laufer
Jeff Lazarus & Phyllis Cohen
Midge Lefkowitz
Rabbi Daniel and Lisa Lehmann
Eugene & Augusta Leibowitz
Jay Leipzig & Cindy Chazan
Peter & Beth Levin
Rhoda Levitt
Gerry & Pommy Levy
Vivian Lieberman
Norman & Nancy Lipoff
Greg Lipper & Kate Kohler Amory
Allan & Nan Lipton
Mark Lipton, PhD
Barry Lobovits
Arthur & Vicki Loring
Paula Lustbader
Kenneth & Barbara Mahler
Roger & Natalie Matus
Peter & Judy Menikoff
Fred Mensch & Andrea Bodine
Lisa Messinger
Enid Michelman
Nancy Milbauer
Bob & Harriet Miller
Lesley Oransky
David & Susan Orenstein
Elaine Padilla, PhD
Joel & Beth Radsken
Joseph H. & Carol F. Reich Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
Wendy H. Robbins
Rabbi Yaakov & Nina Rone
Laura Rosenthal
Steve Rubin & Jean Moore
Sue Z. Rudd

Marc Rudoltz & Lisa Hochman
James Satovsky & Gail Asarch Satovsky
Leonard & Alice Schiller
Albert & Marcia Schmier
Bruce Schreiber & Ronney Rosenberg
Bernice Schwartz
Martin & Laurie Schwartz
Donald & Arlene Shapiro
Carole Siegel
Roberta Silman
Drs. Leonard & Gail Silverman
Carl and Toby Sloane Family Foundation
Marvin Smith
Lauren Spitz
Ken Stark
Charles & Rosalyn Stuzin
Sue Sussman
Steven & Carol Targum
Cynthia Tatalovich
Floyd & Marcia Tuler
Edward & Lisa Udel #
Howard Unker
The Velmans Foundation
Barbara Viniar
Chester & Madeline Vogel
Alexandra Warshaw
Melvin & Harriet Warshaw
Michael Wasserman
Rabbi David & Judith Weiner
Harry & Eileen Weinstein
Ken & Rhea Werner
Steven & Florence Winter #
David Wise & Debra Chudnow
Rebecca Wolin
Steven & Mary Yarmosky #

General Contributors

Anonymous Donors - 54
Marshall & Stephanie Abes
Amy Simons Abramovich
Ed Abrahams
Elise Abrams
Stephen & Phyllis Abramson
James & Rosalie Adamson
Andy & Judi Adler
Susan Adler
David Agler
Marcie Aiuvallasit
Sylvia Allan
Howard & Sue Arkan
Helene Armet
Marilyn Armour
Nancy Ashen
David & Susie Auerbach
Suzanne Bach



Continued on next page

----- Thank You! -----



General Contributors, continued

Marc & Carrie Bachman
Ken & Robin Baer
Joanna Ballantine
Bill & Sharon Ballen
Stephen & Teresa Bannon
Rabbi Rachel Barenblat
Barbara Barron
Lester & Amy Bart
Joel Bashevkin
Marvin Bass
Rebekah Bassen
Ev Bastow
Steven & Susan Baum
Ira & Nancy Baumel
David & Nancy Bayer
Beckwith Family
Steven & Laura Bedford
Mark & Pam Beiderman
David & Cindy Bell-Deane
Steven Bellovin & Diane Finger
Aleksey Berezkin
Nina Berezkin
Madelaine Berg
Marlene Bergendahl
David & Cindy Berger
Raymond & Diane Berkowitz
Jessie Berrick & Eugene Jura
Larry & Rochelle Bertan
Gerald Berthiaume & Jane Perlman
Stuart Besnoff
Jonathan Biller & Victoria Rand Biller
Alan & Cheryl Binder
John & Melissa Bissell
Sam & Maggie Bittman
Wayne & Sue Bizer
Walter^ & Hildi Black
Lynette Blattner-Dukehart
Jeff & Sarah Blaugrund
Aileen Bliss
Josh Bloom
Bill & Hinda Bodinger
Walter & Suzanne Bogad
Nelson & Carolyn Bonheim
Maxine Bookless
Nan Ellen Bookless
Ralph Bradburd & Zelda Stern
Bruce & Andrea Braffman
Carole Bratter
Brazabra Corporation
Charles & Elaine Brenner
Rabbi Ken Brickman
Rachel Brier
Ralph Brill
Larry & Nancy Bronstein
Barry & Jacolyn Brown
Ilse Browner
Jack & Esther Budnick
Dan & Joan Burkhard
Brendan Burns & Nerissa Bardfeld
Bradley & Rita Buschel
Myron & Harriet Bussel
Howard Buxbaum & Paula Barber
Hanan & Rebecca Caine
Rabbi Ivan & Deborah Caine
Neil & Mary Beth Calnan
Jim Caron & Amy Richman
Susan Cartun
Donald Chabon & D. Anne Rabinowitz
Ben and Ilona Charkow
Richard & Dale Charkow
Alan & Roselle Chartock
Barbara Chasen

Marlene Chautin
Paul & Leslie Chesloff
Matthew & Catherine Chester
Howard Chezar
Diane Christie
Jae & Suzanne Chung
Carol Cirigliano
Bruce & Joan Cohen
Dan & Stephanie Cohen
David & Sherry Cohen
Elaine Cohen
Elizabeth & Madeline Cohen
James Cohen & Amy Silberstein
Mark & Barbara Cohen
Nadine Habousha Cohen
Rich Cohen & Cheryl Sacks
Rob & Lori Cohen
Philip Coleman
Joel & Sue Colker
Nancy Cook
Jesse & Rebecca Cook-Dubin & Family
Noah & Kika Cook-Dubin
Robert Cooper
Barbara Cooperman
Claudia Coplan
Adele Cukor
Deborah Curtis
Josh Cutler & James Cutler
Mark Deitch & Diane Rosenthal
Edan & Alexis Dekel
David Dembowitz
Jonathan Denmark
Lara Denmark
Robert & Marilyn Derector
Lee & Sophie Dichter
Candy Docimo
Gilbert & Norma d'Oliveira
Sheila Donath
Douglas & Amy Doty
Joel Douglas & Lynn Maier
The Drayman Family
Alexander^ & Aline^ Drescher
Arthur & Henya Drescher
Avi & Natasha Dresner
Dale Drimmer
Barbara Drosnin
Karen Drucker
Mark & Judy Drucker
Richard & Hilary Drucker
Richard & Anna Jo Dubow
James Duffy & Debora Cole-Duffy
Susan Dunn
David & Marsha Edell
Michael & Eve Edwards
David & Minna Ellison
Michael & Barbara Ende
David & Leni Engels
David Epstein & Geraldine Feldman
Elaine Epstein
Phyllis Epstein
Bruce & Terri Ettinger
Chris Fader & Michele Krieg Bauer
Fred & Nancy Fagelman
Paula Farbman
Laura Feakes
David & Linda Feigenbaum
Stuart & June Feigenblatt
Steven Fein & Wendy Penner
Patti Feinberg
Stephen & Wendy Feingold
Stanley & Diana Feld
Lorraine Feldman
Leonard Felson & Julia Rosenblum

Richard & Heidi Ferren
Sue Fertig
Adam Filson & Amy Cott Filson
Phyllis Fink
Richard & Diane Finkelstein
Shirley Finkelstein ^
Rob & Patty Fire
Norman & Robin First
Leslie Fishbein
Marilyn Fisher
Robin Fleet
Laura Flint
Roz Forman
Zita Fox
Stephen & Kathy Frank
Hilary Freedman & Howard Zern
Goldy Fried
Elaine Friedman
Lawrence Friedman & Aviva Wichler
Leonard & Gloria Friedman
Marty Friedman
Michael & Carolyn Friedman
Egon & Joan Fromm
Toni Front
Austin & Heidi Frye
Laurence Gadd & Cia Elkin
Real & Alla Gadoury
Rik & Nancy Gagon
Jeffrey & Lonnie Garber
Yosef Garbow
Sandra Garrellick
Andrew Geller
Diana Geller
Michael & Eleanor Geller
Robert & Patricia Geller
Bill & Jill Gellert
Edward & Anna Gershenson
N. Richard & Monique Gershon
John Gerson & Rachel Bush
Michael Gerstein & Lois Jackson
Mitchell Gilbert
Tom & Beverly Gilbert
Ted & Barbara Ginsburg
Judith Gitelson
Jenny Gitlitz
Sheila Gladstein
Philip & Bette Gladstone
David Glaser & Debra Stone
Harry & Rochelle Glick
Rabbi Jeff & Mindy Glickman
Judy Glockner
Alan & Brenda Gold
Barbara Gold
Jay & Joan Gold
Miriam Gold
Henry & Pauline Goldberg
Peter & Robin Goldberg
Ronald & Shoshana Goldberg
Rosalie Goldberg
Jack & Myrna Golden
Carl & Sondra Goldenberg
Mark Goldfus & Beverly Rubman
Roger Goldin
Joyce Goldklang & Jay Diamond
Sheila Goldlust & William Rota
Raymond & Karen Goldsteen
David Goldstein & Sherri Greenbach
Ed and Ronna Goldstein
Jill Goldstein
Rabbi Robert & Faith Goldstein
Margo Golos
Stephen & Judith Goodman
Lynne Goodman-Leary
Alan & Marilyn Gordon
Garet Gordon
Marc Gordon & Cheryl Zellman
Rabbi Jodie Gordon
Susan Gordon
Daniel Goroff & Beth Wells
Julian & Beth Gott
Harriet Gottesman
Bill & Linda Grabel
John & Laurel Graney
Peter & Rosy Granoff
Paul & Karen Graubard
Suzanne Graver
Nelson Graves
Jordan & Laura Green
Paul & Lisa Green
Barbara Greenbaum
Ed Greenbaum & Anne Riener
Rabbi Michael & Cindy Greenbaum
Eric & Phyllis Greenberg
Marco Greenberg & Stacey Nelkin
Stuart Greenberg
Susan Greenberg-Yarmush

Zina Greene
Bob Greenfield & Debbie Harris
Ted & Dru Greenwood
Joe Griminger & Amy Doberman
Elizabeth Gross
Bill & Ani Grosser
Joan Grossman
Joel & Judie Grossman
Lenny & Cindy Grunin
Sue Gurland & Mark Wasserman
Martha Gurman
Rabbi Eric & Laura Gurvis
Steven & Roberta Haas
Hope Hagler
Barry & Sheila Halpern
Philip & Linda Halpern
Paul & Suzanne Hanau
Amy Handelsman
Thomas Hardy
Mark & Susan Hariton
David & Merle Harris
Matthew & Wendi Hauck
Samuel & Tracy Haupt
David Hautzig & Terri Sash
Suellen Havsy
Gerald & Barbara Hayden
Ellen Heffan
Cindy Helitzer
Ed Helitzer
Dennis & Diana Hellman
Eileen Henle
David & Nadine Henner
Marc & Judy Herbert
Jeff & Deborah Herman
Peter Herman & Jerri Chaplin
Robert Hertzig
Matthew & Lesley Herzberg
Vincent Higuera & Robyn Rosen
Arthur & Louise Hillman
Michael & Deborah Hirsch
Rabbis Neil & Liz Hirsch
Sam Hirshberg
Joseph & Helaine Hirshfeld
Stuart & Susie Hirshfield
Andy & Barbara Hochberg
Scott Hochfelder
Hoffman Family
Susan & John Hogan
Tony Hollenberg & Judy Levenfeld
Larry & Jackie Horn
Joshua & Nehoma Horwitt
Edward & Sharyn Hotchkiss
Sharon Hotchkiss
Lisa Howard
Nick Hubacker & Maxine Wisbaum
Frederic & Robin Hyman
Lee & Barbara Hymowitz
Harold & Elaine Isaacson
Howard & Ellen Jackson
Bruce & Karen Jacobs
Jerrold & Carol Jacobs
Marsha Jacobs
Richard & Judith Jacobs
Michael & Lynn Jacobson
Rabbi Howard Jaffe & Irene Rosenzweig
Jon James & Jamie Ostroff
Steve & Susan Jarrett
Tamara Jasper
Jerry & Esther Jewell
Chip & Ellen Joffe-Halpern
Randy Johnson & Jackie Browner
Beryl Jolly

Martin & Alice Jonas
Morton & Sandra Josel
Robert & Selma Josell
Gordon & Susan Josephson
Richard & Janice Kabel
Bruce & Sandi Kafenbaum
Barbara Kahan
Dorothy Kahn
Barbara Kalib
Kevin & Adrian Kalikow
Herbert Kantor
Lorrin Kantor Krouss
Daniel & Rita Kaplan
Larry & Carolyn Kaplan
Michael & Gloria Kaplan
Philip Kaplan
Regina Karas
Joel Karlin
Sharon Karlin
Eric & Steffi Karp
Vivian Kasen
Shlomo & Maris Katsir
Armand & Gloria Katz
Wendy Katz
Eric & Melissa Katzman
Carol Goodman Kaufman
Joel Kaufman
Jane Kavanau
Christina Kelly, Maude Rich & Family
Danile & Jared Kelly
Ellen Kenwood
Diane Kershenbaum
Arthur & Natalie Kessler
Danny & Jill Kessler
Brenda Kilmer
Rabbi Ralph & Brenda Kingsley
Emily Kirshen
Yakov & Rushaniya Kirshteyn
Bob & Jane Klein
Lawrence & Sarah Klein
Sondra Klein
Lisa & Ralph Kleinman
Tatyana Knaster
Allen & Rosalind Kopfstein
Neil & Dorothy Koreman
Earl & Janet Kramer
Henry Kranz
Robert Kraus & Kathy Morris
Dave & Ann Krawet
Carol and Stuart^ Kuller
Daniel Kummer & Lisa Landau
Michael & Marjorie Kurcias
David & Pamala Kurtzer
Alexander Kutik
Lyubov Kutik
Enrico & Cookie Lamet
Everett Lamm & Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm
Lucille Landa
Carole Landau
Peter & Mona Lanzer
Ira & Fran Lapidus
David Leavitt
Philip & Susan Lebowitz
Nathan & Sherri Lebwohl
Sheryl Lechner
Andrew & Jilly Lederman
Elaine Lee
Timothy & Janet Lee
Barry & Brenda Leeper
Mark Lefenfeld & Mimi Rosenblatt
Murry Lefkowitz & Magda Tsipis

Estelle Leibowitz
Stuart Lemmen & Jen Margo
Wesley & Evan LePatner
Dolores Lerman
Howard & Kay Lerner
Paul & Lois Lester
Macey Levin & Gloria Miller
Arnold & Elaine Levine
Lou & Pat Levine
Matthew Levine & Sara Pasternak
Susan Levine
Sydney & Judith Levine
Levitan Family
Mary Levitt
Michele Levitt Tuvel
Jay Levy & Louise Vargas-Levy
William Levy & Karen Kelly
Bonnie Lewis
Martin & Sharon Lewis
Bob Lezberg & Jenny Greenfeld
Francine Licata & Helaine Harris
Jonathan Lieber & Deborah Gallant
Rabbi Val Lieber & Leah Kopperman
Barbara Liebert
Matt & Stacy Linick
Charles Lipcon
Edward & Iris Lipke
Susan B. Lipton
Sam Litvin & Robin Scheman
Rabbi Daveen Litwin
Sherry Londe
Richard & Roslyn Lorge
David Lotto & Norah Walsh
Elaine Loveman
Luria Family Foundation
Edward & Karen Lurie
Dick Macht
Steve & Elaine Mack
Edward & Joan Mahler
Hank Maimin & Elizabeth Baer
Rich & Robin Maltz
Dmitri & Gloria Mamokhin
Charles & Marcia Mandel
Roger & Barbara Manring
Don & Judy Marcus
Dorothy Margolin
Joel Margolis
Michael Margolis
Ken Markel
Irving & Alice Marks
Steve & Jala Martin
Herb Marton & Carol Steuer
Brian Marusarz
Mort & Suzanne Marvin
Toby & Ivy Marwil
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Match
Bernice Matty
Hillel & Janet Maximon
Allen & Elizabeth Mayer
Arnold Mazurenko
Tanya Mazurenko
The Meador Family
Joseph & Brenda Menker
Esther Messing
Alan Metzger
Margery Metzger
Chris & Donna Meyer
Toby & Lynn Meyers
Richard Mickey & Nancy Salz
Arnold & Linda Miller
Michael & Annette Miller



Thank You!

Steven & Liz Miller
Susan Miller
Bradley Minnen & Bonnie Saks
Douglas Mishkin & Wendy Jennis
Lawrence & Eilyn Mittman
Alice Model
Miles & Amy Moffatt
Arthur & Paula Molk
Leslie Morris
Michael & Jennifer Morris
Selina Morris
Judy Moss
Edward Moulin & Willa Lewis
Nicholas Moy & Sherry Wolf
Matthew & Sharon Mozian
Robert Munch &
Joan Goldberg Munch
Peter Murphy & Audrey Thier
Barbara Myers
Gerry & Bev Nacheman
Jeffrey Nathan & Betty Farbman
Michael Nathan &
Beth Laster-Nathan
Bill & Lisette Naylor
Suzanne Newman Levy
Faith Newmark
Denny & Jo Newnham
Carol Noble
Steven Noble
Ruth Nodiff
Robert & Linda Noonan
Molly Novick
Danny O'Dell & Ilana Steinhauer
Al & Ann Oppenheim
Walter & Gail Orenstein
Colin Ovitsky & Sopheap Nhim
Curt Pader
Laurence Parnes
Gregg Pasternack
& Deborah Skydel
Daniel & Andrea Patel
Henry & Rebecca Pearson
Arthur & Susan Peisner
Larry & Jane Pellish
Louise Penney
Carl & Linda Perlmutter
Marc & Miriam Pester
Irving & Sharon Picard
David Pill
Peter & Jo Podol
Joel & Maddy Policzer
Mark & Carol Pollard
Molly Pomerance
Mona Pomerance
David & Maribeth Pomerantz
Janet Pomerantz & George Huften
Philip Pomerantz
Mark & Jean Poopor
Andrew Potler
Arlene Potler
Marcia Powdermaker
Neil & Saralee Powers
Joel & Loretta Prives
Ilya & Kate Prizel
Larry & Myra Promisel
Arthur & Diane Provenz
Steven & Joyce Pyenson
Leonard & Darlene Radin
Stephen & Helen Radin
Michael & Sharon Rebell
Paul Reichenbach &
Cathy Goodfriend
Mark & Jane Reiner
Richard Reiss &
Paula Kaplan-Reiss
Ron & Lori Reiss
David Resnik
Lisa Reznik
Lawrence Richard
Marcia Rippin
Phyllis Rivlin
Jeffrey & Joanne Robbins
Herbert & Paula Rod
Stu & Myrna Rodkin
Jerry Rodman
Seth Rogovoy
Martin & Shelley Rolf
Ann Rollins
Helaine Rose
Alex & Jane Rosen
Charlene Rosen
Martha Rosen
Stanley & Bunny Rosen
Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg
Henry & Henrietta Rosenberg
Allen & Ellen Rosenblatt
Alex & Sabina Rosenblum
Lawrence & Laurel Rosenbluth
Aaron & Barbara Rosenzweig

Rabbi Dennis Ross
Kenneth Ross
William & Karen Ross
Natali & Shimi Rotches
Herman & Gayle Rotenberg
Deborah Roth
Sydell Roth
Lawrence & Alice Rothbaum
Jeffrey Rothenberg &
Sarah Feldman
Orson & Dianne Rothkopf
Dan & Lori Rothstein
Mr. David & Dr. Janet Rothstein
Evelyn Rothstein
Renee Rotta
Roman & Larisa Rozenblyum
Ken Rubel & Alane Marks
Shirley Rubenstein
Alan & Sandra Rubin
Barbara Rubin
Robert & Teddy Rubin
Richard Rubinstein &
Katherine Kolbert
Benjamin & Alice Rudin
Harold Rudin
David & Amy Rutstein
Ron Rutstein & Jennifer Yohalem
Steve & Helene Sacks
Jen Sacon
Vicki Safran
Amy L. Sales
Mark & Robin Salsberg
Edwin Salsitz
Boris & Inna Saltanovich
Bob & Lee Saltz
Robert & Susan Salzman
Alan & Rachel Sampson
Pam Sandler
Philip & Lucy Sandler
Stuart & Phyllis Sandrew
Kenneth & Fern Sann
Jonathan Satovsky
The Sawyer Family
Ken & Edie Schechter
Daniel, Amanda & David Schenker
Paul & Aviva Schieber
Mike Schiffer
Lewis Schiller
Jonathan & Heather Schindler
Rhea Schindler
Mitchell Schlansky & Laura Blank
Allan & Cindy Schlossberg
Alvin & Myrna Schneiderman
Stephen & Deborah Schreier
Eileen Schulman
Sue Schulman
Scott & Jill Schuster
Marc & Margot Schwartz
Martin & Jane Schwartz
Naomi Schwartz
Stephen & Phyllis Schwartz
Marvin & Carol Schwartzbard
Henry & Anita Schwerner
Richard Seeley
Albert & Cynthia Segal
Keith Seidman
Bea Selig
Johanna Selkowitz Sisselman
John Sellow & Susan Bronson
Richard & Shana Senzel
Marcie Setlow
Bernice Shainman
Hal & Harriet Shair
Burton Shapiro &
Melinda Tanzman
Howard & Shirley Shapiro
Semla Shapiro
Robert & Jody Shassol
Nina Shelomentseva
Adam & Megan Sher
Molly Sheriff
Arthur Sherman
Barbara Shickmanter
Bruce Shickmanter
Jane Shiyah
Arthur & Nancy Shorr
Michael & Arlene Shreefter
Howard Shuman & Joelle Gabay
Carl & Claudia Shuster
Leonid Shymberg &
Yulia Zakhozha
Theodore & Elaine Sideropoulos
Ilana Siegal
Jeffrey & Dana Siegel
Efrem & Frederica Sigel
Shlomo Silman & Carol Silverman
Jane Silverman
Brad & Michael Simon
Steve Simon & Maud Mandel

Marilyn Simons^
Joseph & Carolyn Singer
Kenneth & Christine Singer
Maria Sirois
Galina Sirota
Arthur & Mary Ann Siskind
Steven Skoblow
M.B. Slaminsky
Karen Slater & Larz Spangberg
Lisa Sloane
John Slote & Nancy Cohen
Cheryl Small
Joseph & Alice Small
Paul & Turbi Smilow
Mitchell Smilowitz &
Audrey Sussman
Jewel Smith
Michael & Pam Smith
Justin & Rebecca Soffer
Brad & Lauren Sokol
Dan Solender & Lynne Whitman
Joanne Solomon
Stanley Solomon
Steven Souza & Karen Kwitter
Donna Jakubovitz Spector
Lorette Spiegel
Robert & Jacqueline Spielman
Erica Spizz & Jeanette Maguire
Ken Stahl & Shirley Ripullone
Rabbi Arthur & Linda Starr
Neil Stein & Judith Blank
Ron & Marion Stein
Rona Stein
Larry & Holly Steinberg
Peter & Abbe Steinglass
Albert Stern & Eliot Stern
Daniel & Danielle Stern
James Stern & Jane Judge
Michael Stoll
Judith Stolzberg
Michael & Lois Storch
Jeff Strait & Robin Brickman
Martin Stransky &
Isabelle Weinberg
Michael Strassfeld & Joy Levitt
Mariah Strattner
Richard & Carol Strunin
Laurie Sukel
David Sultan & Kathryn Potts
David & Lois Swawite
Gerry & Dorothy Swimmer
Esther Szmukler
Leonard Tabs
Jayson & Jenifer Tanzman
Richard Taskin
Morton Taubin &
Rochelle Leinwand
Ilene Tetenbaum
Aaron Thier & Sarah Trudgeon
Steve & Diane Tobin
Kathi Todd
Mark Trager
Natalie Tublitz
Stanley & Marilyn Tulgan
Gary & Bernice Turetsky
Daltrey Turner
Judith Turtz
Neil Ullman & Elaine Hoffman
Larry & Patti Unger
Pieter & Suzannah VanSchaick
Ed Vernoff
Rabbi Levi & Sara Volovik
Harry & Karen Waizer
Robert & Ruth Waldheim
William & Sandra Walley
Rabbi Seth Wax &
Elisabeth Berger
Judy Weber
Stephen & Dottie Webber
Dan & Amanda Weil
Bruce & Penny Wein
Steve & Alison Weinberg
Peter & Sheila Weiner
Diane Weinstein
Susan Weinstein
Gail Weis
Edward & Betty Weisberger
Ed & Martha Weisel
Bill & Gisele Weiss
Julie Weiss
Steven Weiss & Stephanie Gertz
Robert Weisstuch & Faith Glazier
Robert Werbel
Marlene White
Warren & Myra Widmann
David & Glenda Wiechecki
Mason Williams & Alexis Schaitkin
Randy & Mara Winn
Charles Wohl & Alba Passerini

Joel & Fran Wolk
Pinchas & Janet Wolk
Jerry & Henrietta Wolland
James Wood & Rebecca Gold
Alec & Anna Yantovsky
Rita Yohalem
Margot Yondorf
Robert Young
Jeremy & Kathryn Yudkin
Thomas & Cindy Zanconato
Barry Zaret & Renee Drell
Rabbi Deborah Zecher
Alla Zernitskaya
Richard & Karen Zink
Rose Zotlek-Jick
Lanny Zuckerman
Marlene & Martin Zuckerman
Susan Zuckerman
Gail Zunz & Dr. Sharyn Zunz

Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires
Stephanie Abes
Susan Abramowitz
Denyse Adler
Judi Adler
Deborah Annex
Ann Appelbaum
Penny Apter
Sandy Ashendorf
Jan Ball
Amy Bauman
Nancy Belsky
Judy Benjamin
Madelaine Berg
Marjorie Berg
Helene Berger
Deena Berman
Ronni Bernard
Nancy Bernstein
Phyllis Berz
Amy Blumkin
Hinda Bodinger
Joan Brotman
Cipora Brown
Cindy Chazan
Barbara Cohen
Elaine Cohen
Hillary Cohen
Mimi Cohen
Phyllis Cohen
Bobbi Cohn
Joan Cohn
Edith Cooper
Judi Corr
Letty Cottin Pogrebin
Harriet Croll
Ada Beth Cutler
Leslie Daspin
Cathy Demain Mann
Sheila Drill
Terry Drucker
Jody Dushay
Gail Edwin
Resa Eppler
Ann Falchuk
Marian Faytell Friedman
Linda Feigenbaum
Pat Fingeroth
Patty Finkelstein
Ilene Fish
Cheryl Fishbein
Marilyn Fisher
Laura Fluhr
Sarah Frank
Elisa Schindler Frankel
Jo Anne Freedman
Goldy Fried
Madalyn Friedberg
Susan Friedman
Toni Front
Lynn Fuhr
Julie Gale
Louise Galpern
Marion Gardner-Saxe
Linda Gates
Jane Gertler
Judy Gilberg
Jane Glaser
Barbara Glasser
Julie Goldberg
Joyce Goldklang
Elaine Goldstein
Cathy Goodfriend
Judi Goodman
Rhonna Goodman
Sherri Gorelick



Ronni Grebow
Linda Greenhouse
Judie Grossman
Jacqueline Hallo
Robin Hananel
Mimi Heyman
Madeline Hirschfeld
Harriet Holtz
Bonnie Hyken
Judy Isserlis
Liz Jaffe
Sue Karp
Elaine Katz
Wendy Katz
Marilyn Katzman
Natalie Kessler
Patti Klein
Joan Kleinman
Susan Kopelowitz
Toby Koren
Saranne Kosberg
Leslie Kozupsky
Tina Kramer
Sandy Krause
Madeleine Kreitman
Robin Kriesberg
Elyse Kuhn
Pamala Kurtzer
Janet Lassaw
Beth Laster-Nathan
Helaine Lender
Judy Levenfeld
Toby Levine
Pommy Levy
Dina Leyden
Geri Liemer
Nancy Lipoff
Sherry Londe
Vicki Loring
Barbara Lozner
Susan Ludwig
Elaine Mack
Ellen Masters
Brenda Menker
Esther Messing
Daryl Messinger
Nancy Milbauer
Carol Milewich
Harriet Miller
Gaye Moelis
Linda Morel
Gayle Moskowitz
Andi Munzer
Gail Natoli
Naomi Neustadter
Ronna Niederman
Linda Noonan
Laura Patinkin Urken
Tracie Peddy
Linda Perlmutter
Helice Picheny
Penny Pincus
Wendy Robbins
Elaine Roberts

Bunny Rosen
Barbara Rosenbaum
Elizabeth Rosenberg
Deborah Roth
Carol Rubin
Suzanne Rubin
Sue Rudd
Judy Ruderman
Helene Sacks
Bonnie Saks
Raquel Scheck
Arlene Schiff
Marcia Schmier
Anne Schnesel
Deborah Schreier
Zelda Schwebel
Harriet Schweitzer
Lynn Shaffer
Arlene Shapiro
Lois Sharzer
Susan Shoval
Sharon Siegel
Rita Siegle
Frederica Sigel
Elaine Silberstein
Roberta Silman
Hope Silverman
Jane Silverman
Lainey Simonson
Carla Singer
Nancy Singer
Mary Ann Siskind
Carol Smokler
Carol Smoler
Donna Jakubovitz Spector
Carol Spero-Minkoff
Lauren Spitz
Erica Stern
Claire Stiepleman
Sharon Strassfeld
Nancy Straus
Carol Striker
Sue Sussman
Hope Suttin
Dorothy Swimmer
Carol Targum
Diane Troderman
Michele Tuvel
Joan Ury
Judy Usow
Gail Wahle
Harriet Warshaw
Karen Waxberg
Dottie Weber
Audrey Weiner
Robin Weiser
Gail Weiss
Rebecca Wolin
Judy Wrubel
Rita Yohalem
Shirley Friedman Yohalem
Karen Youdelman



LOCAL NEWS

Celebrate Purim with Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON - This year Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is celebrating Purim along the yellow brick road with a special Wizard of Oz-themed Purimspiel and children's Purim Carnival.

On Monday, March 6 at 6 p.m., follow the yellow brick road to Shushan for a very Oz-some celebration of Purim. Join Hevreh for an abbreviated Megillah reading in the Sanctuary before the Confirmation Class Purimspiel production of "The Megillah of Oz."

Bring a box of macaroni and cheese to use as a grogger during the service. The food will be collected and donated to the People's Pantry. All are welcome.

The Religious School program at Hevreh is holding a Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to the family-friendly carnival celebration of Purim. Join in for games, a costume contest, and prizes!

For more information on Hevreh events and activities, visit www.hevreh.org.

Shabbat, Purim, and Parenting with Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – Join Temple Anshe Amunim for Shabbat, Purim, and Parenting Book Club this winter.

TAA Young Families Purim

On Friday, March 10 at 5 p.m., TAA invites young families to join together in celebrating Purim during Kabbalat Shabbat. Pizza will be served.

Jewish Parenting Book Club

Please join Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch on Tuesday, March 14, at 8 p.m. for a discussion of *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land*, by Omer Friedlander. TAA invites anyone who identifies as a parent to join our discussion. Participants will read and understand the book through a parenting lens. Pre-registration is required. To register: tinyurl.com/Mar14BookClub.

Kabbalat Shabbat

Join Rabbi 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 or visit www.ansheamunim.org.

Purim Around The World with Chabad of the Berkshires

The Jewish holiday of Purim explores a journey like never before

PITTSFIELD – “Purim Around the World” is Chabad of the Berkshires’ creative twist this year on their traditional Purim party, and will accommodate the anticipated crowds of men, women, and children who throng to Chabad for their annual Purim celebrations.

The celebration is in honor of the special *Hakhel* year on the Jewish calendar this year. Sara Volovik, program director of Chabad of the Berkshires says: "This year is an opportune time to promote Jewish unity and gatherings to recreate a microcosm of the past grand *Hakhel* event that took place in Jerusalem every seven years." *Hakhel* is a biblical commandment that all Israelite men, women, and children, as well as converts, assemble to hear the reading of the Torah by the king of Israel once every seven years.

"We combine ancient Jewish traditions with a modern twist," says Rabbi Levi Volovik, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires. "We focus on doing interesting and innovative holiday programs, yet still focus on the traditional holiday themes."

This “epic Purim party” will be held by Chabad of the Berkshires on Tuesday, March 7 at 450 South Street in Pittsfield. The celebration will begin with a unique Multimedia Megillah Reading at 5 p.m., followed by a delicious buffet dinner including cuisine from all over the world. There will be music, entertainment, and hamantashen!

In the spirit of Purim, come in any costume - as innovative or as funny as you'd like to be included in the lively competition. All are welcome to join regardless of affiliation or background - there is no fee, however, reservations are required.

“On Purim eve, Chabad’s the place to be!” says Rabbi Volovik, who adds: “Purim celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people, in the year 3405 from Creation (356 BCE), from Haman’s plot to annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day. Purim literally means ‘lots,’ for Haman determined the day of annihilation through a lottery. It is observed by public readings of the megillah – “The Scroll of Esther” – and by sending food portions to friends, giving gifts of money to the poor, and enjoying a festive meal accompanied by joyous drink.

For more information on Chabad's Purim festivities or on the holiday of Purim and its observances, contact Chabad of the Berkshires at (413) 499-9899 or log on to Jewishberkshires.com/purim.

KI Band Celebrates Jerry Garcia for Annual Purim Concert

PITTSFIELD – On Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m., the Knesset Israel Band returns for its 14th annual Purim musical costume party. This year, the band will be covering the music of Jerry Garcia. Garcia is well-known as a founding member and lead guitarist / vocalist of The Grateful Dead. His body



of work also includes many popular Motown and rhythm & blues arrangements with The Jerry Garcia Band and an incredible bluegrass repertoire with David Grisman and Old & in the Way.

The KI Band will tell the story of the Megillah with new lyrics to some classic Jerry Garcia arrangements. You'll hear bluegrass classics like 'Midnight Moonlight' and 'Wild Horses,' Jerry Garcia Band arrangements of 'Tangled Up In Blue' and 'How Sweet It Is,' and, of course, Grateful Dead classics including 'Friend of the Devil,' 'Uncle John's Band,' 'Casey Jones,' and much more!

This incredible musical and community event will include snacks and beverages. Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. Come in costume, bring some friends, and be sure to wear your dancing shoes!


"We have been waiting 14 years to tackle the music of Jerry Garcia," said Jonathan Denmark, founder of KI's Purim musical costume party. "The catalog of music is incredibly vast, but we are excited to bring some of the most well-known arrangements to the wider community. This concert is going to be so much fun, and will include something for everyone, from well-known covers to classic licks that the Deadheads will love!"

Purim Tradition at Knesset Israel – Megillah and a Meal

PITTSFIELD - While the legendary Knesset Israel Purim Concert has become a fixture of our community's Purim revelry, there's still no substitute for the traditional celebration that Jews have been doing for

Home Improvement Center

The Carr Hardware logo features the word "CARR" in a large, bold, serif font, with "HARDWARE" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. The text is white and set against a black background. The logo is enclosed in a thick, black, rounded rectangular border with a double-line effect. To the right of the logo, the tagline "Experience Matters. Trusted Brands." is written in a white, serif font, with "Experience Matters." on the top line and "Trusted Brands." on the bottom line.



Clifford Propane LLC
 40 Willow Creek Road
 Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

Tel. (413) 637-8130
 Cell (413) 822-2634
 Fax (413) 637-4557

Jeff Clifford

Berkshire ROOFING

413-398-1029

bgrco.net

Mike Linde

"We like your smile when we're done."



RESIDENTIAL ROOFING SPECIALIST

Written Estimates • Fully Insured



A+



(413) 528-9700

Berkshire *Radon* LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

**Radon Testing
and Mitigation**

**✓ COMPETITIVE PRICING
✓ PROMPT SERVICE
✓ FIVE-YEAR WARRANTY**

NEHA & NRSB CERTIFIED

LOCAL NEWS

millennia: eating, drinking, making noise, and reading the Megillah. On Purim proper, Monday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m., Knesset Israel will hold its annual Megillah reading, along with a community dinner.

KI can't (and wouldn't) promise the type of bacchanal that Ahashueros might have hosted back in Shushan, but they write that they will guarantee great food, great fun, and more hamantashen than you can shake a grogger at.

Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Megillah reading is at 6:15 p.m., with hamantashen to follow. Costumes are encouraged!

Dinner is free of charge, but RSVP is required: www.knessetisrael.org/rsvp.

Music, Food, and Friends to Start Shabbat at Knesset Israel

PITTSFIELD – Knesset Israel will host a Shirei Shabbat with a community dinner on Friday, March 17 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. What better way to get into the Shabbat mood than with music, prayer, food and friends?

Register in advance for the community dinner following the services: knessetisrael.org/rsvp. Dinner is \$20 for adults, Free for those under 18. Supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation Rekindle Shabbat Grant.

Shabbat Services at CBI

NORTH ADAMS – Beat the winter blues and get out of the house – and join Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires for Shabbat services.

Shabbat Services

Saturday morning services are scheduled on February 25, March 4, and March 11 at 9:30 a.m. Join CBI on Shabbat morning to celebrate Shabbat with prayer, song, and poetry. You will hear some words of Torah (and some words about Torah) as all present bask in Shabbat's sweetness. CBI's spiritual tools include traditional liturgy, contemporary poetry, chant, and song, as well as the spectacular views from the sanctuary, which connect worshipers with the natural world and with our Source.

On Friday evening, March 17 at 7 p.m., join CBI for a beautiful, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, with harmony from the CBI choir. Light candles and welcome Shabbat with prayer and song. Let go of the week, breathe in the "extra soul" that Shabbat brings, and let poetry and melody replenish your heart and soul.

All are welcome to join in person or on Zoom. Please use the CBI calendar to RSVP for all services and events – cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events/ . If you have RSVPed, CBI will be able to inform you if they need to move to Zoom in the case of severely inclement weather.

Hadassah in our Community – A Mitzvah Project for Purim!

By Joanna Fribush / Berkshire Hills Hadassah

Our Berkshire Hills Chapter of Hadassah, committed to supporting National Hadassah's programs and projects in Israel, also has a local bond with the Elizabeth Freeman Center (EFC) in Pittsfield.

Since 2011, at Christmastime, we have contributed toys, books, blankets, and other items to this special Center devoted to assisting victims of domestic and sexual violence. Helene Berke started our connection by teaching knitting and bringing knitting needles and yarn to the women at the Center. Soon she, along with Susan Frisch Lehrer, Merle Ferber, Julia Kaplan, and others, originated the idea of a Mitzvah Day for the EFC sponsored by Hadassah. Julia willingly took over when Helene moved away, and she and Laurie Schwartz planned our first Mitzvah Day Toy drive. Julia enhanced the drive by yearly inviting members and other friends to donate a gift and enjoy latkes at her home.

After a recent discussion with EFC leaders, who agreed that toys were in abundance at the Center, an extended project was born. Books and blankets in addition to personal items will be our new goals for collection. We have a new drive planned for this spring – a Purim Mitzvah Day!

Doing a good deed in the spirit of Queen Esther (Hadassah in Hebrew) we're asking for donations of personal products. EFC Shelter Director Stephanie Parkington suggested that toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo, hairbrushes, body lotion, manicure items, and ethnic products be included. Julia has offered her home as a drop-off place and there also will be a box at the Jewish Federation office.

We feel committed to the Elizabeth Freeman Center and appreciate Director Parkington's thoughtful letter: "Thank you for thinking of our agency and shelter. It is incredible to have such wonderful support." May we continue to be a source of support to our local community, as well as to our Hadassah hospitals, medical research, and youth programs in Israel.

Genesis Prize 2023 Honors Jewish Activists and NGOs, including Hadassah!

Hadassah, Hadassah Medical Organization, and Hadassah International are honored to be among the Jewish activists and NGOs who were collectively awarded the 2023 Genesis Prize – the "Jewish Nobel" – for their work supporting the Ukrainian people in the wake of the humanitarian crisis caused by the war. Hadassah sent 15 medical delegations to Poland, set up and ran medical clinics on the Ukraine/Poland border, and collaborated with the World Health Organization and others to treat over 31,000 Ukrainian refugees. In Israel, over 50 young refugees were given a new home at our Youth Aliyah villages. Hadassah is so proud and grateful to all who made our lifesaving work in Ukraine possible.

Adult Education Programs at CBI

NORTH ADAMS – Wintertime is the ideal time for study and personal growth. Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires offers classes that fit the bill.

Reckoning with Loss: Moroccan Jews Return in Literature and Film

On Wednesday, February 22 at 4 p.m., join on Zoom for an informative and fascinating presentation – "Reckoning with Loss: Moroccan Jews Return in Literature and Film," an accounting of Morocco's emigrated Jewish population.

The speaker will be Indigenous Amazigh scholar, Dr. Brahim El Guabli, Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies and Comparative Literature at Williams College.

Moroccan literature and film are finally accounting for the loss of the country's emigrated Jewish population. Up until six decades ago, Morocco had the largest Jewish population in Tamazgha (the broader North Africa). Moroccan Jews lived with their Muslim co-citizens in both urban centers and remote villages, forming communities and forging bonds that are no longer available to the younger generations due to the departure of Moroccan Jews in the 1960s. Waves of migration between 1956 and 1973 took the majority of Moroccan Jews outside their country of origin, leaving a deep void in the places where they used to live.

Vibrant and increasingly rich literature and film are finally rising from Morocco's Jewish/Muslim past. This talk will contextualize the return of Moroccan Jews in literature and film within a larger context of reckoning with the country's past. The talk will show how literature and film are creating space for a novel Jewish-Muslim history in Morocco.

RSVP at cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events/ - you will receive the Zoom link the day of the program.

The History of the Jews of India

On Sunday, March 12 at 1 p.m., join on Zoom for a fascinating and culturally insightful presentation – "The History of the Jews of India," presented by Dr. John Grayzel, Ph.D.

An anthropologist with over 40 years of worldwide multicultural experience, Dr. Grayzel's international career spans the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, India, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, and Africa. A graduate of University of Oregon, Stanford University Law School, and Columbia University, his career includes over 30 years working in international development and 10 years teaching in academia.



Bene Israel Jews of India

Throughout his career travels, Dr. Grayzel has also pursued his strong personal interest in local Jewish history, an interest he attributes to the influence of his now-deceased uncle, Rabbi Solomon Grayzel, who was the author of the well-known book *A History of the Jews*. It was during Dr. Grayzel's four years of living and working in India with his family from 1989 to 1993 that he not only studied but participated, with his family, in Jewish life in India.

This presentation will give an overall sense of the incredibly rich, varied, and intriguing over 2,000-year history of the Jews in India, including some of the contributions they made to India's culture and development despite their relatively small numbers. In addition to the history itself, Dr. Grayzel will ask participants to reflect on the probing question as to why Jews outside India know so little about the Jews of India and why at least one suggested possibility may warrant profound consideration by non-Indian Jews of their current understanding of the totality of Jewish history and identity.

RSVP at cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events/ – you will receive the Zoom link the day of the program.



Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign

Please remember the Jewish Community in your will.

WE'RE LOCAL & they're not

The Bookloft

New Location!

63 State Rd. Great Barrington, MA
(413) 645-3256 www.thebookloft.com

Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Homes

Flynn & Dagnoli-Bencivenga
5 Elm St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-1733

Flynn & Dagnoli-Montagna
Central Chapel West Chapel
74 Marshall St. 521 West Main St.
North Adams, MA 01247
(413) 663-6523

Rinaldo Dagnoli Nicholas Flynn Donato Dagnoli

Serving Berkshire County for three generations.

Superior Memorials, dba/

Ancestry Memorials, Inc.

234 Wahconah Street
P.O. Box 1362 • Pittsfield, MA 01202
(413) 499-1750

Monuments, Markers, Plaques, Lettering, Etc

OBITUARIES

Shirley Irene (Wood) Finkelstein, 89, big heart, avid reader, active in the community

NORTH ADAMS - Shirley Irene (Wood) Finkelstein, 89, died on Thursday, January 26 at Williamstown Commons. Born in North Adams on October 25, 1933, a daughter of Samuel and Hazel (Atwood) Wood, she graduated from Drury High School in 1951 and received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts in 1955. Shirley married Dr. Manuel Finkelstein on June 13, 1957. Not only were they husband and wife, but they were also best friends, doing almost everything together. Though small in stature, Shirley had a big heart and would help anyone who needed it, donating annually to many causes, both locally and globally. She was also an avid reader and made it a goal of hers to read at least 52 books every year. Shirley was active in the community with her husband, as the two of them were longtime volunteers together at Mass MoCA, the North Adams Historical Society, and the North Adams

Tourist Booth. For a stretch of 26 years from 1980 until her husband's knee replacement in 2006, the two of them were active walkers, averaging 4½ miles a day and topping 1,000 total miles each year. Shirley also enjoyed both crossword and jigsaw puzzles as well as shopping, dining out, and 1940s jazz and big band music. Survivors include her two sons, Daniel (Mary) Finkelstein of Troy, MI, and Andrew Finkelstein of North Adams, with whom she made her home; sister-in-law, Susan Wood of Long Island, NY, and Egremont, MA; as well as several nieces and one nephew. She was predeceased by her husband (2019), two brothers, Samuel and Edwin (Ned), and a son Joseph. Funeral services were private and burial was planned in Southview Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Friendship Center Food Pantry and MASS MoCA in care of Flynn & Dagnoli-Montagna Home For Funerals Central Chapel, 74 Marshall Street, North Adams, MA 01247.

BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

“Can I Drive, Dad?”
A Story of the Teenage Years

By Albert Stern / Special to the BJV

The Scene: My son, Eliot, and I are in the car, in a parking lot, about to drive home at night after dinner. He is 16 years old and has recently obtained his learner's permit to drive. I have given him my car keys.

Me: Eliot, just be careful. The last thing I need right now – *the last thing* – is to get into a car accident.

Eliot: I'm a good driver.



Me: I'll admit it. You make me nervous. Not because I think you're a bad driver, but because I'm not used to driving with you yet. So just be...what are you doing? You're going in reverse! Why are you going backward?!?

Eliot: I'm backing up.

Me: Don't back up! Just go forward!

Eliot: Can I go forward that way?

Me: Why not!?!?

Eliot: I don't know!

Me: Go forward! Jesus. Alright. Take a right. Then the next right – no turn on red.

Eliot: I see it.

Me: Good. Be careful. [*Engaging in mindful deep breathing.*] Alright, take the next left. Indicate that you're changing into the center lane and then... carefully...get into the turning lane...good, and...OH MY GOD THAT CAR COMING AT US IS TOO CLOSE! DON'T MAKE THE TURN! STOP! STOP! GAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH-DAMNIT!

Eliot: Dad! Why are you yelling?

Me: Because the car was too close and coming at us too fast and you should have waited!

Eliot: I could have made it!

Me: I could have been crushed in the passenger seat if you didn't! And I'm letting you drive – I'm *teaching* you to drive – and I said you shouldn't have made the turn. So don't tell me what you're doing right or wrong – I'll tell you!

Eliot: Mom lets me drive! Mom doesn't get nervous when I drive!

Me: Well, I'm not Mom, I'm me. By the way, is that the same “Mom” who fell asleep at the wheel on the MassPike and crashed both of you into a guardrail?

Eliot: [*Silence.*]

Me: Goddamn it. Just...just...just, goddamn it.

Eliot: It's the same thing with Frankie – he likes to drive with [*his mom*] Andrea because she doesn't freak out. [*His dad*] Tim freaks out just like you do when they drive.

Me: So what you're saying is that I'm acting *normal*? Like a *normal* father, right? That there is nothing abnormal about the way I'm acting – that this is the way other *normal* fathers act, right?

Eliot: No, I'm...

Me: No to you – what you're saying is that I'm not a uniquely flawed person, that I'm just acting like other *normal* people do when riding around with their kids who are learning how to drive, right?

Eliot: No! No! Tim stopped getting all freaked out after the third time they drove together!

Me: Okay, Eliot – how many times have we been driving together?

Eliot: [*Pause.*] Um...four.

Me: Four. Okay, Eliot – so maybe I'm still the normal one here. Normal and just a little...bit...sloooooooooooooow.

[*Silence the rest of the ride.*]

THE END

Check out our website!
www.jewishberkshires.org
For calendar listings and events

Volunteer Opportunity
Help adult students learn English

- No need to speak a foreign language
- 18-hr training & ongoing support from Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts.

Attend an Orientation Session to learn more:

Wed March 1st from 6:30-7:30
Or
Tues March 7th from 6:30-7:30

@ Berkshire Athenaeum
1 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA. 01201

Call to register in advance 413.499.9487

Bring a friend!

 Literacy Volunteers of Berkshire County



Finnerty & Stevens
Funeral Home, Inc.

426 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528-1900 / Fax: (413) 528-5301
Toll Free 1-877-823-1901
Web site: www.finnertyandstevens.com

Director
Meghan L. Finnerty

New Home? Second Home?
Retirement Home?
Let me show you...

The Berkshires

Barbara K. Greenfeld
ABR, C-CRE, CRS, GREEN, RSPS, SRES
Broker Associate • Lic. in MA
413-441-5986
BarbeG333@aol.com

Roberts & Associates
Realty, Inc.

 **ALL-WAYS**
Moving • Storage
Warehousing

241 W. Housatonic Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201
www.alwaysmovingstorage.com
Allwayamoving1977@gmail.com

Since 1977 **PHONE: (413) 499-1577**
FAX: (413) 443-7256

CULTURE & ARTS

Graffiti Artists Raise Colorful Walls Against Antisemitism

NY Holocaust hero's mural at an iconic NYC hotspot



NEW YORK – A dangerous surge in antisemitism in New York City and around the world is being fought with aid from an unexpected source – graffiti artists who have formed a global task force to fight hate and promote cross-cultural unity.

In their latest mission, a mural encompassing the entire outside of the iconic SoHo hotspot, Vig Bar at the busy corner of Spring and Elizabeth Streets, features a towering portrait of Tibor Baranski a Hungarian-American who rescued more than 3,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

The unveiling of the mural on the first night of Chanukah (December 18) featured musical performances by the Jewish singer Neshama Carlebach, a candle lighting, and remarks by Baranski's sons.

When Tibor Baranski was 22, he was studying to be a Catholic priest in Hungary. When the Nazis occupied Budapest, the young seminary student fast talked his way into the Papal Nuncio's residence and persuaded the Vatican's representative to let him use Church resources to save Jews. Baranski set up safe houses and printed official looking, but fraudulent, passes to get Jews out of the country. He borrowed the official diplomatic vehicle, a Rolls Royce, and would show up at Nazi roundups and pull Jews out of the lines. He alternated between charming and bullying. He was fearless when Nazi soldiers pointed guns at his head. He even called Adolf Eichmann a scoundrel to his face.

The mural is the work of SKI (Fernando Romero), a Dominican-

American artist born and raised in Queens. SKI has joined forces with other top urban artists around the world to participate in the "Righteous Among the Nations Global Mural Project." Together they are painting building-sized murals honoring the heroes who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust at their own peril. The Righteous Among the Nations Global Mural Project is an initiative of the non-profit, Artists 4 Israel. The goal is to empower a new generation to fight the latest resurgence of an ancient hatred.

Berkshire Jewish Voice readers always get a warm welcome...



...at Concepts of Art in Lenox, a Judaica and jewelry shop that has long supported the Berkshire Jewish Voice as an advertiser, and by being one of the places in Berkshire County where locals and visitors can pick up a free copy of the paper and connect to our Jewish community. As for our fine *farfroyrn* (frozen) friend, there must have been some magic in that yarmulke they found.



Excellence
in Health Care for
You and Your Family.
Right Here
in the Berkshires.

CHP chpberkshires.org
444 Stockbridge Road | Great Barrington, MA 01230

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

STONEHOUSE
PROPERTIES

WWW.STONEHOUSEPROPERTIES.COM
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA • CHATHAM, NY • GT. BARRINGTON, MA



Peace of Mind
DURING TURBULENT TIMES

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

Call today to speak with one of our experienced advisors.

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

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





THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF THE BERKSHIRES



Learning what matters

Toddler through 8th grade

BerkshireMontessori.org

CULTURE & ARTS

Lisa Edelstein, TV star with a family connection to the Berkshires, captures her Jewish *mishpocha* in a solo painting exhibit

By Linda Buchwald / JTA



PHOTO BY HOLLAND CLEMENT

Lisa Edelstein, shown in a studio with some of her works

Like many of us left without plans during the initial COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, Lisa Edelstein spent some of her time rummaging through old family photographs. But instead of just basking in the nostalgia, she was also on the lookout for her next painting project.

Since then, the actress, known for her often Jewish roles on several hit TV shows – from “House” to “Girlfriends’ Guide to Divorce” to “The West Wing” to “The Kominsky Method” – has been producing paintings that recreate old photos of her Jewish family. She showed them at her first solo art exhibition, titled “Family,” at the SFA Advisory art gallery in downtown Manhattan, which closed in January.

“I don’t think there is any way around my Jewishness being a part of what I do or make, whether or not I intend to make it a part of it,” says Edelstein. “Almost every role I get turns Jewish if it lasts long enough. I don’t think of myself as so obviously a Jew, but my name definitely gives it away and I don’t mind.”

Her Jewish identity comes through in her paintings, too. Like the photos they are modeled after, they capture family members in candid moments, often at group events. There are works of men in yarmulkes kissing family members on the cheek at a celebration, of a woman mid-phone call, of kids and adults stuffing their faces at a pizza parlor.

“What I’m looking for are those images that tell a more honest story, a caught moment, an odd angle, an awkward pose,” Edelstein said. “We don’t have images like that anymore, the world is too camera savvy and our phones are so high tech that we can just delete things that tell stories we’d like to forget or filter them into something else. Back when we took pictures on film, each photo took time, effort, and money to produce, so even if we hated it, we tended to keep it, at least in a box somewhere. Those are the ones I’m looking for.”

Edelstein, 56, grew up in Wayne, New Jersey, in a Conservative Jewish household observing all the holidays and Shabbat. [Editor’s Note: Her parents, Bonnie and Alvin Edelstein, had a home in the Berkshires and were members of Knesset Israel.]

“Though I was raised with a healthy Jewish identity, it wasn’t without embarrassment and apologetics,” she said. It didn’t help that the local head of the school board, who later became mayor, published an article in a local paper telling people not to vote for the Jews for the school board because they would cancel Christmas.

“The way people talk about Jewish women in particular, with for example the word JAP [a derogatory term used to describe young Jewish women], is really disgusting. On some level, I think there was a feeling that I needed to dissociate myself with that identity in order to not be that thing that people associated with that identity,” she said.

She did consider changing her name when she moved to Los Angeles in 1991, thinking it could help her career. But she said it would have taken away from any feeling of true success. It was letting Hitler win, she said.

She has since dealt with antisemitism in her career, from being lumped into a non-specific “ethnic” category at the start of her career, to not getting a job because they already had a Jewish actor – and two Jews were considered one Jew too many.

A few years ago, Edelstein posted an old photo of herself with her mother and two siblings on Instagram for her mother’s birthday, and it happened to be in front of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. She got death threats in public comments, which she deleted, on the post.

“And lately, just painting a yarmulke feels like a radical move, never mind painting an El Al logo or even just Jewish faces. It’s suddenly daring to just be publicly Jewish,” she said.

But she wasn’t afraid to put Jewish-themed art on display. She was more nervous about the entire project in the first place.

“Actresses are a breed that people love and they also love to hate, so you just don’t know what the public response is going to be. But I felt very supported within the art community, at least the one I’m in,” she said.

Edelstein enjoyed drawing as a child and teen, but she didn’t continue with it after high school. It wasn’t until the pandemic lockdown that she returned seriously to the art form. It started with buying adult coloring books to fill the time, but she didn’t like the images in them and decided to make her own. Her husband, Robert Russell, an artist himself, pushed her to do more, and the images got larger and larger, until she went from magic marker to watercolor.

Russell always encouraged her to make things – when they first started dating, he asked her to make him a drawing about a week into their relationship. Always a fan of using photography as a starting point for her work, she gave him a drawing of herself at four years old sitting on the beach holding a crab. (He had given her a painting of two doves on their second date.)

“Suddenly I realized I actually did have permission to do this stuff, not because he gave it to me, but because I always had,” Edelstein said.

She will continue to act, write and direct, but she wants to continue in her new career, too. Edelstein is toying with the idea of adding drawings to a Passover Haggadah that she wrote for her family and updates every year. If she published the Haggadah for public consumption, the drawings could turn the Seder book into a coloring book of sorts for small children.

CULTURE & ARTS

LISA EDELSTEIN, *continued from page 18*

“I have a lot of energy, so I’m up for whatever,” she said. “And I think it’s important to view all of these things as one. They’re just different ways my body pushes out ideas. Each one feeds the other.”



“Celebration”

BJV Interview: Lisa Edelstein

The BJV caught up with Lisa Edelstein by email in early February about her work and experiences in the Berkshires.

When the JTA article about your work was published online, my inbox was inundated with emails sent by your parents’ Berkshire friends at Kneset Israel in Pittsfield – and I’ve been asked to pass along best wishes. Do you have any thoughts or memories to share about the Berkshires or your parents’ experience here?

How sweet! Yes, my parents kept a house in the Berkshires since I was a teenager. At first, they lived in Otis, then they later moved to Pittsfield. They loved it there and spent every summer with their East Coast friends. I really wasn’t there very often once they moved to the Pittsfield house, but the Otis house has some childhood memories attached to it for sure. The sweetest is of a night that my father and I took a canoe out onto the lake. The lake was covered in fog so being on the canoe was like floating on a cloud. The sky was so clear we could see the Milky Way. And there were so many fireflies that it was hard to tell where the sky ended and the ground began. Magical! I also loved going with my mother to see dance performances at Jacob’s Pillow. What an incredible place to perform.

You used old family photos as a resource in creating the work that was on view at the SFA Gallery. How do your childhood memories, the images captured in those old photographs, and your creative imagination intersect in your paintings? How much do your paintings capture what is portrayed in those old photos and how much do they diverge from them?

For the most part, the images I painted were painted as I saw them in the original photo. The creative part was finding the photos that had the kind of imagery I was looking for, which considering how many photos I had access to, was surprisingly difficult. I was specifically looking for pictures that felt closer to the memory of the moment than the posed way we all tend to use to try and curate our life stories in reverse. Sometimes there may have been multiple shots of the same moment – one before people were ready for the picture, and that would be the moment I was more interested in.

In an interview, you described your painting as “an extension of what I’ve always been doing – story-telling.” What is the story you are trying to tell with this series of works and how would you characterize its Jewish aspect?

I think part of what attracted me to an image was whether or not the people in it, the characters, were having an honest moment. That’s the kind of thing that always makes me lean into an image and I suppose I was hoping others would feel the same pull, even if the people in the image itself did not look like they did. Because these are all personal photos, the Jewish aspect was unavoidable. But beyond that, having rarely seen Jewish representation or identity in contemporary art, I was definitely drawn to the moments where that aspect of my family was front and center. The humanity, the Jewish humanity, is absolutely its own character in the storytelling.

You started painting more ambitiously during the Covid-19 lockdowns. Now that we’re living in the new normal and I’m supposing you are busier with your acting career, what direction are you taking with your painting?

Once we were about six months into the lockdown I started working a ton. I was shooting both *The Kominsky Method* and *Lone Star*, so I was being



“Matriarchs of Brooklyn”

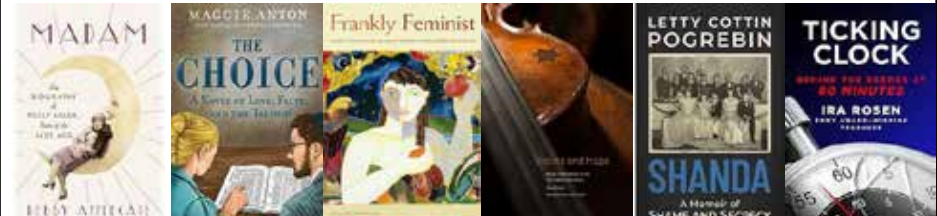
tested 12 times a week and driving all over the city. I still managed to paint! When I had to go to Manitoba to shoot *Little Bird* (an as-of-yet unreleased Limited Series by Freemantle/CBC) I painted on location, in my hotel, and even in my trailer. I feel so lucky to have this other thing to do now! An actor’s life, even in busy times, is full of waiting. I’m not good with waiting. Now I don’t have to be.

And is the show going to travel?

That’s not completely up to me, it depends on the interest of the right gallery at the right time in the right place. So I don’t know yet! I’ll be sure to post about it if and when that does happen. In the meantime, I’m having a blast making more.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF SFA ADVISORY

JEWISH LITERARY VOICES



A Federation series in collaboration with the Jewish Book Council

Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6:45 p.m. (virtual)
Author and Producer Ira Rosen
Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. (virtual)
Author Debby Applegate
Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. (virtual)
Author Maggie Anton
The Choice: A Novel of Love, Faith and the Talmud

Thursday, Mar. 16, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. (virtual)
Authors Susan Weidman Schneider and Yona Zeldis McDonough
Frankly Feminist: Short Stories by Jewish Women from Lilith Magazine

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. (virtual)
Author and Photographer Daniel Levin
Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall

Friday, July 14, 2023 at 10:45 a.m. (in-person at Hevreh)
Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin
Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy

REGISTER AT JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES



JEWISH
BOOK
COUNCIL

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

OLLI

AT BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Learn more at berkshireolli.org

Talks

Classes

Special Events

CULTURE & ARTS

When Do We Know?

BJV Interview: Jacqueline Saper, author of From Miniskirt to Hijab

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor



Jacqueline Saper with her children in Shiraz, Iran, in 1985

Please see page 1 for details on Jacqueline Saper’s March 2 program for Federation.

I happened to read Jacqueline Saper’s *From Miniskirt to Hijab* – a cautionary story, in essence, about what can happen to Jews who stay too long in a Diaspora country that has become inhospitable – on a weekend in which that theme emerged organically in the Torah portion, in my social media, and in the news.

The weekly Torah reading was Parshat Bo, in which Egypt suffers the final plagues and the Children of Israel are packed up and prepared to leave. Hashem instructs Moses and Aaron about the Passover sacrifice and then offers this curious instruction: “This is how you shall eat it: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly” (Exodus 12:11). In other words, keep your eye on the door. There are many opinions, approving and disapproving, about what might be called “the paranoid style” in the Jewish worldview; but it is abundantly clear that the notion of itinerancy was installed in Judaism from the dawn of the faith. As the old blues song puts it, “When the Lord gets ready, you got to move” – whether you’ve been living in bondage or in Paradise.

Erev Shabbat that week marked Holocaust Remembrance Day, and I was reminded by a post on Facebook by an Israeli cousin of my generation about how staying on too long also constituted our own family’s tragedy. He wrote:

When do you know that there is no choice and you must go? Hannah Arendt understood right away. The Nazis arrested her, she understood already in 1933, and she left Germany immediately. She was an immigrant without citizenship for almost twenty years.

My great-grandfather David Fishman from Belarus refused to leave. [He] explained to my grandmother in a letter that he knew the Germans – they were here during WWI and everything is fine. Until the summer of 1941, when they murdered him with his entire family.

When do we know?

And as Holocaust Remembrance Day ended in Israel, seven worshipers outside a synagogue in Jerusalem were murdered by a terrorist, a reminder that not only are enemies of the Jewish people eager to kill us in their countries but in our own land, as well. Except there is no door for Jews living in the State of Israel to keep an eye on – the Jewish homeland is the end of the line, conceivably for all of us.

So it’s fair to say that I brought along a bit of extra baggage reading *From Miniskirt to Hijab* – and I predict most Jewish readers will, as well. Saper’s narrative follows an arc similar to that of Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*, and fans of that comic book and film will want to read this book, which has a Jewish resonance provided by her family’s multicultural Jewish identity. Her father was a professor whose Mizrahi family had been in Persia for millennia, while her British Ashkenazi mother had to adapt to life in Iran, but also exposed her daughter to life in a Western country during summer visits back in England.

Because of the convergence of events on the weekend before we spoke, a question very much on my mind was: “When do we know?”

Jacqueline Saper provided some answers. Our conversation was edited for length and clarity.

First of all, how do you relate to someone like your father who chose to stay while friends and other family members left? Is there any bitterness? What’s the family dynamic like?

Well, how can I put it? Chaos happens so fast and you are off-guard – life was so good and things changed so fast. This is where people’s true personalities show up. My father was a very decent, straightforward academic. He wanted a simple life, while the majority of the Jewish people I knew were savvy businessmen and took risks. I observed my surroundings, maybe because of my diverse background and having been exposed to Western culture. At that time, traveling was not that prevalent. I had British relatives. I knew both cultures. I understood my limitations as a girl in the Iranian culture. It frustrated me. And if I had the choice, I would have left. But I was a minor. I was under 18, and I could not leave. Another problem was being in a Middle Eastern country even before the revolution, the Shah’s time, as a girl, I needed my father’s written permission to leave the country.

I knew many boys would just say, I’m leaving and go. I couldn’t do that and where *would* I go? I had no relatives in the United States. It was a confusing time. Also, I got engaged. My husband was limited because he needed to finish [his medical studies]. And then the [Iran-Iraq War] broke out [in 1980] and the borders closed and they wouldn’t give me a passport. So it’s not that I didn’t want to leave. And I think when this happened, many people,

including my dad, were optimists. He thought, “This will pass again.” He was in his mid to late 50s and couldn’t start over again. Many people sent money out illegally. They lost it. So it was a combination of many things. And he knew if he left, possibly his property would be confiscated.

So once you all finally did get out, and not just for your family, but in other families that you have seen, are there resentments? Does the issue of whether or not the correct decision of when to have left was made become the fulcrum of family resentments? Or is it something that people tend to be more accepting of?

Depends on the person. Depends on each family’s dynamics. Our family dynamic was quite unusual because we were bicultural in the Jewish community of Iran. I read articles, about the second and third generations of Iranians who were born or grew up in America. They call themselves bicultural because they had the conflict between their Iranian parents at home and the American culture at school and outside.

But nobody has had my unique experience of living in Iran, being exposed to the Western culture, but being hindered by Middle Eastern cultures while living in a house that was of both cultures. So it was a little different coming to America. As an immigrant, my issue was I was very much misunderstood. Many people didn’t even know Iran even had a Jewish community. People regarded all refugees the same. I wrote the book mostly to explain who I was.

One of the lines that struck me from your book, you said that the race to modernity did not feel authentic in the Iranian culture. Can you talk a little bit more about that and what?

Very much so, because modernity happened extremely fast. When I grew up in Tehran, the capital city, was cosmopolitan. There were maybe 60,000 plus Americans living there. We had European friends, Israelis. There were flights to Tel Aviv. But it’s hard to understand that a generation before or two generations before, 30 years before, in the 1940s when armies invaded Iran, there was a famine. The illiteracy rate was quite high among women, even in the 1970s. People didn’t travel that often. The elite did, but not the majority. When you went to the rural areas traditional women still guarded their hijab.

It was a double life between modern major cities and smaller parts of the country. And I encountered many highly-educated people whose mentality was from the Middle Ages – women were not equal and many other things. So there was a paradox and conflict between acting like a Western society and a superstitious, ideological mentality that most people had. That was the clash and that’s why they backed Khomeini, who deceived people because he never explained his agenda. People thought he’d be like a kind grandfather who would go back to the seminary. But he hijacked the revolution.

Do you think that’s going to be, as the world moves forward, a perpetual pull on the Islamic world of societies wanting to go back to Islamic rule?

I don’t, because of the new generation. Iran, when the revolution happened, had 35 million population. Now it has almost 85 million. That means 70 to 75 percent of the Iranian population today never saw the pre-revolution era. They weren’t even born during the revolution. And with the advent of social media, the world is so connected and the youth of Iran are not bound to the superstition and tradition of Islamic ideology of their parents or grandparents. They are modern. Not all of them, but many are modern. They see what’s happening – they just go on their Instagram and TikTok to see what’s going on in the world. When you look at other Islamic countries, I see Jordan is very modern. I don’t know Lebanon is modern. I think it’s changing.

There is a chapter in my book, “Public Life, Private Self” – it’s exactly the same in Iran now. Iran has an alcohol problem – although it’s bad. Facebook is bad, but there are millions of users. There is underground music and underground parties. So it’s a paradox. People have to live double lives. It’s us against them.

But when is that going to be reconciled? I know there have been protests.

It is a start of a revolution, though I don’t know if I can name it that right now. I think revolution happens when it’s finished. But what’s going to change? I know that Iran, after September of last year, after [anti-hijab protestor] Mahsa Amini’s death, is not going to go back to what it used to be. Pandora’s box has been opened, something has changed. But the regime is so brutal and it has so many layers. That is not easy. The regime is homicidal, but not suicidal. That’s how I put it. It’s not going to go away easily.

Will this regime fall? I think eventually it will, but when and how, I don’t know. What this regime kept on telling people is that if there is chaos and protests, the Iranian people and Iran will be divided. Because Iran has a lot of ethnicities – Turks, Kurds, Baha’i, Arabs, Persians - they say if anything happens, Iran will be divided. But the opposite has happened. The people have united. Very much so. And the [10 percent of Iranians who live outside the country in an] Iranian diaspora have united. And although we say it’s a leaderless movement, there are some specific personalities that have shown and taken some leadership roles.

Do you think to effect real change they’re going to need a real leader?

Not necessarily, because I think we are, in this day and age, the 21st century, I think revolutions have changed, too. The way things are happening is different nowadays.



Jacqueline Saper today