

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

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July 17 to August 27, 2023

jewishberkshires.org

One Night Only! New Moon Rising to Headline Federation's Summer Concert



New Moon Rising (Elana Arian, Chava Mirel, and Deborah Sacks Mintz)

the Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE program in Berkshire County schools.

This concert is funded in part by PJ Library, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and generous underwriters.

**Join the community
for an evening of
singing, friendship,
and spiritual
connection**

LENOX – New Moon Rising brings together three of the most dynamic and creative voices in Jewish music – Elana Arian, Deborah Sacks Mintz, and Chava Mirel.

A trio of female powerhouses, New Moon Rising embodies the best that musical collaboration can be – a soulful oasis of rich harmonies, deep friendship, and pure Jewish joy.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 6 at the Duffin Theater at Lenox Memorial High School. This year, all concert proceeds will benefit

NEW MOON RISING,
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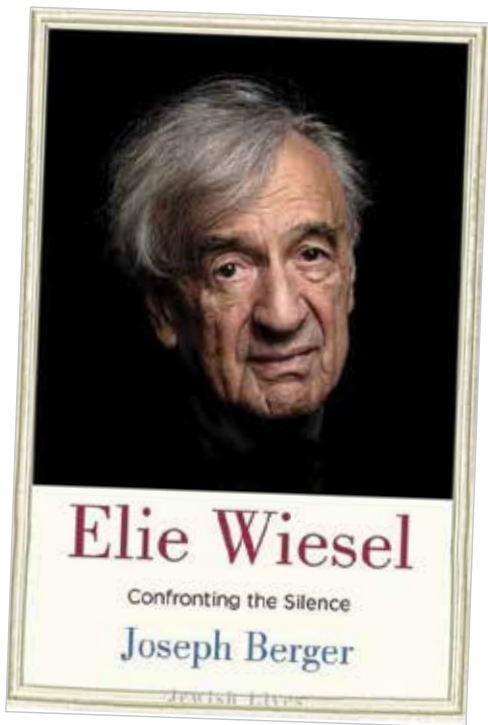
Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence

**NY Times journalist
Joseph Berger
talks about his new
biography of the
Nobel Peace Prize
recipient**

STOCKBRIDGE – On Sunday, August 27 at 2 p.m. at the Stockbridge Library, join Joseph Berger, reporter and editor for The New York Times for over 30 years, for an intimate look at Elie Wiesel, author of the seminal Holocaust memoir *Night* and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Elie Wiesel seared the Holocaust into the world's conscience and later spoke out against genocide everywhere. How did someone who grew up as a devout Hasidic boy in an obscure Hungarian village become the torchbearer for the survivors and an important moral voice on the world stage?

Drawing from Wiesel's writings and interviews with his family, close friends, scholars, and critics, Joseph Berger's new book, *Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence*, seeks to answer this question and presents Wiesel as both a revered Nobel laureate and a man of complex psychological texture and contradictions.



This program is co-sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and The Stockbridge Library, Museum & Archives, which is located at 46 Main Street in downtown Stockbridge. Seating is limited and registration through the calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org is encouraged.

Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Joseph Berger was a New York Times reporter, columnist, and editor

ELIE WIESEL,
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In the Dog Days of Summer . . .

**. . . beat the heat at "Torah in the Tarot:
Hidden Secrets of the Crypto-Jews," part of
Federation's 'Summer of Sephardic Culture'**



symbolizing the early stages of consciousness unfolding. But how Jewish is tarot imagery? You'll be surprised – please see page 28 for more.

Did Crypto-Jews use tarot cards as a secret tool for Jewish education? Find out at Knosh & Knowledge on August 11, a special Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program in collaboration with the Boston-area Jewish Arts Collaborative (JArts). The card shown here is "La Lune" (showing the face of the Moon and its rays of reflected light) from presenter Stav Appel's "The Torah in the Tarot" deck reproducing the 22 major arcana of The Jean Noblet Tarot de Marseille created in France circa 1650. The howling canines depict a dog and a wolf, representing the tamed and wild side of our minds; the small pool below represents the watery, subconscious mind, with the small crayfish crawling

"A Taste of the Sephardic Rosh Hashanah Seder," with Chef Susan Barocas

**Knosh & Knowledge to host an interactive
presentation to spice up your holiday table**

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, August 18 at 10:45 a.m., as Elul and the preparations for the Days of Awe begin, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents writer, chef, and cooking instructor Susan Barocas for an interactive cooking demo and food tasting. Learn how to create meaningful, memorable Rosh Hashanah experiences with a Sephardic Seder of special blessings and symbolic foods.

This free Knosh & Knowledge program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road in Great Barrington. This event is part of Federation's Celebration of Sephardic Culture.

For over 2,000 years, Sephardic Jews have been welcoming the new year with a Seder that features seven blessings with seven symbolic foods, deepening the experience of the holiday. All participants will receive a handout of the blessings and recipes to create your own delicious Rosh Hashanah Seder for an *anyada buena, dulce i alegre* – a good, sweet and happy new year!



About Susan Barocas

Susan Barocas finds the kitchen to be a place of unending creativity and connection. She is an award-winning writer, chef, and cooking instructor with a passion for healthy, no-waste cooking and Jewish cuisines, especially Sephardic food, history, and culture.

Founding director of the innovative Jewish Food Experience, she served as the guest chef for three of President Obama's White House Seders. Susan has also partnered with local Ladino singer Sarah Aroeste to create Savor (pronounced sa-VOR and meaning "taste" or "flavor" in Ladino), a unique project that brings together the cultural touchstones of Sephardic music and cuisine in a variety of platforms. Savor is the result of diligent research and curation that led to a recording of songs in the Ladino language that focus on food. For more on this project, visit saraharoeste.com/savor.

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OP-ED

IN MY VIEW

Ken Y’hi Ratzon – Let It Be So
Federation’s outgoing president reflects on the ways we lifted each other up and made our community more inclusive

By Elisa Schindler Frankel



This column was adapted from Elisa’s remarks as outgoing president of Jewish Federation of the Berkshires at our 83rd Annual Meeting on June 20.

I have always been deeply connected to Judaism, both through my involvement in synagogue life and my relationship with Israel. However, it wasn’t until I moved to the Berkshires that I truly understood the importance of Jewish Federations. I quickly came to realize how essential our Federation was in improving lives and strengthening Jewish community across the Berkshires, in Israel, and around the world, now and for future generations. It was the beating heart that kept us all going.

I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together over the past two years. When I took over as president, we were facing several challenges. We were in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the economic outlook was uncertain. But I knew that with your support, we could overcome these adversities.

And that is exactly what we did. Together we:

- Surpassed our annual fundraising goal for two years in a row, breaking the \$1 million mark and increasing the campaign by 24%, accomplished with the tremendous support of our newly-formed Development Committee.
- Launched a new, innovative, and compelling way to kick off our annual campaign at High Lawn Farm, with an expanded Super Tzedakah Week. This was an overwhelming success, resulting in over 400 attendees this past May and almost as many people the year before.
- Welcomed a large influx of new residents to the Berkshires and helped them find meaningful Jewish connections in our community.
- Reimagined religious education in our synagogues and increased our support to them by 20%.
- Raised over \$100,000 to help care for Ukrainian Jews in crisis, plus \$20,000 more in emergency winter relief.
- Expanded our programs and services to better serve the needs of our community.

In addition to the accomplishments, I am also proud of the way we have worked to make our community more inclusive. We have increased diversity on our board and staff and intentionally developed programming that reflects a wider span of Jewish racial, cultural, sexual, and social identity.

But perhaps our most important accomplishment was the way we came together as a community during a time of crisis. We supported each other, we lifted each other up, and we never gave up hope. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together. I know we can do even more and that’s why I am asking for your continued support as we work to build a stronger, more vibrant Jewish Federation.

This is a very bittersweet moment for me as I complete my term as president. I love Federation with all my heart and always will. I believe that a strong and vibrant Jewish community is one that is inclusive and welcoming to all and is essential to the future of the Jewish people.

I am committed to continuing to create a community that celebrates the diversity of our experiences, and I would be honored if you would join us on this journey.

Together, we can make a difference. Thank you. *Ken y’hi ratzon.*

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☆ MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ☆



HEVREH'S INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN OF ISRAEL TOUR
A 10-DAY, UNABASHEDLY FEMINIST EXPERIENCE
LED BY RABBI JODIE GORDON
MAY 27-JUNE 5, 2024
FOR MORE INFORMATION: INFO@HEVREH.ORG

Granola Drive
a Cracking Success

Inspired by the Spring Harvest Festival of Shavuot and our commitment to sustainability in our community, we are aware of the very real problem of food insecurity for families across Berkshire County. Whole grain granola and granola bars were identified and requested by the local food pantries as items that were deeply appreciated as donations because they are not regularly provided in food drives and their clients are grateful for healthy options.

With the generous support of Great Barrington's BOLA Granola and many individual donations, we collected over 100 pounds of granola and granola bars to be distributed to families in need. Granola was donated to organizations across Berkshire County, including The People's Pantry in Great Barrington, Salvation Army Food Pantry in Pittsfield, South Community Food Pantry in Pittsfield (which serves over 1000 families each week), Al Nelson Friendship Center and Food Pantry in North Adams, and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, as well as to food boxes provided to families in need in the Berkshire Hills and South Berkshire school districts.



“Miller is giving the performance of her career” –Boston Phoenix

GOLDA’S Balcony

by William Gibson
Directed by Daniel Gidron

AUGUST 5 – 20
Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

“Amazing” –The Boston Globe
“Involving and enlightening” –Variety

FEATURING



Annette Miller

Tickets Available at 413.637.3353
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RABBI REFLECTION

Envisioning the Future after a Time of Devastation

By Rabbi Neal I. Borovitz

While all of us here in the Berkshires are enjoying a summer of renewal after three years of limited cultural and social activities, our Jewish calendar reminds us this month of the challenging responsibility and opportunity we, as a community and each of us as individuals, have to respond to disaster through communal renewal.

Shabbat Chazon, the Sabbath of vision, falls this year on July 22. The name comes from the opening word of the Book of Isaiah, the haftarah assigned to be read on the Sabbath which precedes Tisha B'Av, the anniversary of the destruction of both the first Temple by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E. and the second Temple by the Romans in 70 C.E.

The vision of Isaiah is of more than historic relevance. The prophet's words were written sometime after the destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, in 721 B.C.E., 140 years before the first destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E. In the Book of Isaiah 1:2-9, the prophet appeals to the Jews who have survived the destruction and devastation of Israel to learn from the mistakes of others. In verses 18-25, the prophet warns the Jewish community of his day (and through our annual reading of this chapter, of our day, as well) of the death and destruction, the alienation and isolation which awaits them (and us) if they do not choose to honor their obligations and responsibilities to God as conveyed to them in Torah.

In between these passages, in verses 10-17, Isaiah outlines for his contemporaries his suggestions as to the spiritual remedies necessary for the restoration of the covenantal partnership agreement between God and the Jewish people.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut, in his haftarah commentary on these eight verses, writes: "This ringing denunciation of hypocritical religion has sometimes been read as if Isaiah denounced ritual in general... But this is a complete misreading of the prophet's message. Isaiah's message is: If sacrifice or prayer are not accompanied by righteous living and pure intent, they are abhorrent to God... Isaiah's condemnation is not of ritual per se, but rather, of rituals that are not accompanied by righteous living."

Rabbi Plaut backs up his comment with a story from Numbers Rabba 25:21: "A pagan asked Rabbi Akiba: Why do you celebrate your festivals? Did not the Holy One through Isaiah say to you: 'I hate your festivals?' Rabbi Akiva answered: 'If God had said, I hate *My* new moons and *My* festivals, you might have had a point. But God said, '*your* new moons and *your* festivals' – *yours, not MINE!*'"

It is clear from the context of the Midrash, as well as the Isaiah text itself, that the critique of Jewish observance by both the prophet of the 8th century B.C.E. and Rabbi Akiva (who lived in the 2nd century C.E.) did not concern ritual observances of the festivals. Rather, the basis of their critique was the failure of Jews to carry away from their rituals the ethical teachings and moral imperatives of Judaism and to incorporate them into their everyday life.

On this Shabbat Chazon, this Sabbath of vision, we are not only challenged by the vision of Isaiah but also by our beginning again to study the last book of the Torah, Deuteronomy. Written in the literary form of a series of sermons by Moses to Israel, Deuteronomy was an attempt by a 7th century B.C. E., generation of Jewish teachers to inspire their fellow Jews to, in the words we learn in *Parshat Vaetchanan* "to serve God with all their heart, soul and might." I hear in these words that we recite as part of the *Shema* every morning and evening a command to direct my spiritual, cognitive,

and physical power to the service of God by working in community to repair the tears in the fabric of human society and to be better custodians of the planet earth over which we were given dominion in the opening chapters of Genesis.

The Book of Deuteronomy exhorts the reader to serve God by creating a just and compassionate society. By having Moses remind us, time and again, that since God, our creator and our liberator, is both just and compassionate, we have the ability and the responsibility to treat others with whom we interact with justice and compassion. It is our repayment to God for the gift of life.

In the opening chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses learns from God that he will not live to enter *Eretz Yisrael*. After all Moses has been through as a servant of God and a communal leader of a very "stiff-necked people," why doesn't Moses just quit? Rather, while he pleads with God for a reprieve, he also continues to exhort his congregation to remember and learn from the mistakes of the past

We have the ability and the responsibility to treat others with whom we interact with justice and compassion. It is our repayment to God for the gift of life.

as they embark upon a new era in Jewish history. Deuteronomy is a series of passionate and eloquent homiletic pleas to the People of Israel to choose life over death and blessing over curse.

Tisha B'Av is a day of infamy in Jewish history. On July 27th, we lament the disasters that have befallen our people on this date. Jeremiah's laments in the Book of Lamentations are intended to make us recognize that we ourselves are not blameless victims. Isaiah teaches us that the destruction of Israel in the 8th century B.C.E. was the result of Jews engaging in meaningless worship devoid of ethical and moral content. The Talmud teaches us that the destruction of the Second Temple was a result of *Sinat Chinam*, the senseless hatred of Jews for our fellow Jews. The 20th and 21st centuries have proved that when good people stand by and do nothing, the moral vacuum they create is immediately filled with evil. Conversely, when good people join to realize the visions of the prophets, the dreams of Deuteronomy can be realized.

Other questions that the words of Isaiah raise for me are: Can we bring under control the plague of *Sinat Chinam*, baseless hatred? Will we choose to learn from the lesson Cain and Abel and love each other with our hearts, soul, and might, even when we disagree? Will we choose to respect the rights of "others" in our world who differ with us on issues confronting our community, our nation, and our world? Or will we "good people" allow the plague of *Sinat Chinam*, which our Talmudic sages claimed was the cause of the destruction of Jerusalem 1950 years ago, as manifest in the bitter divisiveness permeating politics around the world (including here in America and in Israel) lead us to disaster?

To me, the challenging message of Shabbat Chazon and Tisha B 'Av is: We all share responsibility for the evil in this world. Shabbat Chazon marks the beginning of the countdown to a new year. During the weeks until Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we each have the opportunity to begin the process of *teshuva*, of change, by which we can repair ourselves, our community, and the world.

In my own paraphrase and application of the challenging words of Rabbi Tarfon found in Pirkei Avot 2:15&16: When I look at the world both in terms of

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE,
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Looking for Ways to Get Involved?

Whether you can make a weekly, monthly, or just a one time commitment, Federation has a number of volunteer opportunities:

- Deliver kosher meals to homebound seniors
- Visit with homebound adults and residents in senior living facilities
- Pack and deliver holiday care packages
- Deliver the Berkshire Jewish Voice (commercial sites)
- Help with registration and other needs at events

GET IN TOUCH TODAY!


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



Tikkun Olam Volunteer Network


The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) Network connects community members of all ages with Mitzvah opportunities to make a difference in our 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



OP-ED

PEOPLE LIKE THE PAPER,

continued from page 3



longtime members of Knesset Israel), who charmed us with her paintings.

Not bad for a small community newspaper – but wait, there's more. WaPo columnist **Tamar Haspel** gave a delightful interview to Federation board member **Richard Slutzky**. We spoke to **Rabbi Kendall Pinkney** about The Workshop Artist Salon, a dynamic exploration of identity by JOCISM (Jews of Color, Jewish-Indigenous, Sephardi & Mizrahi) – Federation brought them to the Berkshires in partnership with Shakespeare & Company, the first time The Workshop appeared outside New York City. And we talked to *60 Minutes* producer **Ira Rosen** – let me say that when you interview a broadcast news legend who was *Mike Wallace's* producer, you have to bring your A-game. (I'd rate the end result more of a B+ on my part, but Ira was incredibly gracious and fun to talk to.)

And then there was the excellent interview of novelist **Maggie Anton** by a true BJV stalwart and a soon-to-be-published novelist herself, **Carol Goodman Kaufman**. Working through a busy schedule and life's sometimes daunting ups and downs, Carol comes through with entertaining and informative Traveling With Jewish Taste columns *and actually apologizes if her column comes in after deadline*. No one else does that. Carol, thank you so much for all you do for the BJV.

We are also grateful for the outstanding work of **Linda Burghardt**, who bang-bang-bang contributed well-researched and beautifully written articles about Tom Stoppard's *Leopoldstadt*, Barrington Stage Company's **Alan Paul**, and the "Organized Escape: Psychoanalysts in Exile" exhibit now at the Austen Riggs Center (see page 25) for our last three issues. Linda is the scholar-in-residence at the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center in New York, whose work has appeared in many national publications. A longtime Berkshire second homeowner, she writes for the BJV because she wants to write for you – a fantastic, sophisticated, and Jewishly-engaged audience.

As I look back on the past 12 months, I am blown away by the talented writers I work with and the fascinating people I get to talk to. Sometimes I wonder, ‘How do I get so lucky?’ And I hear the voice of my confidante Margo Golos telling me: “People like the paper.” So here is part 2 of the *spiel*:

Please see the insert in this newspaper for the different funding levels available. An honorary publisher gift of \$360 allows us to provide four pages of color. Due to popular demand, we are printing more copies of each issue and printing costs have escalated in recent years. Your support will allow us to reach more people wishing to connect with all our Jewish community offers to full-time residents, part-time residents, and the estimated 150,000 Jewish vacationers who visit the Berkshires each year.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention my colleague **Rabbi Daveen Litwin**, Federation's Director of Community Engagement and Programming. Federation programs have been top-notch since I started working here 8 years ago, and Daveen has taken our programming to the next level of excellence. Virtually all the interviewees whose names are bolded above were presenters at Federation-sponsored programs, and they represent only a fraction of the amazing speakers Federation hosted last year. Thanks in large part to Daveen, we've forged relationships with national and local organizations that enable us to deliver many more live and virtual programs with *actually famous people*. Exclusively for you. We get to talk to them and tell their stories in the BJV, again, exclusively for you, our loyal readers. And we have ambitious plans for the year ahead, with many more great programs and stories to come.

You like the paper. So please consider sponsoring the Berkshire Jewish Voice generously as a voluntary subscriber so we can continue to bring you stories that reflect the character of this special Jewish community and the good work this Federation accomplishes with your support.

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE,

continued from page 4

Human Society and Planet Earth, I see that the time is short. There is much work to be done to bring about the redemption of the world by meeting head on the ecological and societal challenges we face. Though we most likely will not personally live to see its completion we, like Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy, are not free to avoid our responsibility to do our share and pass along a better world to the next generations. May it be our will to be God's partner in this awesome task of repairing the Moral and Spiritual infrastructure of our world.

Rabbi Neal Borovitz, a participating member of Berkshire Minyan in Great Barrington, is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Avodat Shalom in River Edge, NJ. He is married to Ann Appelbaum. He is past chair of the North Jersey Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Northern New Jersey, and Past National Vice Chair of Jewish Council for Public Affairs.



The color photography in this issue of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* is made possible through the generosity of **Rob Bildner & Elisa Spungen Bildner, and Dr. Jonathan Kramer, honorary publishers.** The staff of the Federation and the BJV are deeply grateful.



Each year, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires directs some of your campaign dollars to support Jewish day and overnight camp scholarships for local youth. Here's one way that the Federation system enhances the Jewish camp experience.

Federations Sponsor Israeli *Shlichim* at Local Jewish Camps

Jewish Federations of North America, in partnership with The Jewish Agency for Israel, welcome young *shlichim* (Israeli emissaries) to camps in the Berkshires for an impactful summer where they will impart their authentic Israeli heritage and stories with their Jewish peers across the ocean. The *shlichim* serve as living bridges between young Jews in North America and Israel, and the meaningful bonds they form last well beyond the summer season.

With support from 146 Jewish Federations around North America, The Jewish Agency will be sending a total of 1,500 *shlichim* between the ages of 19-25 to 158 camps across North America. The *shlichim* hail from all around Israel and come from a variety of backgrounds, in a true display of the country's diversity.

Locally, The Jewish Agency has sent *shlichim* to URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington (48), URJ Crane Lake Camp in West Stockbridge (17), Camp Kimama Half Moon in Monterey (28), and Camp Ramah in New England in nearby Palmer, MA (59).

This summer, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires provided \$49,750 in camp scholarships to 35 young people in our community. We consider this funding among the most essential components of our mission to create and sustain Jewish life in our region, and are grateful for the generous support from our donors.

Jewish Federations' annual core dollars power the critical work of The Jewish Agency including facilitating *aliyah* and absorption from around the globe, providing financial assistance to victims of terror, supporting Israel's most vulnerable citizens and spearheading innovative initiatives to strengthen ties between North American Jewry and Israel.



Summer fun at Crane Lake Camp

A Celebration of Sephardic Culture

A Federation series exploring the diversity of Jewish experience

Torah in the Tarot: Hidden Secrets of the Crypto-Jews

Friday, August 11, 10:45 a.m. at Hevreh

JArts director Laura Mandel, Torah scholar Stav Appel, and Berkshire artist Jonathan Prince examine the Tarot anew through a Judaic lens of understanding to reveal its images as secret vessels for Hebrew letters, Judaic ritual objects, Jewish Holy Days, and legends of Torah.

A Taste of the Sephardic Rosh Hashanah Seder

Friday, August 18, 10:45 a.m. at Hevreh

Chef Susan Barocas will lead an interactive cooking demo, food tasting and teaching on how to create meaningful, memorable Rosh Hashanah experiences with a Sephardic Seder of special blessings and symbolic foods.

Visit jewishberkshires.org for more information



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THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
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Your Federation Presents

“Going with the Flow: Judaism and Tai-Chi Movement,” with Dr. Joel Friedman



Dr. Joel Friedman

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, August 3 at 10:45 a.m., join Dr. Joel Friedman, MD and Ph.D. for a meeting of Eastern and Western religious thought in “Going with the Flow: Judaism and Tai-Chi Movement.” The program will combine lecture, discussion, and some Tai Chi movement.

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

Writes Dr. Joel Friedman: “Jewish mystical tradition provides a road map both for insight into the mechanisms of divine activity and for development of road maps for emulating the divine. One can use meditative tools to help understand and access the elements of the infinite; however, to incorporate the wisdom and benefits of mysticism, one needs a more expansive and practical type of practice. The movements and philosophy of the Chinese internal martial art taiji chuan (Tai-Chi) are based on the same three building blocks as the Sefirot.”

This workshop will focus on single and partner-based learning of Tai-Chi type movements connecting to Jewish teaching as to how to incorporate the breath-driven flow between expansion and contraction into movements that are relevant to health, sports, rituals, communication, and spiritual growth.

Joel M. Friedman is a research scientist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is a professor and the former chairman of the Department of

Physiology and Biophysics, where he holds the Young Men’s Division Chair in Cardiovascular Physiology. Dr. Friedman has deep expertise in an extensive range of biomolecular and translational medicine modalities including protein dynamics, hemoglobin, transfusion medicine, anti-inflammatory strategies, wound healing, anti-infective strategies, and topical, transdermal, and IV drug delivery platforms.

Dr Friedman has also been pursuing research into the theological and mystical underpinnings of Judaism. He has given multiple participatory workshops at synagogues and Limmud on these and related topics. His lens is uniquely influenced by the synergy of his science/medical background, his 40 years of training and teaching Taoist-based Chinese internal martial/healing arts, and a passion for Jewish learning.

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

Current Events Seminar with Professor Steven Rubin

PITTSFIELD – On the Thursdays of July 20 and August 17 at 10:45 a.m., Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents Professor Steven Rubin’s summer-long series of current events seminars.

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

This free program will be presented as part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community Series at Knesset Israel (16 Colt Road in Pittsfield) and will be followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a \$3



Professor Steve Rubin

suggested donation for adults over 60 or \$7 for all others. Reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program. See page 9 for the lunch menu.

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

“Not on Yom Kippur: The Jewish Opera Stars,” a Multimedia Presentation by Laura Wetzler



Jan Peerce at a 1950 recording session

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, August 10 at 10:45 a.m., join singer, songwriter, guitarist, recording artist, and



כל הנשמה Kol HaNeshama

Help Us Welcome Rabbi Sigal Brier to Sarasota!

Rabbi Sigal Brier comes to Kol HaNeshama with years of experience as a congregational rabbi. She is a scholar, spiritual mentor, inspirational teacher, and artist. Rabbi Sigal was ordained at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is also a longtime faculty member of the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Stockbridge, MA.

Kol HaNeshama is your “home away from home” for people looking for an active older Jewish community in Florida. A place to meet people.

- A caring community
- Interactive, energetic and compelling leadership
- Dynamic, musical and spiritual services
- Thoughtful and provocative Torah discussions

Please join us to welcome Rabbi Brier whenever you return to Florida. Please consider us your new home for High Holy Days.




“I’m looking forward to working with members at the Kol HaNeshama community and Sarasota area, starting in July 2023. My role as a rabbi and a spiritual leader is to meet people where they are and provide comfort, teachings, and inspiration. We celebrate together and when we face life’s challenges, individually and collectively, we are poised to help each other.”

– Rabbi Sigal Brier

For more information, please visit our website khsarasota.org, or call 941-244-2042

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Your Federation Presents

lecturer Laura Wetzler for a multimedia presentation that explores the breadth and influence of Jewish opera stars including Richard Tucker, Beverly Sills, Jan Peerce, Roberta Peters, and Robert Merrill.



Laura Wetzler

Laura has devoted years of study and performance to diverse, multicultural World music, as well as to the history of American popular entertainment and European Art Music. She takes particular joy in sharing the fascinating and beautiful contributions of Jewish-American and African-American artists

to our musical cultural heritage. Her website is www.laurawetzler.com.

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

"Great voice, great writing" was WBAI Radio's opinion on her work, while the late Pete Seeger called Laura Wetzler "One of the very best!"

Her recordings include Kabbalah Music: Songs of the Jewish Mystics, which was praised by Robert Sherman of the New York Times for its "superb performances." Laura sings in seven languages and was featured recently at the International Limnud Festival in Germany and in performances of Ladino songs in the Azores. She has lectured and appeared in concert at Yale, NYU, Brandeis, Merkin Hall, Cami Hall, Brooklyn Museum, at the International Music Conference in Italy, and for Road Scholar, among many other venues.

Laura is also the writer, director, producer, and composer of the multi-award-winning new film, What Happened at the Veterans Home? winner Best Humanitarian Film in Prague and Best Screenplay in Paris and Palm Springs, now streaming internationally. When not singing and lecturing, Laura has done

extensive volunteer work with the Jewish community of Uganda on over 50 different projects, including creating the Kulanu.org Deaf Education Program for children.

For more on Jewish Federation programs, visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org.

Jews in Early America – Professor Michael Hoberman will Discuss Their Legacy in a Two-Part Series

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, August 24 at 10:45 a.m., join Fitchburg State's Professor Michael Hoberman for the first installment of a two-part series on the present-day legacy of early Jewish American history. The first session will focus on the Touro Synagogue in Newport, RI, which was built and dedicated in 1763 and is now a shrine to religious freedom and Jewish belonging in the US. The second session on Thursday, August 31 will focus on recent research in the colonial era on the "first Jewish families." How do present-day descendants tell their families' stories and why are their stories important today?



The Touro Synagogue in Newport, RI

These free programs will be presented as part of Federation's Connecting With Community series at

Kneset Israel (16 Colt Road in Pittsfield) and will be followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a \$3 suggested donation for adults over 60 or \$7 for all others. Reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program. See page 9 for the lunch menu.

In part one of this series, Professor Hoberman tells the story of the oldest synagogue in North America, concentrating attention on how its history is remembered and interpreted in the present day. Visitors to the Touro Synagogue hear about links between Newport's earliest Jews and the tradition of religious tolerance promoted by figures such as Roger Williams and George Washington, but they also learn that Newport's most prosperous Jews bought and sold slaves. How have the stories that we tell about Newport's Jews changed over the years, and why does that matter?

Genealogical research is an extremely popular form of "public history," and Jews in America have been enthusiastic and innovative practitioners of the pastime for generations. In part two of this series, Professor Hoberman will highlight some of the interviews he has conducted with living descendants of Jews who settled in the US in the 1700s, including a man whose bar-mitzvah, in the bicentennial year of 1976, marked the eighth generation of his family's existence in North America (his great, great, great, great-grandfather, Gershom Mendes Seixas, had attended George Washington's inauguration in 1789).



Professor Michael Hoberman

Michael Hoberman is a professor of American literature at Fitchburg State University. He is a graduate of Reed College and earned his Ph.D. in American Studies from UMASS Amherst. Hoberman's books include New Israel/ New England: Jews and Puritans in Early America and A Hundred Acres of America: The Geography of Jewish American Literary History. He has published articles on Jewish American history in several journals and periodicals, including Tablet Magazine. He lives in Shelburne Falls.

For more on Jewish Federation programs, visit our calendar of events at jewishberkshires.org.



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Your Federation Presents

NEW MOON RISING, *continued from page 1*

About New Moon Rising

New Moon Rising is trio of female powerhouses, a soulful oasis of rich harmonies, deep friendship, and joy.

Elana Arian

A composer, multi-instrumentalist, and prayer leader, Elana Arian creates music that is part of Jewish life across the globe, and her compositions are sung in spiritual communities, summer camps, and synagogues from Louisville to London, from Chicago to the Czech Republic, and everywhere in between. Elana just released her fourth album of original music, *The Other Side of Fear*, and she serves proudly on the faculty of Hava Nashira (Oconomowoc, WI), the Wexner Heritage Foundation (Aspen, CO), Shirei Chagiga (London, England), and as an instructor at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she teaches in the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music.

She has appeared on NPR's *Soundcheck*, as well as on PBS' *Finding Your Roots*. A sought-after studio musician, Elana works with such varied artists as Peter Dinklage, the Dirty Projectors, and Catie Curtis and has worked on multiple instruments in the pit orchestras of Broadway shows.

Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz

An educator, practitioner, and facilitator of Jewish communal music, Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz supports communities and individuals who seek to deepen their practice of empowered song and connective prayer – with curiosity, skill, and heart. As a performer and composer, Deborah brings this passion for community-building to her artistic partnerships; in addition to collaborating on over two dozen albums with a diverse array of voices in the Jewish soundscape, Deborah released her debut album of original spiritual music, *The Narrow and the Expanse*, in 2020.

Deborah received rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and serves the Hadar Institute as Director of Tefillah and Music.

Chava Mirel

Chava Mirel is a unique being in the world of music and spirit, defying classifications of style or genre. Celebrated for her rich, luxurious vocals, lush harmonies, and rhythmic phrasing, Chava is also known for her loving and compassionate presence. Chava exhibits ease and fluency in an expansive array of musical styles. She has toured and recorded with a spectrum of artists from Reggie Watts to punk icon Ari Up. Celebrated as a singer-songwriter, World Music, and Jazz artist, Chava is a featured vocalist for global Jazz Fusion band Duende Libre, and has also played keyboards and toured internationally with the legendary Reggae artist Clinton Fearon (the Gladiators).

An award-winning Jewish music composer, Chava provides outstanding artist-in-residence services at congregations from coast to coast. In October 2021, Chava released her fifth full-length album, *“Chava Mirel: The Quarantine Sessions,”* an album recorded in an electrifying live session with her jazz sextet.

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

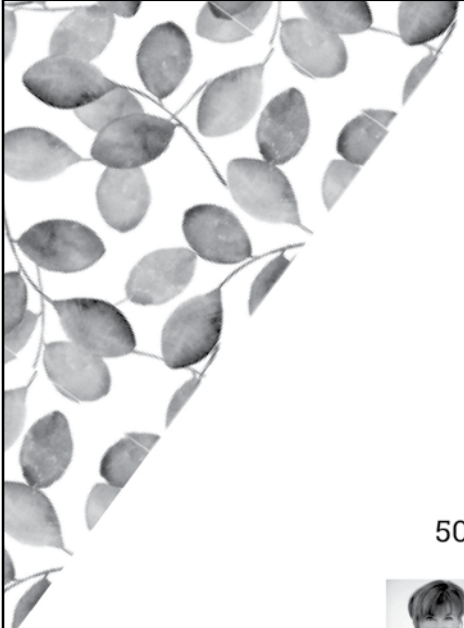
The A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute Peer Training Program empowers student leaders and their peers with the knowledge, courage and commitment to stand up and speak out against bullying, prejudice and discrimination while actively promoting respect for racial, cultural, and other human differences in their schools and in their communities.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires partnered with the ADL, the Berkshire County Superintendents' Roundtable, and local donors to underwrite the program in Berkshire County, offering it to middle and high school students.

If You Go

Tickets for this concert must be ordered in advance, and are priced at \$25, with \$20 tickets available for young adults under the age of 30. Children 13 and under will be admitted free of charge. Please inquire about the variety of underwriting opportunities also being offered.


For more information, please call the Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10. All tickets will be held at the door. The Duffin Theater is located at Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street in Lenox.



Major Donors Celebration

Sunday, July 23
9:30-11:30 a.m.

NEW LOCATION
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Featuring excerpts from "Golda's Balcony"
with acclaimed actor Annette Miller

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Marilyn and Elihu Katzman	Diane Troderman and Harold Grinspoon
Pommy and Gerry Levy	Audrey Weiner and Jeffrey Solomon

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Program format includes schmoozing and breakfast hors d'oeuvres on the covered porch followed by a theater style program indoors. There will be no assigned seating.



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES



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Connecting with Community

Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

Meals-on-Wheels & Meals to Go – Advance Reservation Required

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays 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 note: Starting in June and continuing through the summer months, lunch will not be prepared on Tuesdays. Tuesday lunches will resume in the autumn.

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.



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

What’s for Lunch?

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

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays and Thursdays.

JULY

MONDAY, 17 Vegetarian ratatouille with cheese, brown rice, salad, challah, and peaches.

THURSDAY, 20 Fish sticks#, sweet potato fries, roasted cauliflower & broccoli, salad, farmer’s loaf, and pudding.

MONDAY, 24 Spanakopita, tomato juice, green salad, pita bread, and baklava.

THURSDAY, 27 Closed for Tisha B’Av.

MONDAY, 31 Miso roasted chicken**#, brown rice, Oriental vegetables, salad, rye bread, and pears.

AUGUST

THURSDAY, 3 “Asian” tuna salad platters (can be gluten and/or dairy free with notice), pineapple juice, scones, Mandarin oranges, and cookie packets.

MONDAY, 7 Meat loaf**#, three bean salad, green salad, French fries, pumpernickel bread, and brownies.

THURSDAY, 10 Chef’s salad**#, gazpacho, farmer’s loaf, and fruit cocktail.

MONDAY, 14 Make your own barbecue brisket sandwich**#, mango juice, coleslaw, potato salad, roll, and watermelon.

THURSDAY, 17 Tomato basil quiche, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, challah, and strawberry shortcake with whipped cream.

MONDAY, 21 Gochujang chicken**#, rice, baby corn salad, green salad, whole wheat bread, and pineapple.

THURSDAY, 24 Curried egg salad platter**#, chef’s choice of juice, cucumber salad, crusty white bread, and cookie packets.

MONDAY, 28 Roasted chicken**#, salad, oven roasted vegetables, lentil rice pilaf, rye bread, and grapes.

THURSDAY, 31 Fish**, gazpacho, noodle kugel, mixed vegetables, salad, oat bread, and cookies.

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY, 4 Closed for Labor Day.

THURSDAY, 7 Truffle macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, salad, garlic bread, and apri-cots.

MONDAY, 11 Meat loaf**#, celery rice soup, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, rye bread, and applesauce.

THURSDAY, 14 Holiday meal: Roasted chicken**#, asparagus cuts n tips, rice pilaf with raisins, salad, challah, honey cake, and apples.

MONDAY, 18 American chopped suey#, Italian beans, white bread, and tropical fruit salad.

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.

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.



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July 29–30

at The Colonial Theatre

by Marsha Norman and Lucy Simon

direction by Katie Birenboim

music direction by Jacob Kerzner

A new adaptation of the Tony award winning Broadway musical abridged for younger audiences in an enhanced concert-style production that is as beautiful and spirited as the original.

August 4 • 7:30PM

at The Colonial Theatre

AMBROSIA

WORLD PREMIERE

August 12–September 2

at The Unicorn Theatre

The Larry Vaber Stage

On Cedar Street

a Musical

music direction by Kristin Stowell

choreography and associate direction by Terry Berliner

direction by Susan H. Schulman

featuring Stephen Bogardus, Lana Gordon, Wild Handel, Hayden Hoffman, Ben Roseberry, Dan Teixeira, Lauren Ward, Lenny Wolpe and Addison the Dog

September 8–10

at The Colonial Theatre

HERSHEY FELDER

Beethoven

book by Hershey Felder

music by Ludwig van Beethoven

directed by Joel Zwick

The Colonial Theatre

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JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2023/2024

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has a strong commitment to Jewish youth, helping to provide a high-quality Jewish education for more than 127 children and young adults through \$70,000 in grants to congregational religious schools across the Berkshires.

Berkshire County is fortunate to have a diverse Jewish community that offers educational opportunities encompassing a wide range of approaches and family preferences. This section offers an overview of local Jewish schools.

Please note that owing to the BJV's publishing schedule, some key dates and events for local religious schools may not have been finalized at press time. *Please contact the congregations for complete details.*

Kneset Israel

Pittsfield

The Kneset Israel Hebrew School, a part of this Conservative congregation's Families Together program, welcomes students from preschool through twelfth grade to dynamic classes where they learn Hebrew, Torah, Jewish studies, history, and culture. The school prides itself on its intimate classes and extraordinary faculty. In addition to teaching skills for meaningful Jewish living, the school also incorporates a 'hidden curriculum' helping students learn to value and prioritize their own involvement in Jewish community life.

Kneset Israel is committed to ensuring the accessibility of its programming to families of diverse backgrounds seeking Jewish education – including single parent and blended families, LGBTQ parents and students, people with special needs, Jews of Color, and interfaith families. Because the synagogue is passionately egalitarian and committed to the future of the Jewish people, no student or family is ever turned away for financial reasons. Kneset Israel's Hebrew School is supported by the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, and contributions by KI families and other members.

Family Programming

Exciting programs for the whole family linking themes of the Jewish holidays and year with contemporary social issues take place on select Sundays and Wednesday afternoons throughout the year. Open to non-members as well as members, these programs are a great way for families to experience the Kneset Israel community. Some sessions incorporate activities for everyone together; others separate the groups by age to enable targeted classes for adults and children. A Back-to-School barbecue takes place on Labor Day weekend – you may register at knesetisrael.org/rsvp. This aspect of KI's program is funded by a generous gift from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Primary School

Children age 5 and below are invited to attend the Tot Shabbat program, offered monthly. This exciting opportunity will incorporate music, games, stories, and an introduction to the Jewish worship experience.

Preschool and kindergarten students enjoy programming on Shabbat mornings. A highly qualified teacher facilitates a class that features song, movement, and Shabbat-friendly crafts. Students in first and second grade also meet on Shabbat mornings to begin their studies of Hebrew, prayer, mitzvot and Jewish holidays. Purposeful Play gives our youngest pupils a chance to learn creatively and experientially. A team of experienced primary school educators infuses this program with joy.



Students and teachers at KI's Hebrew School

Elementary School

Grades 3 through 6 meet twice a week, on Shabbat mornings and on Wednesday afternoons. Over the course of their elementary school years, students study stories from the Torah, lifecycle, holidays and Jewish values. Grades 6 and 7 explore facets of ancient and modern Jewish history. All students at this age level also participate in

Junior Congregation on a weekly basis. Wednesday afternoon classes use formal and informal techniques to help students learn to read Hebrew fluently and accurately; by the end of 5th grade, students are chanting from the Torah scroll.

B'nai Mitzvah

The crown jewel of KI's education programs, the intensive b'nai mitzvah program engages students deeply in developing the skills and enthusiasm they will need for lifelong leadership of Jewish religious life. Instruction includes chanting Torah and Haftarah and leading all Shabbat services. Students also complete a mitzvah project and prepare a short sermon for the morning of the celebration. Graduates of this program report feeling comfortable in all sorts of synagogue services. Many have emerged as leaders in their campus communities and in congregations across the globe.

High School

Students convene weekly to study with expert educators. High school students also have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants in Hebrew School, especially in Junior Congregation, the bar/bat mitzvah program, and Purposeful Play programs.

Registration for Kneset Israel's Hebrew School takes place during the summer months. Hebrew School education is a benefit of membership at Kneset Israel, and new members are always welcome. Non-members are also welcome to enroll their children in exchange for a tuition payment. Either way, Hebrew School can be an excellent gateway to becoming more involved in the community. Interested families are invited to contact Rabbi David Weiner at (413) 445-4872 or rabbi-weiner@outlook.com.

Congregation Beth Israel

North Adams

Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires and Jewish Journeys Havurah (formerly known as Keshet Shalom) are innovating a regional Jewish learning program, the Jewish Journeys School. CBI is a welcoming, inclusive, and innovative congregation with a long history and deep roots, now a part of the Reform movement. Jewish Journeys Havurah is a vibrant independent community of families living in southern Vermont and in the northern Berkshires. Together, CBI and Jewish Journeys Havurah are reimagining Jewish education to fit the needs of a pluralistic community, and developing a variety of formal and informal educational opportunities both inside and outside of synagogue walls.

Jewish Journeys School: "Hebrew School" Reimagined

Weekly programs for children in grades K through 7 – In the 2023-24 school year, on (mostly) Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m., the school will offer an educational program in two parts. Some learning will be age-based (grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-7) and some will be mixed-age. During the first period of the day students learn Hebrew as a living language, with opportunities to focus on prayerbook Hebrew, conversational Hebrew, and/or Torah chanting. During the second period students are offered a variety of electives on subjects including Jewish Environmentalism, Dramatic Torah & Playwriting, Healing Our World, Jewish Music & Rhythm, Jewish Magic, and Jewish Ceramic Arts, among others. The program will also include snacks and Jewish prayers every week to build familiarity and comfort with Hebrew songs and melodies.

Celebrations – At the conclusion of each elective, families will come together for a celebration of multigenerational learning with the students through the projects the students have created. (For instance: a Torah-inspired art exhibit, a Bibliodrama performance, a Jewish music concert, a short skit in conversational Hebrew, a zine of contemporary midrash, etc.) Activities included community holiday celebrations, bringing together affiliated and independent families for learning and connection.

Weekend programs – The school will offer regular programs on weekends to bring families together to learn together and to "do Jewish." This will include activities like celebrating Rosh Hashanah in an apple orchard, Harvest Moon Potluck Supper in the Sukkah, Shabbat celebrations, cooking meals for the hungry, celebrating Jewish holidays and cooking traditions, and more.



Fun in the garden at CBI

Core to this re-imagined learning program are the values of community and participation. The more comfortable kids become with our traditions, the more they will feel ownership of their Judaism. CBI teaches that Jewish learning is a lifelong endeavor, and happens not only within synagogue walls but also in homes, in public spaces, in nature, and everywhere we go as Jews.

For more information on all programs and to register for Jewish Journeys School, please contact office@cbiberkshires.com. Registrations are due by August 1.

CBI is deeply grateful to Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and to the Harold Grinspoon Foundation – both provide foundational support for these learning endeavors.

Temple Anshe Amunim

Pittsfield

The goal of this Reform congregation's Religious and Family Education program is to create Jewish lives of meaning by providing rich experiences for youth, families, and the community. The program achieves this through a variety of offerings and through building positive relationships.

The "one room schoolhouse" model allows children at different grade levels to explore a theme, such as "wandering in the desert," through age-appropriate activities. Through *t'filah* and *kehilah*, students and teachers explore a thematic text through prayer and learning to live one's values in one's community through community service and all-synagogue hikes. The Temple will also offer its successful Friday evening Tot Shabbat program every month, a vibrant gathering open to families with children who are preschool through 5th grade. Parent engagement includes

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JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2023/2024



Learning the Torah service at Temple Anshe Amunim

the Jewish Parenting Book Club and other social events. All offerings occur at the Temple, with a hybrid option available, or in the community (i.e., on the hiking trail or slopes!).

Religious School K-12. The religious school meets for students grades K-12 on Saturdays at 10:45 a.m. The Shabbat-focused religious school integrates students into the broader Shabbat life of the extended Jewish community. This is a day for communal engagement and relationship-building. Students seeking Hebrew education or b'nai mitzvah tutoring schedules work independently and virtually on a schedule that works for the student and family.

Young Families. The Tot Shabbat programs for young families take place on Fridays, generally once per month, at 5 p.m., with family-friendly services for the whole congregation immediately following at 5:45 p.m.

To learn more or register, visit ansheamunim.org, email TAA at templeoffice@ansheamunim.org, or call (413) 442-5910.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Great Barrington

“Boker Tov, Hevreh!”

These are the words that will greet you and your family every Sunday morning when you arrive at Hevreh, a Reform congregation. With the “Boker Tov Hevreh Band,” the Religious School day begins together in community singing and prayer together. Hevreh’s religious education program is built on the value of Jewish joy, and moving through the Jewish calendar as part of an engaged and inclusive

community. The faculty is experienced, creative, and dedicated to sparking a love of Jewish learning in each students. The curriculum highlights Jewish holidays, ethics and values, text, lifecycle and ritual and includes developmentally appropriate methods of learning for each class.

This year, Hevreh looks forward to welcoming new and returning students in kindergarten through 7th grade to Religious School on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Programs

Kindergarten-7th grade: Religious School meets weekly on Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hebrew Skills meets weekly on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for grades 3 through 7. Limited options are available for 1:1 remote Hebrew instruction, as well. Hevreh welcomes interfaith families, GLBTQ families, new members, first timers, neighbors, and friends to explore all the education programs have to offer.

Pre-School Age Children: Tiny Talmidim is Hevreh’s signature monthly program for caregivers and children. Together, caregivers and their pre-school aged children explore the Jewish calendar through movement, music, cooking, and crafts related to Jewish holidays and Jewish values.

Teen Programs: Hevreh offers multiple points of entry for post b’nai mitzvah students. Students in 8th-12th grade will have the chance to study with the rabbis, travel together, and take on new leadership roles in the community as part of the *Madrikh* program, where teens assist in religious school classrooms. In addition to the Pre-Confirmation (8th grade) and Confirmation Class (9th-12th grade) programs taught by Hevreh’s rabbis, teens will also have opportunities to relax, explore the Berkshires, and socialize together in activities lead by a teen program leader.

To learn more, or to schedule a one-on-one appointment and tour, please contact: Joan Goldberg Munch at jgoldbergmunch@hevreh.org. To register, visit hevreh.org/religiouschool.



Holidays at Hevreh’s Religious School

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.

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LOCAL NEWS

Holy Rollers
Keep on Rolling



GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, August 13 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., join with the Hevreh community for a casual 15 to 25 mile bike ride through the beautiful Berkshire Hills.

Holy Rollers is the chance to meet others from our community, get some exercise, and enjoy the beautiful scenes in which we inhabit.

Contact the Hevreh office (413-528-6378) or visit hevreh.org/summer for more information.

Lunch n’ Learns
at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – On the Wednesdays of July 19 and July 26 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., join Rabbi Neil Hirsch of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire for the final two Lunch n’ Learn seminars on “How to Repent and Why.”

Writes Rabbi Hirsch:

T’shuvah, understood as repentance, is often discussed but little understood. The traditional Jewish texts on the matter keep things up in the rafters, when for each of us, the concerns about *t’shuvah* are fiercely personal.

After all, who among us can say that we have never done wrong? In this Lunch n’ Learn, we’ll use classic Jewish texts, as well as explore specific understandings of *t’shuvah* from thinkers like Maimonides and use contemporary interpretations to explore how one actually performs *t’shuvah*. This series will be a great way to prepare personally for the High Holy Days, and a way to reframe our relationships with others through a Jewish lens.

All are welcome, in person and on Zoom. Please bring a kosher-style bag lunch. Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

Elul Lunch n’ Learn – Confession is Good for the Soul

The run-up to the High Holy Days continues on the Wednesdays of August 23 & 30 and September 6 & 13 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with “Confession is Good for the Soul.”

Writes Rabbi Hirsch:

Throughout the High Holy Days, we recite the *vidui*, a prayer in which we confess the sins we have committed in the past year. Reciting *vidui* is a critical element of making *t’shuvah* on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Join with Rabbi Hirsch and others to explore these particular prayers, and help deepen your spiritual preparations for the High Holy Days.

All are welcome. In person and available online. Bring a kosher-style bag lunch.

Hebrew Union
College – Jewish
Institute of
Religion in the
Berkshires

From Thursday, July 27 through Sunday, July 30, join Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in the Berkshires for engaging programs with local Reform synagogues, community partners, and cultural institutions on and around Shabbat and Tisha B’Av.

For more information, visit huc.edu/berkshires.

There will be timely discussions on the environment, food, social justice, spirituality, and Israel; enriching Torah study, book talks, workshops, and exhibitions; inspiring prayer, song and community gatherings throughout Shabbat; restorative outdoor experiences involving music, study, and meditation; and unique experiences at The Clark Art Institute, Norman Rockwell Museum, and Tanglewood.

Don’t miss this one-of-a-kind learning opportunity with HUC-JIR faculty, senior leadership, and recent alumni who are innovators of Jewish life. Events are free, but advance registration is required.

Programs

“I Created the World”: Humans and the Environment in the Bible and Contemporary Art – Thursday, July 27 at 2 p.m. The Clark Art Institute in Williamstown. On Tisha B’Av afternoon, come reflect on the environment and our place in it by studying the Book of Job with HUC-JIR Bible professor Adriane Leveen, Ph.D., and touring the Humane Ecologies exhibit

at The Clark Art Institute with curator Robert Wiesenberger, Ph.D. Following the program, guests are invited to enjoy self-guided hikes and tours on the grounds of The Clark. Advance registration encouraged.

Loaves of Torah: A Challah Shaping Workshop – Friday, July 28 at 9:30 a.m. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington. Be inspired in this 2-hour hands-on workshop by Rabbi Vanessa Harper ‘22, Instagram innovator (@lechlechallah) and author of *Loaves of Torah* (CCAR Press, 2023). Rabbi Harper will show how challah dough can be shaped to interpret the week’s Torah portion and, in conversation with HUC-JIR Bible professor, Daniel Fisher-Livne, Ph.D., she will share what drives her to create such meaningful and delicious culinary creations. Advance registration encouraged.

Kabbalat Shabbat with the School of Sacred Music – Friday, July 28 at 2 p.m. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. An uplifting and musical Friday night service with HUC-JIR alum Rabbi Neil Hirsch ‘10 and Rabbi Jodie Gordon ‘14, featuring HUC-JIR cantorial faculty, students, and alumni under the leadership of Cantor Jill Abramson, Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, and remarks from President Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D.

Shabbat Dinner – Friday, July 28 at 7:30 p.m. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. A delicious and engaging community Shabbat dinner. The evening will include a discussion about Jewish



HUC-JIR President
Andrew Rehfeld



NEW MOON RISING

One night only! Starring a trio of female powerhouses, Elana Arian, Deborah Sacks Mintz, and Chava Mirel, New Moon Rising embodies the best that musical collaboration can be – a soulful oasis of rich harmonies, deep friendship, and pure Jewish joy.

SUNDAY, AUG 6 | 7:30 PM
Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$25
Young adults under 30, \$20. Kids 13 and under free.

Proceeds to benefit the ADL’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Anti-bias Peer Training program in Berkshire County Schools.



PURCHASE TICKETS AT JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG

Funded in part by generous underwriters and a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

LOCAL NEWS

leadership in a changing Jewish landscape, led by HUC-JIR academic leaders: Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D. (President), Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Ph.D. (Provost), Rabbi Shirley Idelson Ph.D. (Director of the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management), and Cantor Jill Abramson. Advance registration encouraged. Cost: \$36 per person.

Trails and Torah – Saturday, July 29 at 9 a.m. Call (413) 528-6378 for more information and location in Lenox.

Israel at 75: Why Reform Judaism in Israel Matters Now More Than Ever – Saturday, July 29 at 4 p.m. A conversation with HUC-JIR President Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D. about the influential, transformative work of the students, faculty, and alumni of HUC-JIR's Israeli programs who are committed to creating dynamic, inclusive communities and inspiring Israelis to embrace their Judaism, while working hard to promote justice and democracy in Israel. Call (413) 528-6378 for location.



Cantor Jill Abramson

Picnic, Havdalah, and Tanglewood Ever – Saturday, July 29 at 6 p.m. Tanglewood. Bring a picnic and the whole family to Tanglewood for an evening of contemporary music, beginning with Havdalah led by Cantor Jill Abramson (Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music). During the Prelude, find the HUC-JIR area for craft packages and activities for children. Purchase tickets for the concert through Tanglewood.

Justice Shall You Pursue: Tzedek Boxes Pop-Up – Sunday, July 30 at 10 a.m. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. Come be the change you want to see in the world. Join Rabbi Shirley Idelson, Ph.D. R. '91 and recent alum Rabbi Andrew Kaplan Mandel, Ed.D. R. '23 for a conversation about the future of the clergy and Jewish leadership, followed by a pop-up exhibition of Tzedek Boxes currently on display at the Bernard Heller Museum at HUC-JIR's New York campus. Light lunch will be provided. Advance registration encouraged.

Women of Reform Judaism / Lilith Salon and Writing Workshop – Sunday, July 30 at noon. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. Get creative with HUC-JIR alum and incoming executive director of Women of Reform Judaism Rabbi Liz Hirsch '15 and Sarah Seltzer, executive editor at Lilith Magazine, with this salon conversation and writing workshop designed to engage first-time writers and experienced authors alike. Advance registration encouraged.

American Values, Religious Voices: Speaking Religious Truth to Political Power – Sunday, July 30 at 3:30 p.m. Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge. For the first 100 days of the Biden administration, a multi-faith group of religious studies scholars sent a letter a day to our elected officials in Washington, DC, just as they did in 2017 at the start of the Trump presidency. The project's creator, Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Ph.D., will facilitate a conversation with some local letter writers who contributed to the recent publication of *American Values, Religious Voices: Letters of Hope from People of Faith*. Advance registration encouraged.

Lunch n' Learn with Rabbi Haviva Ner-David



GREAT BARRINGTON – On Wednesday, August 16 at noon, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire welcomes rabbi, author, and activist Haviva Ner-David for an engaging afternoon of life-story-telling and learning.

Rabbi Haviva, who is an author of fiction and memoir, also runs the only pluralist mikveh in Israel where she officiates and creates mikveh ceremonies and facilitates workshops for visiting groups. Rabbi Haviva is an activist building a shared society among Arabs and Jews in the Galilee, work that inspired her debut novel, *Hope Valley*. She is also a spiritual companion, with a specialty in dream-work, which she writes about in her memoir, *Dreaming Against the Current: A Rabbi's Soul Journey*.

Come hear Rabbi Haviva speak about her work and life by way of her books, including a brand-new novel *To Die in Secret*, which takes place in Salem, MA, and *Yonah and the Mikveh Fish*, a children's book about mikveh (the first of its kind). Books will be for sale at this event, and light refreshments will be served.

Great Ideas Series at Hevreh, with Paul Krugman



GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire welcomes economist, Nobel laureate, and New York Times opinion columnist Paul Krugman.

Paul Krugman has written for the New York Times since 2000. He is the author of 27 books and countless articles focusing on the current trends in the American economy. He is distinguished professor in the Graduate Center Economics Ph.D. program and distinguished scholar at the Luxembourg Income Study Center at the City University of New York. In addition, he is professor emeritus at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.

A light brunch will be served. While the event is free of charge, ticketing is required. Please sign up by going to hevreh.org/summer.

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56th Annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture

Guest Speaker, Admiral James Stavridis

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023

7:30 PM

Admiral James Stavridis is Vice Chair, Global Affairs of The Carlyle Group and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Rockefeller Foundation. He is a contributing editor for TIME Magazine and Chief International Security and Diplomacy Analyst for NBC News.

Seating will be limited. Masks are optional.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information, visit: www.ansheamunim.org

Funded by:

THE HILDA VALLIN FEIGENBAUM LECTURE ENDOWMENT

TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM – 26 BROAD STREET – PITTSFIELD, MA – (413) 442-5910

Your Federation Presents

Service and Oneg Brought Us Together on Shabbat Across the Berkshires

Our congregations came together on June 16 for Shabbat Across the Berkshires. This special Kabbalat Shabbat service brought together celebrants from all corners of the Berkshires for a special musical welcoming of the Sabbath! Thanks so much to Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires in North Adams for hosting the service and oneg.

PHOTOS BY ROGER MATUS AND BJV STAFF





PJ Library

Summer in the Berkshires

PJ Library Shabbat at Tanglewood
Saturday, July 22
10 am-12 pm
Make new friends as we celebrate Shabbat and enjoy the BSO Family Concert together.



Splash Into Shabbat
Friday, August 4
5:30-7:30 pm
Margaret Lindley Park, Williamstown
Join us as we splash, swim, sing, and play our way into Shabbat. Pizza and Fun included.

New Moon Rising Concert
Sunday, August 6
7:30-9:00 pm
Lenox Memorial High School
Join Jewish Federation for a family community concert with Elana Arian and New Moon Rising. (Appropriate for Ages 8 years and above.)



Your Federation Presents

Federation’s 83rd Annual Meeting

A president’s farewell, board members step up and step down, super students, and campus life supported by your campaign dollars

Thank you so much to all who attended Federation’s 83rd annual meeting and to our hosts, Shakespeare & Company. Attendees heard outgoing president Elisa Schindler Frankel recap the highlights of her productive years leading this organization, while Dara Kaufman shared our accomplishments over the last 12 months. And Judy Usov, our treasurer and interim president through the end of 2023, thanked outgoing board members and led the vote that installed a new slate of directors and board members

And many thanks to the rabbis: Rabbi Seth Wax delivered an amusing and thoughtful d’var Torah to begin the proceedings; Rabbi Daveen Litwin shared a blessing for the community and its holy work; and Rabbi Aaron Fine, director of UMASS Hillel, related positive anecdotes about student life at the university, showing how this Federation’s support nurtures Jewish life and connection on campus.

Star Students

Elisa Snowise introduced the recipients of the Henry Simkin and Frances Simkin Schiller and Dr. Stanley and Faye Simkin Scholarship, given to Jewish high school seniors who have demonstrated high academic achievement and leadership in the Jewish and broader communities.

This year’s recipients are:

Ely Hochfelder

A graduate of Lenox Memorial High School, Ely gave back to the community as a committee member of the Anti-Defamation League’s No Place for Hate and A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE programs, in their words

“educating against implicit bias and ignorance” in local high schools. A National Honor Society member, they volunteered as a youth and service leader at Knesset Israel in their hometown of Pittsfield, and also translated and edited documents for the Berkshire Immigrant Center.

Ely writes that their early “LGBTQ identification immediately put a target on my back. As school became a less productive environment to live my authentic self, I looked to other opportunities to broaden my horizons. I attended Eden Village Camp, where the crucial Jewish values of social justice, environmentalism, and spirituality amplified the importance of celebrating diversity and promoting kindness.” Their activism, kindled by this camp experience supported by Federation, continued in high school with their participation in Federation-sponsored and promoted collaborations with the ADL. Ely says they feel encouraged to see “more kids speaking out against hate, ignorance, and microaggressions” thanks to the programs.

Their interests include linguistics, LGBTQ+ issues, foreign affairs, and sociology, with the long-term goal of combining these interests while pursuing a career in diplomacy. You might have caught them on local television competing on “As Schools Match Wits,” leading the Lenox Quiz Team as its president.

In the fall, they will attend Boston University College of Arts & Sciences and Kilachand Honors College.

Allison Lamm

Raised in Lenox, Allison is truly a scholar and an athlete. At Lenox Memorial High School, she was a

member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society, and the winner of the Biology Award and the Yale Book Award recognizing high school juniors around the country chosen by their principals and counselors for outstanding character and intellectual promise. Allison the athlete played varsity and club soccer, ran track, and competed as an equestrian in the flat and over fences categories in local horse shows.

Allison has a particular connection to the seniors in our Jewish community. Recognizing the need for youth and young adults to take the reins of leadership, Allison gravitated to “older community leaders who dedicated their time to teach me and spark my interest in my religion and heritage.” Paying that debt forward, “I found my niche co-leading Shabbat services for seniors in care facilities, many of whom live with Alzheimer’s Disease. I’ve found that singing prayers and songs with my senior friends brings them joy as they remember things from their pasts. Every Shabbat, I learn something from the elders, as well.” Allison also volunteers to help out at family events for children sponsored by Federation, allowing her to recognize her position as “one of the links of the generational chain.”

In the fall, Allison will attend George Washington University. She’s not sure yet about her career path, but her varied intellectual interests – business, engineering, health science, and a “rivetted” curiosity about Edward Whitten’s M Theory unifying all consistent versions of superstring theory in physics – leave many avenues open to her in the future.



JEWISH EDUCATION & FAMILY PROGRAMS
FOR STUDENTS AGES 3-18

**RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL AT
HEVREH**

2023-2024 School Year Registration
opens August 1, 2023

Join us for a year of:

Jewish Joy

Hebrew Learning

Family Connections

Building Community

www.hevreh.org/religiouschool
Email: info@hevreh.org



WHEN OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US, WE ARE THERE

HELP US BE THERE! MAKE YOUR GIFT OR PLEDGE TODAY!

Your gift to the Jewish Federation’s 2023 Campaign will bring dignity and care to the vulnerable and elderly, build and strengthen the Jewish identity of our children and young adults, support vital community programs, and create meaningful Jewish life across the Berkshires and beyond.



JEWISH LIFE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES
You help young families in the Berkshires embrace Jewish values and traditions while building a supportive community with Jewish peers through family programming, PJ Library, and volunteer opportunities.



RESOURCES TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM
You help young people stand up against hate through anti-bias education in our public schools. You also combat anti-Semitism and the BDS movement through community programming, national advocacy, and security resources.

DIGNITY & COMPASSION
You provide older adults and homebound individuals with nutritious meals and stimulating programming served up with a side of companionship and compassion through our *Connecting with Community* program and Kosher Meals on Wheels.



JEWISH EDUCATION & VALUES
You nurture a strong Jewish future by providing a high-quality, meaningful and affordable Jewish education for hundreds of children through critical grants to all of our local Jewish religious schools.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY
You strengthen, sustain, and connect our community through hundreds of educational programs, holiday celebrations, and the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, which bring people together and engage them in meaningful Jewish life.



A STRONG JEWISH IDENTITY
You help young people across the Berkshires and at UMASS Hillel build strong Jewish identities and become future leaders through scholarships for Jewish camp and Israel experiences, as well as leadership development and holiday meals on campus.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
You help individuals facing unexpected challenges and life transitions receive the support they need through the Federation’s social worker. You also provide a safety net of emergency assistance due to COVID-19.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS & ADVOCACY
You help provide a proactive voice in our community, public schools, media, and government, addressing anti-Semitism, social justice, Israel, and other issues important to our community.



A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME
You help tens of thousands of new immigrants, who are fleeing anti-Semitism in Europe and the war in the Ukraine, build better lives for themselves and their families in Israel through job training and support services that ease their transition.



CARING IN TIMES OF CRISIS
When crisis hits, in the Berkshires or around the world, you help mobilize local resources to respond with immediate relief and longer-term recovery. From support through COVID-19 to the crisis in Ukraine, you help deliver an SOS response.

A CLOSE & CARING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL
You help connect the Berkshire Jewish Community with Israel and you also help provide programs for at-risk students, shelter for abused women, and support services for disabled youth.



FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHCARE, & WINTER RELIEF
The war in Ukraine and safe resettlement of Jews fleeing the region has been long and difficult but you help the most vulnerable with shelter, transportation, blankets, and heaters. You also bring food, home health aides, and medicine to those who need it most.



Donate online at jewishberkshires.org Thank you for making a difference!

LOCAL NEWS, continued

A Musical Summer with Hevreh

**“Pour not out words where there is a musician”
– The Book of Ben Sira**

Hevreh High Holy Day Choir Rehearsals to Begin in July

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Hevreh High Holy Day Choir starts rehearsing on Tuesday, July 18, and continues its preparation on Tuesdays through September 12 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Writes Rabbi Jodie Gordon:

Whether you sing all the time, or not in a long time, we warmly invite you to join us this year as we begin our preparations for the High Holy Days at Hevreh. Our choir director Amy Renak and I work with our choir all summer to teach and prepare beautiful music, both traditional and modern, for the High Holy Days.

Interested in learning more? Reach out to Rabbi Gordon at jgordon@hevreh.org.

Tanglewood Shabbat

LENOX – On Friday, August 4 at 6 p.m., all are invited to join the Hevreh congregation at Tanglewood for a quick Shabbat service on the lawn before the music begins. The Boston Symphony Orchestra will play with Dima Slobodeniouk and Emanuel Ax performing music from Adams and Brahms.



Concert - FOUR WOMEN, FOUR STORIES

On Monday, August 21 at 7 p.m., Hevreh welcomes Deborah Zecher, Helane Blumfield, Peggy Schwartz and Lynda Rodolitz for a performance of FOUR WOMEN, FOUR STORIES. with Steven Ray Watkins on piano.

With the music of ‘mostly’ Jewish songwriters, this show highlights our choices and the paths the performers’ lives have taken. Audiences have responded with laughter, tears and the ‘aha’ of recognizing their own life experience in the tales told on stage. Tickets: \$25, \$10 for students. Hevreh.org/summer for reservations.

Summer Shabbats with Temple Anshe Amunim

Kabbalat Shabbat, Hikes, Study, and Tanglewood Havdalah

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim is a Reform Jewish Congregation that promotes engaging and widespread participation in services, education, and cultural and social action programs.

Kabbalat Shabbat

Join TAA at 5:30 p.m. every Friday night for Shabbat services. All are welcome to join in person or via live-stream. Please reach out to the Temple office for the link to the livestream.

Torah Study

At 9:30 a.m. every Saturday, TAA hosts 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.

Shabbat Hikes

Join Temple Anshe Amunim for Shabbat hikes all summer long. On August 12, visit the Old Mill Trail in Hinsdale. On August 26, explore

Olivia’s Overlook in West Stockbridge. For each hike, please meet at the Temple at 10:45 a.m. Most hikes are accessible for all levels. Pre-registration is required; call the Temple office at (413) 442-5910 to register.

Tanglewood Havdalah

LENOX - Pack your picnic gear, dinner, and beverages and join TAA on the lawn at Tanglewood on Saturday, August 12 at 7 p.m. for a brief Havdalah service, followed by a BSO concert at 8 p.m. Look for the blue and white balloons! A ticket to the concert may be purchased at the gate or in advance online. No pre-registration is required.

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.

Standing Up to Anti-Semitism in 2023



PITTSFIELD – On Wednesday, July 26, from noon to 1:30 p.m., the Temple Anshe Amunim Social Action Committee invites the community to “Standing Up to Anti-Semitism in 2023.” The program will feature the screening of the documentary film *A Holocaust Journey: Lessons We Learned*. The film will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Professor June Tooley, Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter, and Lisa Reznik, director of the film.

This free event will take place in person at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield and via Zoom. Registration is required: tinyurl.com/TAAJuly26Film

2022 saw a very troubling surge in antisemitic incidents, including assaults, harassment and

vandalism, with a sharp increase in school- and college-based antisemitic acts. The panel will discuss the causes and strategies for improving this nationwide problem.

Film synopsis: *A Holocaust Journey: Lessons We Learned* (2021) is a 30-minute film directed by Lisa Reznik. It depicts a group of students and their professors who traveled to Germany and Poland with the aim of trying to comprehend the reality of the Holocaust. Footage shot at the locations visited includes commentary by a Holocaust survivor, the students, their professors and knowledgeable guides. The film is a meaningful record that captures the voices and perspectives of the students and conveys this difficult history in a sensitive and engaging manner.

Book Talk at Kneset Israel with Local Author Margery Metzger

PITTSFIELD – Margery Metzger explores not only evil but, most importantly, justice served, in the true crime tale *Hidden Demons: Evil Visits a Small New England Town*. Join the author on Sunday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. following morning minyan at Kneset Israel, for a discussion of the book, writing a true crime story, and questions that remain unanswered.

On January 7, 1994, a young girl’s escape from an attempted kidnapping, a father and daughter’s apprehension of criminals on the cusp of escalating their evil deeds, and the beginning of the trial of one of this nation’s first mass college campus shootings, all shocked the tranquil Berkshires, leaving its residents wondering how this could happen here.

In *Hidden Demons*, Margery Metzger tells that story. Light refreshments will be served.

address the topic of Jewish mindfulness and how it can help us experience greater depth and meaning in traditional Jewish practices like text study, prayer, and ritual practice.

Shabbat services begin at 9:30 a.m. on Shabbat morning, followed by the lunch-and-learn.

Rabbi Margolius is Senior Core Faculty at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, where he directs programming for alumni of the IJS clergy leadership training program, hosts IJS’s daily online mindfulness meditation sessions, and teaches an online program, “Awareness in Action: Cultivating Character through Mindfulness and Middot.” Previously, Marc served as rabbi at West End Synagogue in Manhattan and Congregation Beth Am Israel in Penn Valley, PA.



Klezmer Concert at Kneset Israel

PITTSFIELD – On Monday, August 21 at 7:15 p.m., Kneset Israel welcomes Aaron Kula and the Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra.

This innovative group plays not only traditional Klezmer music but combines genres to delight audiences with Klezmer, Jazz, Tango, and more. Dessert

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Move-in Allowance!

Get up to \$5,000* to help you transition to the next phase of life.

Your choice:

Apply it towards the application fee or your 3rd month's rent.

Free up cash to use for moving expenses or buy new furniture!

*Sign a lease prior to 12/31/23 and receive the value of 1 month's rent (max. \$5,000)

An advertisement for Geer Village The Lodge. It features a photograph of an elderly couple standing in front of a row of yellow storage units. The woman is wearing a blue shirt and the man is wearing a white shirt and a white cap. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is a bright, sunny day.

The logo for Geer Village The Lodge. It features a stylized blue tree icon to the left of the text 'GEER VILLAGE' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'The Lodge' in a smaller, italicized font below it.

To learn more, contact Deb at 860.824.2625.

77 South Canaan Rd. | North Canaan CT 06018 | geercares.org

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reception to follow. \$36 adults, pre-b'nai mitzvah age – free. Registration required at knesetisrael.org/RSVP.

Ramblin’ with the Rav

Get out your hiking boots and bug spray! This summer, Rabbi David Weiner of Kneset Israel will again share his love of the outdoors with the whole community. Join him as he leads a friendly group of other outdoor enthusiasts for walking, schmoozing, beautiful views, and maybe a little Torah among the trees. All programs are free, but registration is required: knesetisrael.org/RSVP.

The Boulders – Wednesday, August 2 at 9 a.m. 1011 Dalton Avenue in Pittsfield. This will be a moderately paced, moderately strenuous hike through a nature preserve in a surprising location. Wetlands, forest, and a hill with enormous erratic boulders and a commanding viewpoint over Pittsfield. Be prepared for some uphill walking on uneven trails. Dogs are welcome. The specs: easy, 5 miles, 521', about 2 hours.

Hopkins (Williamstown) – Wednesday, August 16 at 9 a.m. Meet at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield. Carpool (35 minutes) to Williamstown. The Hopkins Memorial Forest is a reserve with hiking trails spread out over an extensive 2,600 acres. The Williams College Center for Environmental Studies manages the area and uses it for research as well as for undergraduate educational purposes. They also preserve and monitor the forest. Dogs are welcome. The specs: moderate, 4.1 miles, 613', 2.5 hours walking.

Keystone Arch Bridges (Chester) – Wednesday, August 30 at 9 a.m. Meet at Kneset Israel. Carpool (35 minutes) to Chester. Come on your own or bring sure-footed children and grandchildren for an easy hike along a scenic section of the Westfield River that is crossed by several early 20th century keystone arch bridges. At the midpoint of the hike, pause for a rest on one of those bridges, or scramble down the side to a swimming hole under the bridge. Dogs are welcome. The specs: easy, 3+ miles, <300' altitude, option to scramble and swim, 1.5 hours of walking

Summer Shabbat Services and Potlucks at Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires

NORTH ADAMS – With summer now upon us, Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires keeps on celebrating Shabbat with friendly, welcoming services.

Shabbat Services

Join CBI 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. All CBI service leaders bring a unique style to the *bimah* and the CBI choir provides beautiful harmonies.

Saturday morning services are scheduled on July 22, August 5, and August 19 at 9:30 a.m. Kabbalat

Shabbat services on the Fridays of July 28, August 11, and August 25.

Please use the CBI calendar to RSVP for all services and events – cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events/.

Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires is at 53 Lois Street in North Adams.

Potluck Events!

For All – Join CBI at Tanglewood for a potluck picnic on the lawn on Sunday August 13, at 12:30 p.m. (concert begins at 2:30 p.m.) Enjoy a glorious concert featuring Yo Yo Ma and Andris Nelsons. Purchase lawn tickets and meet on the lawn - RSVP to president@cbiberkshires.com to be directed to the right spot.

Especially for Young Families – Potluck Shabbat By the Water – on Friday, July 21 at private home in North Bennington, VT (or lake in Williamstown MA). Sing, bless, eat, play and swim. There’s no better way to celebrate Shabbat in the summer than with friends, good food and fun. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share. RSVP for time and location to rabbijgreenfield@gmail.com for location details.

A Summer Hike: The Shepherd’s Well Trail down from Petersburg Pass

WILLIAMSTOWN – On Sunday, August 6 from 10 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m., join Congregation of Beth Israel of the Berkshires members Robin Brickman and Jeff Strait, who

will share one of their favorite hikes in Williamstown.

Write the organizers: “Except for a brief steep uphill beginning, this 2-mile hike is one-way downhill and offers spectacular scenery. Taking a leisurely pace and leaving time to admire the views we will walk for 1.5 to 2 hours. This hike is suitable for both experienced and inexperienced hikers who are confident walkers. Near the bottom there is a beautiful open field with a picnic table. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a sandwich for lunch.”

Please RSVP to jeffstrait53@gmail.com by Saturday, August 5 for details.




Making Our Transitions Holy: Havdalah & Poetry

NORTH ADAMS – Join Rabbis Pamela Wax and Rachel Barenblat for an evening of poetry, havdalah, and book-signing at 8 p.m. on Saturday, August 12 at Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires.

Weather permitting, the event will be on the patio outside Congregation Beth Israel, beside the Al and Frances Small Meditation Labyrinth. (Rain plan: Inside the CBI sanctuary.)

The two poets will share their award-winning work, touching on life and death, loss and memory, and the



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LOCAL NEWS

poignancy of havdalah itself. This last hour of Shabbat is known in Jewish tradition as a time when our yearnings for a redeemed world reach their peak. Following the reading and a musical havdalah, both authors will be available to sign books.

Please RSVP at [cbiberkshires.com/
event/making-our-transitions-holy-
havdalah-poetry/](http://cbiberkshires.com/event/making-our-transitions-holy-havdalah-poetry/)

About the Authors

Rabbi Rachel Barenblat's books include *Crossing the Sea*, *Texts to the Holy*, and *70 faces: Torah poems*. She is also editor of *Beside Still Waters*, a volume for the mourner's path and *From Narrow Places*, a collection of liturgy, poetry, and art from the first years of the pandemic. Known online as "the Velveteen Rabbi," after her popular blog of the last 20 years, she is a co-founder at Jewish spiritual incubator Bayit: Building Jewish.

Rabbi Pamela Wax is the author of *Walking the Labyrinth* and the forthcoming chapbook, *Starter Mothers*, out this August. Her poems have received a Best of the Net nomination and awards from Crosswinds, Paterson Literary Review, Poets' Billow, Oberon, and the Robinson Jeffers Tor House. Her essays on Judaism, spirituality, and women's issues have also been published broadly. Rabbi Wax currently facilitates on-line spirituality workshops, including poetry writing, and travels to synagogues around the country as scholar or artist-in-residence.

Drinking Again – Hadassah Men’s Associates to Host First Scotch Tasting in Three Years

PITTSFIELD – After a three-year, COVID-forced hiatus, Hadassah Men's Associates is proud to announce the return of their fun-raising, fund-raising, single malt whisky tasting at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 27, at Jae's at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1032 South Street in Pittsfield.

“Our original tasting in the summer of 2019 was moderated by world renowned scotch connoisseur, Charles Tower,” says event organizer Alex Rosenblum of Richmond. “We highlighted five excellent, 18-year-old single malt whiskies from Scotland and introduced Israel’s first single malt (from M & H distillery) as it was being introduced to the world market. Following the tasting, the Berkshire Jewish Voice featured articles on several newly developed distilleries in Israel as they prepared to export their superior single malt whiskies to the world. The BJV also featured the Jewish connection and contribution to alcohol production, its sale and growth from the 17th century in Eastern Europe through

modern contributions to the American bourbon industry and the Scottish scotch industry. Find out more at this tasting!"

The single malt tasting on August 27 will again be moderated by Charles Tower and will introduce highly rated (but yet to be sold in the USA) Israeli single malts from the Yerushalmi, Golani, M&H, or Pelter distilleries. The moderator will then ask the audience to compare these highly-rated new whiskies to Scotland's best single malts. Up for consideration are 95-plus rated Ardbeg Corryveekan, the new, delicious (95+) Ailsa Bay (not yet sold in USA), and a Talisker 18.

Suggested contribution: chai (18) x 3 = \$54; Underwriter: chai (18) x 6 = \$108; Patron: chai (18) x 10 = \$180; Benefactor: chai (18) x 20 = \$360. (Patrons and Benefactors will have their name listed as “sponsoring” one bottle of scotch. Benefactors will also receive 2 tickets.)

For reservations, please send a check, by August 14, to: "Berkshire

Hills Hadassah," 34 Brookside Drive,
Pittsfield, MA 01201

About Charles Tower

Charlie Tower, “Old Man Whisky,” is delighted to return to the Berkshires to join in the exploration and enjoyment of whiskies. He was stationed in Scotland for three years, has helped lead five whisky tours there, and has spent time in over 60 Scotch distilleries. He was in Israel in 1968, long before there were any whiskey distilleries there. He is a fan of Milk & Honey whiskies, and is excited about trying other Israeli whiskies.

Says Old Man Whisky: "Our tasting is not Scotland vs. Israel, or Goliath vs. David! Rather, it is a great opportunity for our palates to sort through the nuances of the best each country has to offer and determine what works best for each of us. A unique event!"

For additional information, or if the reader wants to recommend a favorite single malt, contact Alex Rosenblum at ARosenblumLaw@gmail.com.

ELIE WIESEL,

continued from page 1



Joseph Berger

for over 30 years, writing about education, religion, and the vivid kaleidoscope that is New York City, as well chronicling many of the events that have shaken Israel and the Middle East. He retired in December 2014. He has also taught urban affairs at the City University of New York's Macaulay Honors College.

Berger is the author of five books. The latest, Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence, is the first full-scale biography of the remarkable writer, teacher, and Nobel Prize-winning spokesman for victims of the Holocaust and of genocides everywhere. His previous book, The Pious Ones: The World of Hasidim and their Battles with America, was published by HarperCollins in 2014.

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LOCAL NEWS

Scholar-in-Residence Ruth Messinger

A local collaboration to host the noted social justice advocate county-wide on August 18-20



Through a collaboration of congregations and institutions throughout Berkshire County, Ruth Messinger will be scholar-in-residence on the weekend of August 18 to 20, speaking at

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington on Friday evening, at Pittsfield’s Knesset Israel on Saturday morning, and in at Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires in North Adams on Sunday morning.

This scholar-in-residence program has been generously co-sponsored by Knesset Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, The Berkshire Minyan, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Temple Anshe Amunim, Congregation Beth Israel, First Congregational Church of Williamstown, Williams College Jewish

Association, and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

About Ruth Messinger

A trained social worker, Messinger began her social justice career as a community organizer in rural Western Oklahoma and then in New York City on Manhattan’s West Side. She ran and won a seat on her local school board and then served in NYC government for two decades, first as a council member and later as Manhattan Borough President. She was the first woman nominated by the Democratic Party in New York to run for mayor, losing to Rudy Giuliani in 1997.

Messinger became the CEO of American Jewish World Service, a faith-rooted organization that supports local efforts to end poverty and expand human rights, funding more than 400 grassroots projects in 18 countries in the Global South and advocating on their behalf in the United States. She stepped down from that position in 2016 but remains AJWS’s Global

Ambassador, in addition to consulting, teaching and facilitating social justice matters for several different faith-based and secular organizations.

Schedule of Programs

On Friday evening, Messinger will speak at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington on “The Role of Social and Racial Justice in Contemporary Judaism.” The Shabbat evening service will begin at 6 p.m., followed by an *oneg*. For further information, go to hevreh.org/summer.

On Shabbat morning, Messinger will be a guest at morning services at Knesset Israel in Pittsfield beginning at 9:30 a.m., during which she will offer the *Dvar Torah* for *Parashat Shoftim*, the Torah portion which includes the well-known passage, “Justice, justice shall you pursue.” Following the service and lunch, Messinger will speak on the topic of “Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers Then and Now.” Both the morning service and the talk following lunch (at approximately

12:45 p.m.) will be live-streamed at knessetisrael.org/livestream.

On Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m., Messinger will conclude her Berkshire weekend residency at Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams, speaking on the topic of “Our Democracy: If We Can Keep It.” Light refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is requested at cbiberkshires.com/event/ruth-messinger/.

The beautiful outdoor labyrinth at CBI will be available for private walking meditation prior to Ruth Messinger’s talk. Immediately following Sunday’s program, a guided walking meditation through the labyrinth will be facilitated by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat and/or Rabbi Pam Wax. This will be an ideal opportunity to integrate Messinger’s message of “walking the walk.”

For further information about each individual program, contact the host congregation. For general information about the weekend, you may contact Rabbi Pamela Wax at pwax@bcn.net.

Jewish Theological Seminary in the Berkshires Continues its Summer Season of Thought-Provoking Lectures

LENOX – The Jewish Theological Seminary has served as the intellectual and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism for 130 years, training outstanding leaders and strengthening Jewish life in North America.

Join Knesset Israel and Jewish Theological Seminary in the Berkshires this summer for lively and thought-provoking lectures and conversations with leading thinkers from the Jewish world. This series is co-sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Events take place on Friday mornings, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre at Shakespeare and Company, 70 Kemble Street in Lenox.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Tickets for each lecture are \$15. Please pre-register at nspired.jtsa.edu/Berkshires2023 to avoid lines at the door.

For more information, contact Lynn Feinman at (212) 678-8821 or lyfeinman@jtsa.edu



Friday, July 21: “In the Narrow Places: Jeremiah and His Artistic Interpreters,” with Rabbi Gordon Tucker, Vice Chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, JTS

The darkest time in the Jewish calendar, the three weeks leading up to the Ninth of Av, is referred to as *bein hametzarim* (the narrow places). Marking the final weekend of this period, we will explore some evocative passages in the Book of Jeremiah and in the Book of Lamentations, traditionally attributed to the prophet. We will also reflect on how Jeremiah’s later interpreters

in midrash, visual art, and music (including Leonard Bernstein) continued to find meaning in these texts.

Rabbi Gordon Tucker is the author of scores of articles on Jewish theology and law. An anthology of his writings was published under the title *Torah for its Intended Purpose*. He has also published *Heavenly Torah*, a translation of and commentary on Abraham Joshua Heschel’s three-volume work on rabbinic theology, as well as a commentary on *Pirkei Avot*. Rabbi Tucker is senior rabbi emeritus of Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY, and a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. He previously served as assistant professor of Jewish Thought and as dean of The Rabbinical School at JTS.



Friday, August 4: “Law in Context: Uncovering the Mother’s Perspective in Traditional Sources on Abortion,” with Dr. Shira Billet, Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics, JTS

Can a closer look at Jewish sources move us beyond the entrenched simplistic pro-life/pro-choice binary of American public discourse today? This session examines traditional sources that have played a central role in constructing Jewish perspectives on abortion. Participants will explore the complex interplay between the legal aspects of these sources and the stories from women’s lives in which they are embedded to uncover a complex and nuanced Jewish perspective on abortion.

Dr. Shira Billet’s research is focused on 19th-century and early 20th-century German Jewish philosophy, both in historical context and in relation to contemporary conversations in philosophical ethics. Her current book manuscript focuses on the virtues of courage, truthfulness, intellectual humility, and fidelity as public virtues—as virtues of citizens within the public square, and of individuals in relation to communities.

Presented in partnership with Knesset Israel and in cooperation with Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Supported in part by Valerie Ann and Allen I. Hyman, MD; Brenda and Fred Landes, MD in memory of Harold Landes; and a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires Luncheon Raised Funds for Elizabeth Freeman Center

The Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires (JWFB.org) held its annual luncheon and general membership meeting at the Country Club of Pittsfield on June 23. Special guest Wanda Houston helped celebrate the theme of Women’s Empowerment. Monies were raised to support the Elizabeth Freeman Center.

New co-presidents Geri Liemer and Carol Striker were elected, as were Barbara Lozner as Secretary and Linda Noonan, Ronna Niederman and Jane Glaser as Board members.

The Foundation will hold a card party on August 18th. You can request more information about the Jewish Women’s Foundation by sending an email to JWFberkshires@gmail.com.

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

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Deborah Bergeron and Roman Rozenblyum.

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OBITUARIES

Amy Ortenberg Miller, 69, gifted mezzo-soprano, talented soloist, Cantor for congregations

PITTSFIELD – Amy Ortenberg Miller, 69, passed away at her home on Friday, June 9.

Born in New York City on July 13, 1953, to the late Ben and Bernice (Toporofsky) Ortenberg, Amy moved to Pittsfield with her family at the age of 9 when her father accepted a position as a manager at England Brothers department store.

Amy was a graduate of Pittsfield High School's class of 1971 and went on to earn her Bachelor's Degree from Smith College in 1975, majoring in economics and minoring in vocal performance.

A gifted mezzo-soprano, Amy's deep connection to her Jewish faith and passion for singing inspired her to pursue what ultimately became her lifelong calling, the Jewish cantorate. She became a certified Cantor at Hebrew Union College of New York in 1992, a remarkable accomplishment while at the same time raising two young daughters.

Amy served as Cantor for congregations, including Temple Anshe Amunim of Pittsfield, Congregation Beth Israel of South Windsor, CT, and Temple Sinai of Newington, CT. During the prime of her singing career, she was the lead vocalist for Two Cents Plain, a local klezmer band. As a talented soloist, she performed across the Berkshires at venues, including Mercy Sunday at Eden Hill in Stockbridge and Tanglewood in Lenox.

Amy was an avid fan and possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of all things classic movies and the Great American Songbook. A talented knitter, other interests which brought her great joy include her beautiful flower garden and, of course, kitty cats.

Survivors include her husband, Stephen T. Miller, whom she married on June 8, 1975; her two beloved daughters, Jacqueline Miller of Brooklyn, NY, and Roberta Miller of Silver Spring, MD; her brother, Charles "Chuck" Ortenberg, his wife Patty Stone Ortenberg, and their sons David and Richard, of San Francisco, CA.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 12, at Knesset Israel, with Rabbi David Weiner officiating. Burial followed in Knesset Israel Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Polycystic Kidney Foundation at pkdcure.org in care of the Flynn & Dagnoli-Bencivenga Funeral Home, 5 Elm Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Lois (Robbins) Kronick, 92, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother

PITTSFIELD – Lois (Robbins) Kronick, 92, died on Sunday, May 28, at Berkshire Medical Center.

Born in Pittsfield on February 21, 1931, daughter of Charles and Tillie (Schreck) Robbins, her parents were the owners of the Pittsfield Rye Bakery. She graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1949 and attended Skidmore College.

Lois worked at General Electric and then later operated her own shoe store, Lois Shoes, on North Street, for many years. She was a member of Knesset Israel.

Lois is survived by her son, Stephen Michael, and wife, Nancy Kronick of Cedarhurst, NY; one grandson, Joshua, and wife, Michal Kronick of Baltimore, MD; four great-grandchildren, Yehuda, Ari, Coby, and Temima; daughter-in-law JoAnn Kronick of Pittsfield; two nephews and one niece, James Robbins, Rick and wife Renee Robbins, and Tammy Rovitz. She was predeceased by her son, Lawrence Kronick, and her brother, Arnold Robbins.

A graveside service was held at Knesset Israel Cemetery on Monday, May 29, with Rabbi David Weiner officiating. Donations in her memory may be made to Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Stephen Robert Weber, 85, love for Tanglewood, contemporary art, Boston sports fan

STOCKBRIDGE – Stephen Robert Weber, 85, businessman, philanthropist, and beloved husband and father, died on Sunday, May 28.

A longtime Boston resident, he passed peacefully in his sleep at his summer home in Stockbridge.

Born in Kansas City, MO, the son of the late Bertram and Leah Weber, Stephen attended Southwest High School in Kansas City and graduated as an engineering major from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960. Two years later, he earned an MBA from the Harvard Business School, where he was a Baker Scholar.

He began his business career at Waddell & Reed, moved on to G.S. Grumman & Associates, and then to Jennison Associates. He returned to Grumman, which became Cowen & Company and then SG-Cowen Securities Corp. He retired as managing director of SG-Cowen in 2005.

A generous benefactor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he was elected a trustee of the BSO in 2002 and served as vice chair from 2010 to 2015. In 2017, he became a Life Trustee. He had a particular love for Tanglewood, the BSO's summer home in the Berkshires, just down the road from his home in Stockbridge. In addition to classical music, he enjoyed contemporary art and served as board chair of the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania. He was an avid fan of Boston professional sports teams.

Stephen leaves his wife of 55 years, Dr. Dorothy Altman Weber; daughter, Meredith Weber Blitstein and son-in-law, Alexander Blitstein of Somerville; and brother-in-law, Dr. Lawrence K. Altman of New York City.

Funeral services were held on Friday, June 2 at Levine Chapels, Brookline, MA. Burial followed at Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, MA.

Contributions may be made to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and 18 Degrees – Kids 4 Harmony.

Robert Saltz, 83, family man, teacher, swim coach, and Chabad's shofar-blower extraordinaire

STEPHENTOWN – Robert Saltz, 83, died on Friday, May 19, surrounded by family.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Lee. He was the proud father of two stepsons, Andy and Ian, and two daughters-in-law, Dawn and Vickie. Bob's pride and joy were his five grandchildren, Zachary, Evan, Nicholas, Cydney, and Jordyn.

Throughout his 36-year career as a teacher and coach, Bob had a lasting impact on many of his students and swimmers who still remain an integral part of his life. He had a deep passion for working with photos and enjoyed asking random trivia questions while cheering on the Yankees and Giants. What made him happiest was spending quality time with Lee and their beloved animals at the home they constructed in upstate New York. His absence will be felt by a vast array of cherished friends and neighbors who had become like family to him.

Bob will be remembered for his kind heart and generous spirit. He touched the lives of so many people and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Nathaniel (Nat) Yohalem, 86, highly respected attorney sought after for his honesty and negotiation skills

MILL RIVER - Nathaniel (Nat) Yohalem passed away on Tuesday, June 6.

OBITUARIES, continued on page 22

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES,
continued from page 21

Born September 25, 1936, son of Bertie and Walter Yohalem and raised in Mount Vernon, NY, he was a track star at AB Davis High School, graduating in 1954. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1958. Nat was president of both his high school and college fraternities. In 1961, he graduated from Columbia Law School and then married the love of his life, Louise Nestanpower.

In Mount Vernon, he was a Democratic City Committee member and a board member of the YM-YWHA. He also taught ethics at Free Synagogue. In 1972, he and Louise moved to Westfield, NJ, with their two daughters. Nat was a founding board member of the Westfield YM-YWHA and loved coaching middle school sports.

A highly respected attorney sought after for his honesty and negotiation skills, Nat practiced corporate and regulatory law for more than 50 years before he retired.

He and Louise agreed that moving to New Marlborough was one of the best decisions they had ever made. He served there on the town Select Board for nine years, three years of which he was chairman, one of the great joys of his life. In 2022, Smitty Pignatelli presented him with the award of New Marlborough Volunteer of the Year. Nat’s most fervent belief was that all people deserve equal treatment. He was a friend and mentor to many, a passionate, though middling, golfer and constant reader. He also loved travel, road-tripping throughout the US and Canada, tireless at the wheel.

Nat was predeceased by his brother, Ira Yohalem. In addition to his wife, he is survived and adored by daughters Jennifer and Eve; sons-in-law Ronald Rutstein and Nicholas Polsky; and grandchildren Joseph Polsky, Maya Polsky, and Jacob Mann.

Burial was private. A memorial gathering was held on Thursday, June 8, at the Meeting House, New Marlborough. Donations in Nat’s memory should be made to a charity of your choice.

Bruce Anthony Cutler, 71, architect, loyal Boston Red Sox fan

NAPLES, FL – Bruce Anthony Cutler, 71, passed away on Friday, June 16.

Born in Pittsfield on March 16, 1952, Bruce attended the University of New Mexico, earning a bachelor’s degree in architecture, with an emphasis on design, including structure and urban growth, before going on to earn a master of architecture degree. He was a member of the State of

Florida American Board of Architects. In December 1977, he married the love of his life, Linda Shimmel, and they resided in Naples for the past 46 years.

Bruce’s hobbies included photography, Boy Scouts of America, graphics, woodworking (furniture), fine arts, travel, and ZenTango. He was a loyal Boston Red Sox fan and, for many years, held season tickets to their spring training games in Fort Myers, FL.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Esther Cutler, and sisters, Anita Bakst and Lynne Cutler. He is survived by his wife, Linda; niece, Simone Hamrick, and husband, Wes, of Mansfield, CT; his great-nieces and great-nephews, Gavin, Kate, Clara, James, Rory, Declan, and Mary Hamrick.

Burial was held on Friday, June 23, at Knesset Israel Cemetery in Pittsfield. Donations may be made to Avow Hospice, Inc., 1095 Whippoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105, or in care of Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Home, 5 Elm Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Melvin Ronald Cohen, 84, love, care, and pride of family, sense of humor

HACKENSACK, NJ – Melvin Ronald Cohen, 84, beloved husband, father, *zayda*, brother, uncle, and friend, passed away on Thursday, June 15, after a brief illness.

Born May 21, 1939 in York, PA, Mel graduated from Drexel Institute of Technology with a BS in Chemical Engineering. After working in that field for a short time, his career shifted to real estate and insurance which became a lifelong career spanning over 50 years of managing properties.

Until recently, Mel worked in his business and actively engaged in travel and visits with friends and family. He will be remembered most fondly for his love of life, travel, food, movies, and theater. His love and care of his family, pride in his children and grandchildren and his sense of humor stands out above all other qualities.

Mel is survived by Marsha, his loving wife of 27 years; children Elisha, Jacqueline, and Andrea; sons-in-law Jonathon and Phil; grandchildren Adam, Benjamin, Hannah, Jacob, Jasper, Solomon, Sophie, and Theo; sibling Arthur (Beverly) and their children; brother-in-law Scott (Debbie) and their children.

A funeral was held on June 16 at the funeral home Gutterman and Musicant, Hackensack, NJ.

The family invites contributions to the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield at <https://barringtonstageco.org/support/ways-to-give/>.

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CULTURE & ARTS

Reckonings Tells the History of How Reparations were Secured for Victims of the Holocaust

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival to host eminent negotiator for the Jewish Claims Conference

By Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat / Special to the BJV



On Monday, July 17 at 8 p.m., Ambassador Eizenstat will speak at the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (please see the listings below for details).

As the special negotiator for the Jewish Claims Conference in our negotiations with Germany for World War II reparations and compensation for Holocaust survivors, I am especially pleased that the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival is sponsoring *Reckonings*, a remarkable documentary jointly commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Finance and the Jewish Claims Conference. It has been shown from New York and the German embassy in Washington to Berlin, always to great acclaim.

Reckonings tells the story of how, out of the devastation of the Jewish communities in Europe in the Holocaust (6 million, including 1.5 million children) caused by Nazi Germany, for the past 75 years Germany and the Jewish claims conference have worked as partners to provide material benefits to holocaust survivors. This helps them live out their remaining years with a dignity denied them in their youth.

It is the first time in the history of warfare that a successor to a defeated nation, here the Federal Republic of Germany, accepted responsibility for the injuries caused by its predecessor, Nazi Germany. Germany’s first postwar chancellor after Adolph Hitler, Konrad Adenauer, proclaimed on September 15, 1951, “Unspeakable crimes have been committed in the name of the German people, calling for moral and material indemnity.”

Shortly after Adenauer’s announcement, another first occurred, breaking new ground in international law and morality. For the first time a non-profit organization, the Jewish Claims Conference, was created by 23 Jewish organizations, with the support of the young state of Israel, to negotiate on behalf of Holocaust survivors worldwide with a sovereign nation.

This laid the groundwork for the historic 1952 Luxembourg Agreement, with Israel’s prime minister David ben Gurion, Adenauer, and World Jewish Congress president Nahum Goldman. Since then, Germany has paid over \$90 billion to Holocaust survivors (but not to heirs of victims who were killed in the Holocaust) under its federal indemnification laws, most in negotiations with the claims conference. Since 2009, when I became special negotiator for the Claims Conference, we have obtained some \$9 billion.

As dramatized by *Reckonings*, the Luxembourg Agreements were highly controversial on both sides. Menachem begin, then the leader of the Herut/Likud party in the Knesset, called reparations “blood money” and led violent demonstrations against accepting German money. It narrowly passed the Knesset. Adenauer faced stiff opposition in his government, with his finance minister threatening to resign.

The negotiations are always tough, because they represent German taxpayers’ money, but fair, with a common commitment to help survivors in their declining years. Their history is one of continued expansion of eligibility standards with less time required in concentration camps, ghettos, in hiding and under false identities, for a variety of programs: one-time hardship payments; Article 2 pensions; flight victims from the murderous *Einzeiteingrupings* to the Soviet Union; child survivors who suffered particular trauma; children on the kinder-transports to England; payments to survivors in Romania and Morocco; and recently, special supplemental payments to the poorest of the poor. Most of the programs are income tested.

After the end of the Cold War, and the reunification of West and east Germany, the Federal Republic accepted responsibility for payment of survivors in the former German democratic republic. In addition, the German government recognized

successor organizations to take title to Nazi-confiscated Jewish property in the former East Germany and try to find heirs.

In recent years, we have placed special emphasis on home care and social service funding to allow poor elderly survivors to receive assistance in their apartments, rather than go into old age homes, which in much of the former Soviet Union and east bloc do not exist or are in terrible conditions.

I am inspired that there is no “Holocaust fatigue” among German government officials. Rather than waning over the decades, as might have been expected, to the great credit of the German government and people, payments to survivors are being expanded. I am negotiating with German officials who were not even born during World War II, but still feel a sense of responsibility to survivors.

Yet with all of this, of the 240,000 Holocaust survivors worldwide, more than half live in or near poverty: over 90 percent in the Former Soviet Union, and central and eastern Europe; 35 percent in Israel; and 30 percent in the United States. This is unacceptable for those who suffered so greatly in their youth.

With survivors now well over 80 years old; with fewer eyewitnesses alive to tell their stories to the next generations; with rising antisemitism, and Holocaust denial and distortion on social media, and sheer Holocaust ignorance – the recent claims conference survey of young Americans between 18-39, almost 60 percent could not identify what Auschwitz was – we are paying special attention in our negotiations with Germany, to Holocaust education. In our most recent round in Berlin in May, Germany agreed to fund Holocaust education to the claims conference for projects around the world, for over \$100 million through 2027.

I hope there will be a wide Berkshire audience to watch *Reckonings*, which compellingly provides an important recounting of history, with lessons to make our troubled world today a better place.

Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, in his long career of public service, has held key senior positions including chief White House domestic policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981); U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton Administration (1993-2001).

Much of the interest in providing belated justice for victims of the Holocaust and other victims of Nazi tyranny during World War II was the result of his leadership of the Clinton Administration as Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust-Era Issues (1993-2001). His well-reviewed book on these events, *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II*, was translated into German, French, Czech, and Hebrew.

In addition, during the Obama Administration, Ambassador Eizenstat served as Special Advisor on Holocaust-Era Issues to two secretaries of state. He negotiated significant Holocaust agreements with the governments of Lithuania (2011) and France (2014) and was also the principal US negotiator for the Terezin Declaration with 46 countries (2009) and the agreement with over 40 countries on Best Practices and Guidelines for the Restitution and/or Compensation of Private (immovable) Property Confiscated by the Nazis and their Collaborators between 1933-1945. During the Trump administration, he was appointed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as Expert Advisor to the State Department on Holocaust-Era Issues (2018-2021). He is currently serving as Special Adviser to Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Holocaust issues in the Biden Administration. President Biden recently named him the Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

His most recent book is *President Carter: The White House Years*, has been hailed as the definitive history of the Carter Administration.

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival Continues with In-Person Screenings

LENOX – The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) continues every Monday through August 14 in the Duffin Theater at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East Street in Lenox. Films will be screened on Mondays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

All presentations are open to the public. Tickets are \$15 per person. All seating is general admission. Single tickets are only available on the day of the show.

Season passes are available at knessetisrael.org/filmfestival. For information on filmmaker talkbacks and other related events, please visit the BJFF web page at berkshirejewish-filmfestival.org.

Organized by Knesset Israel, the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival is generously supported by MountainOne, Greylock Federal Credit Union, Berkshire Bank, Jesse & Bernard Wolfson Family Foundation, Harold Grinspoon Foundation, John Bergman Charitable Fund, Marcia & Albert Schmier, and Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust. Proceeds benefit the Hebrew School at Knesset Israel.

Information at berkshirejewishfilm-festival.org or (413) 445-4872, ext. 10.

BJFF Film Synopses 2023

July 17

4 p.m.

The Muses of Isaac Bashevis Singer
In the mid-1960s, Isaac Bashevis Singer established an army of female translators – more than 40 women – who helped spread his work. Theirs will be the only voices heard in the film, as they allow us a glimpse into his complex personality and personal life.

8 p.m.

Reckonings

Reckonings is the first documentary feature to chronicle the harrowing process of negotiating German reparations for the Jewish People. It captures the anger on one side, the shame on the other, and the anguish for all as talks broke down and failure seemed imminent. Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat is scheduled to speak (see related story on page above).

July 24

4 p.m.

Shttl

Shttl is the story of the inhabitants of a Yiddish Ukrainian village at the border of Poland, 24 hours before the Nazi invasion, known as Operation Barbarossa. In one unflinching shot, this film presents a day in the life of a Jewish village before it disappears.

8 p.m.

Karaoke

Sleepwalking through marriage, an older couple beset with unspoken regret gets a much-needed spark with the arrival of Itzik (the effortlessly magnetic Lior Ashkenazi), a sexy, middle-aged hedonist who loves hosting karaoke parties in his posh penthouse.

July 31

4 p.m. (2 short films)

Grossman

David Grossman, one of Israel’s most notable authors, shares the rare and captivating connections between his life and his novels. The film follows the writer up close and takes the viewers on a personal journey into the soul and work of an exceptional human being.

Castles in the Sky

Filmmaker and professor Pearl Gluck’s provocative dramatic short film centers on Malke, a Holocaust survivor and sex-ed teacher who has been leading a secret life for decades: performing slam poetry on the Lower East Side. *Castles in the Sky* features commanding performances from actor Lynn Cohen, who died in 2020, and poet Venus Thrash, who died in 2021.

8 p.m.

Where Life Begins

Each summer, Esther travels with

her French Ultra-Orthodox family to a farm in Calabria to harvest etrogs for Sukkot. Trapped by the suffocating rituals of her faith, the despairing and curious Esther captures the attention of the farm owner. Their brief encounters help Esther find her path.

August 7

4 p.m.

Queen of The Deuce

Born in Salonika, Greece, Chelly Wilson came from a religious Sephardic family. At the start of World War II, leaving her family and children behind, she emigrated to America and built a business that ultimately turned a dark yet lucrative corner when she entered the world of pornographic film theaters located alongside the X-rated shops on 8th Avenue, known as The Deuce.

8 p.m.

March ‘68

Hania and Janek are students in Warsaw in 1968. When the government’s persecution of Jews starts to gain strength. Janek, whose father is a government official, and Hania, who is Jewish and whose parents have lost their prominent jobs, join other university students protesting the government’s actions, changing their lives forever.

BJFF,
continued on page 24

CULTURE & ARTS

A Question of Relooking

Actress Annette Miller revives her iconic role in the one-person Golda’s Balcony this summer



This summer, Annette Miller – featured performer at Federation’s Major Donors Celebration in July – revisits one of her signature roles: Golda Meir. Miller first portrayed the Zionist icon more than 20 years ago, originating the role at Shakespeare & Company’s production of William Gibson’s *Golda’s Balcony*, a performance that garnered rave reviews and awards for the actress.

The revival of this one-person drama will be staged from August 5 through August 20 at the Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre. When Miller spoke to the BJV in June, she said she was in the process of preparing for the role, examining her evolving feelings toward the former Israeli prime minister and the country she governed and helped birth. She says she knows she will have to present Golda Meir to audiences whose attitudes toward Israel have changed over the last two decades, as well.

Miller asserts, however, that the new production will not be a nostalgia-fest. “Nostalgia – it’s very boring. I think [the revival will be] a reinvestigation for all of us. I hope it is. But it’s also a chance to see things in the [context of the] time that they

happened. Would Golda be the same person today? I don’t know. This isn’t a wish to go back. I think the play is a working document. I think that Golda was a working document. Things influenced her, which made her make her decisions in her life, just as things make the present people in charge do what they have to do. After, it’s a question of relooking at their decisions. It’s so much within our tradition to look at the same words year after year, and find new meanings in them. That’s what we do, don’t we?”

Miller also says it’s a production with “no bells and whistles”– just the actress holding the stage for 90 minutes, and stripped of some of the theatrical effects added on in the play’s Off-Broadway and Broadway incarnations.

Our conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

The BJV Interview: Annette Miller

What was it like preparing for the role, inhabiting Golda as a character and as a historical figure when you started in 2002?

Well, when I started, it was the first one-woman show I did. I was frightened out of my mind. I was very nervous of inhabiting this woman, of such renown, a woman who I had looked up to. I remember when she came to Brandeis, and I was a student there. I graduated in the class of ’58. Golda had always been an idol. And there was no young Jewish girl growing up then that didn’t know that Golda became prime minister – and so you could be prime minister. She was certainly a hero, and I was concerned with playing her. But the script spoke to me from day one. I think Bill Gibson has written a beautiful script, and even as I

work on it now, because I have to relearn all the lines, I keep on thinking it’s so good, the words just roll over the tongue.

So how was it playing Golda Meir as a younger woman and now taking the role on as an older woman?

I’m not even looking upon it as older or younger. I’m still as nervous because that comes with the territory, although I’ve done more one-woman shows since. I did Martha Mitchell and I did Deanna Freeland. I had warmed up on Golda. But [the difference] is really what’s going on now.

What do you mean by that?

Well, what’s happening in the State of Israel now? It’s a different state. Golda has great lines. She says they started out creating a state that would be the model of human redemption. That was the purpose of the state. Israel has changed in 20 years. Listen, we all change in 20 years, okay? This isn’t the first time, but there is a lot of protesting now, and it’s been said that we could be at the point of a civil war, God forbid. So it’s a different time. I mean, there are different things at stake. Israel was in a terrible point after the Yom Kippur War, but it seems to be that now, people are concerned about it being a democratic state.

Are you bringing that into the play?

The play is a play. As Golda says, ‘Failure is not my story. I was part of a great success here. Where nothing was, Israel is.’ She can’t imagine the thought of losing it, and neither can I. I cannot imagine us not having the state of Israel. I can’t imagine Jews without Israel. I don’t think it will ever happen. So the play isn’t about wondering: there’s no difference, we must have a state. That’s my commitment, I think, that’s in the play.

So this is not a revisionist take on Golda Meir. This is still the golden Golda.

This is Golda. They’re the same words for me. Listen – theater is live. Every night a performance changes. It changes because of the audience. It changes because of the actor. And the audience now is in a different place. The world is in different place. And this isn’t the revisionist view. This is me hearing Golda’s voice again. And she says, ‘Did Israel always come first, even at the cost of their lives?’ She’s talking about her grandchildren. I mean, these are the same questions. What is the price? She starts by telling you a handful of stories, but there’s one question which still has to be asked and isn’t answered. And that is – what happens, in your struggle, when idealism becomes power? What happens? That’s real. That’s a real present question that we all have to answer, and we don’t have the answer necessarily.

And it’s an okay question, but if you’re aware of it, if you don’t lose too much track, you don’t have to have an answer. Golda has this wonderful line. She asks whoever it is up there, ‘In this world that you created, good and evil are like both ends of a single stick. You can’t pick up one without the other. Why?’ So these are big questions, and I think the contemplation and the asking, is such a Jewish thing.

Golda’s Balcony will be at Shakespeare & Company’s Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, 70 Kemble Street in Lenox from August 5 through August 20. Written by William Gibson and directed by Daniel Gidron. For more information and tickets, visit shakespeare.org/shows/2023/goldas-balcony/.

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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, July 21 8:06 p.m.

Friday, July 28 7:59 p.m.

Friday, August 4..... 7:51 p.m.

Friday, August 11..... 7:42 p.m.

Friday, August 18..... 7:32 p.m.

Friday, August 25..... 7:21 p.m.

MAZEL TOV!

Lawrence Klein on his new position as Director of Advancement at UMass Amherst Hillel. And mazel tov to the entire Klein family – Lawrence, mom Sarah, brother Jacob, and grandfather Bill – on the August bat mitzvah of Kaetah Klein at Kneset Israel.

Federation vice president Elisa Spungen Bildner on being appointed president of the Jewish Book Council.

Devorah Sawyer, daughter of Tom and Suzanne Sawyer, and Anna Snyder, daughter of Andrew and Sandra Snyder, on their recent marriage.

Stuart Masters on his special birthday.

Jackson Callahan on his bar mitzvah at Congregation Beth Israel in June. Parents are Beth and Jim Callahan.

Bea Selig on her 100th birthday.

Merle Ferber on a milestone birthday – in her words, “75 and still alive!”

BJFF,

continued from page 23

August 14

4 p.m.

The City Without Jews

H.K. Breslauer’s 1924 silent masterpiece is the tragicomic story of the fictional Austrian city of Utopia. The story follows the political and personal consequences of an antisemitic law forcing all Jews to leave the country. When the citizens of Utopia come to terms with the loss of the Jewish population and the resulting economic decline, they must decide whether to invite them back. The satirical events transformed into an all-too-horrific reality. The silent film is accompanied by live original music composed by renowned klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals and silent film music legend pianist Donald Sosin.

8 p.m.

Farewell, Mr. Haffmann

In this gripping wartime thriller probing issues of conscience and character, a French-Jewish jeweler

is caught in a Faustian pact that will change the fate of all involved. When the Nazis occupy Paris, Joseph Haffmann (Daniel Auteuil) arranges for his family’s escape and hastily signs over his humble shop to trusted right-hand man François (Gilles Lellouche). As fortunes reverse, Haffmann is now at his employee-turned-collaborator’s mercy, trapped hiding in the basement to avoid deportation.

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CULTURE & ARTS

Organized Escape: Psychoanalysts in Exile

An exhibit at the Austen Riggs Center tells the story of the pioneering Jewish psychoanalysts who fled Vienna before its occupation by the Nazis

By Linda F. Burghardt / Special to the BJV



Émigré Viennese psychoanalysts at Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, 1950.

The neat white house at 48 Main Street in Stockbridge that brought joy to thousands of visitors when it housed the coveted collection of Norman Rockwell’s artwork is now providing enlightenment and knowledge through a historical exhibition that tells the breathtaking story of a group of persecuted psychoanalysts, including Sigmund Freud, who fled Vienna – with the Nazis at their heels – at the dawn of the Holocaust.

“Organized Escape: Psychoanalysts in Exile,” opened in Stockbridge on June 3 and will run through mid-October, free of charge to visitors, Thursdays to Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit is the cornerstone of a unique collaboration between the Austen Riggs Center and the Freud Museum in Vienna, where the exhibit was originally created, garnering significant accolades in the months it has been shown there.

The Austen Riggs Center, founded over a century ago in 1919, is a therapeutic community and open psychiatric hospital and a thought leader in the fields of psychoanalytic research and education through its Erikson Institute, the division that brought the exhibit to the Berkshires.

“The emigre psychoanalysts from Vienna considerably enriched and shaped American psychoanalysis,” commented Jane Tillman, director of the Institute, “and this exhibit honors the concerted efforts of the psychoanalytic organizations that provided much-needed aid to those whose lives and professions were threatened by the Nazis.”

Alison Lotto, who curated the exhibit and serves as the librarian and archivist at the center, only a tenth of a mile away from the Old Corner House, where the exhibit is located, said, “We added a layer of American sensibility over the European-created exhibit and brought in some additional artifacts and objects from our own collection, so that we could enlarge and enhance the already excellent showing from Vienna for our visitors.”

The vivid displays showcase numerous photographs, historical artifacts, letters, diary entries, ship manifests, and selected biographies of the Viennese analysts whose lives became endangered literally overnight when the Nazis occupied Austria in March 1938. With the Anschluss, the official annexation of Austria to Germany, the Jews of the country that had once been the seat of an empire were suddenly exposed to danger on the streets, severe government oppression, radicalized attacks, and violent antisemitic demonstrations.

Their citizenship was revoked; weapons were confiscated; ownership of radios was no longer permitted. Their cars and phones were taken away; pets were forbidden. Professionals in nearly every position were dismissed from their jobs; businesses were taken over. Parents fought for the chance to save their children by sending them away to London on the Kindertransports, even knowing they might never see them again.

The practicing analysts of Vienna, the birthplace of psychoanalysis, were panicked. Like Freud, nearly all of the leaders of the newly developed field were Jewish, and thus newly and thoroughly endangered. All at once, the vicious antisemitic rules and regulations that had been enacted one by one since Hitler took power in Germany in 1933 suddenly became law in Austria as well, and the Jews were declared enemies of the Reich. The analysts were desperate to flee to save their lives; it was their only hope. But how? And to where?

All through the city, in offices, coffee houses, synagogues, and living rooms, people were gathering to figure out what to do. Couples who had just begun courting rushed to marry in the months after the Anschluss, hurrying to meet the July 31 deadline, the last day Jews were permitted to wed in Vienna. Though at first some had been skeptical and hoped the danger would pass, the violent and deadly state-sponsored pogrom against the Jews eight months after the Anschluss on Kristallnacht, raging through virtually every town and city in Austria and Germany, convinced even the doubters.

While individuals, couples, and families struggled to find a way out, some, like the psychoanalysts, had a lucky star to guide them. The Nazis targeted all Jews for destruction, but in addition, they threatened the intellectuals most firmly – the college professors, journalists, lawyers, judges, authors – and with an especially heavy hand, the followers of Sigmund Freud and his colleagues in this new and threatening profession.

For these psychoanalysts, a desperate call across the continent and over the Atlantic was sent out. In Vienna in 1938, one of the most prized possessions among the Jews was a Manhattan telephone book. Individuals would look up New Yorkers with the same last name as theirs and write them letters pleading for help. An affidavit. A sponsor. A letter of support. Anything to aid them as they struggled to find a way to flee. And a country that would take them.

While help for the psychoanalysts was unsuccessfully being sought from individual sponsors, in stepped a coalition of members of the international psychoanalytic community, like-minded professionals that made possible the unique collective escape that would ultimately save the lives of Freud and his colleagues in a daring group evacuation.

“How the finances were handled and how the sponsors were found is a terribly important part of the exhibit,” Lotto said. Through 1938 and into the spring of 1939, everyone in the group of 38 analysts and their families were rescued and living safely, mostly in the US, with a particularly large contingent settling in New York City. A handful found welcome in London and in a smattering of other cities around the world.

“The emigres moved from despair to hope,” Lotto said, explaining that “the whole exhibit is a story of how they came out of danger and what their experience was on the way, and how they then found the courage and creativity to make new lives for themselves in their new homes.”

The meticulously researched exhibition that traces their descent into exile, as many of the emigres viewed it, is immersive and impressive, exploring not only their forced migration but also the impact their leaving Vienna and resettling in the US and Great Britain had on the newly developing field of psychoanalysis and the larger world of mental health treatment in all its forms. How did psychoanalysis change in the decades following their emigration? How did the new practitioners in the US develop the field? What happened to those who stayed in Europe, and to the development of their practice? Answers to many of these questions come to light in the exhibit’s galleries.

By providing such a wealth of information, the exhibit lays bare the complexities of emigration to the US from Nazi-occupied Austria in 1938 and 1939 at the same time it examines the multi-layered cultural legacy of Freud and his colleagues. Lotto explained, “The psychoanalysts were in the best position to escape, yet it was still extremely hard. The whole field of psychoanalysis was in danger, not just the practitioners.”

Through expanding the historical story to include the experiences of current immigrants, the exhibit highlights the commonalities and differences between the ways each group managed, considering the cultural similarities, the professional relations, how the world has changed in the over eight decades since the Vienna escape, and the ways in which the stories overlap. Overall, the exhibit seems to

The Nazis targeted all Jews for destruction, but in addition, they threatened the intellectuals most firmly... and with an especially heavy hand, the followers of Sigmund Freud and his colleagues in this new and threatening profession.

say, danger is danger; asylum is asylum; and human hearts are human hearts.

In 1950, twelve years after the Viennese psychoanalysts became strangers in a new land, Anna Freud, who had escaped with her father, gathered the emigres in Stockbridge for a joyous reunion at Austen Riggs. She called this the “First Congress on Child Analysis,” and demonstrated through lectures and testimony from the survivors that most had succeeded in finding professional fulfillment in exile, and many had gone on to create impressive careers for themselves.

Sadly, Sigmund Freud was not among those who gathered to share their success at the conference, having died in London not long after emigrating there. Within days of the Anschluss in March 1938, his home and workplace had been raided; a week later his daughter Anna was arrested and questioned by the Gestapo. Then in June, a mere three months later, Freud was able to leave Vienna with Anna and his wife Martha. But the end came for him after just 15 months, in September 1939. He was 83.

Adding to the exhibit, and deepening the gravity of it, are four hour-and-a-half-long digital roundtables that can be viewed at the exhibit itself and also remotely on Austen Riggs’ website at education.austenriggs.org, plus on the Freud Museum’s YouTube channel, which can be reached at freud-museum.at. The panels explore a wide range of issues relating to the psychoanalysts’ story: how their refugee experience enriched psychoanalysis in the Americas, the legacy they were able to leave behind, how they dealt with the loss of their culture and their future in Europe, what the genocide took away from psychoanalysis, and the impact of emigration on psychoanalytic practice.

“This is our first show since we had to shut down the exhibit space in 2019 due to Covid,” Lotto said. “We hope to offer something special here every summer. This is a new beginning, and we look forward to welcoming our neighbors and the many tourists who visit the Berkshires to ‘Organized Escape,’ so they can learn the fascinating history behind the emigres’ story

Linda F. Burghardt Ph.D., is the scholar-in-residence at the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center in New York and a part-time resident of the Berkshires. She is the daughter of Holocaust survivors from Vienna.

CULTURE & ARTS

“Immersion: Defiant Music”



Mark Ludwig, Terezin Music Foundation director

Mark Ludwig is no stranger to the Berkshires – a long-time violist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Ludwig has presented programs for Federation as Terezin Music Foundation director, most recently last summer at Knosh & Knowledge. He talked then about his outstanding book about the doomed musicians and artists at Terezin, *Our Will to Live: The Terezin Music Critiques of Viktor Ullmann*.

On Friday, August 11 and Saturday, August 12, Ludwig and the Foundation will collaborate with the Tanglewood Learning Institute on a two-part series, “Immersion: Defiant Music,” which explores cultural creators persecuted by Nazis during World War II. He assures those interested in coming that these programs at the Linde Center will be “very different even if they have attended programs of mine before. They’ll be experiencing other composers and other works that will most likely be new to them and delving into how did this all, in a sense, happen. We go farther back than, say, the late 1920s and ultimately 1933, when the Nazis obtained power. We’ll go back to the previous century and consider the root influences that would guide the Nazis towards creating these policies.”

We caught up with Ludwig in early June, when he was a few days away from flying to Mongolia, where he was to lead a series of master classes with the Mongolian State Philharmonic Orchestra and then talk at the United States Embassy in Ulan Bator. After, he was going “on a self-sustaining ultramarathon in the Gobi Desert. It’s 155 miles in six days with a 25-pound pack at high altitude, and you’re on wild terrain you have to navigate. So you’re essentially doing a marathon each day, six days in a row.” He adds he’s been doing these kinds of extreme hikes for four years.

Our conversation was edited for length and clarity.

How did this program come together?

It’s almost eight years since I retired from the BSO and I’ve maintained really close ties with the orchestra. They asked if I’d like to do a series of programs where we look at the music that the Nazis had targeted as part of what they called their degenerate music and degenerate art policies. These policies worked in tandem with the Nuremberg racial laws and their so-called cleansing not only in Germany, but what would subsequently be in occupied lands during the war.

So what we have is two days of immersion into a world that is rather surrealist and brutal. We look at the genesis of how these cultural policies were connected to the racial policies of the Nazis, and how they were implemented. We’ll then look at the response of a few composers whose music was active

defiance. The first part [on Friday, “Degenerate Music–Voices That Could Not Be Silenced”] will be about composers who were fortunate enough to go into exile – Schoenberg immediately comes to mind, but there’s [Berthold] Goldschmidt and [Ernst] Krenek. They were targeted and responded in their music. In part two [on Saturday, “Our Will To Live’ – Music and Art in Terezin”]) we see how these policies of the degenerate art and music led tragically towards the Final Solution. We’ll look at the Terezin composers and their works as acts of defiance, but we’ll also look at the promise of these composers, getting acquainted with some of their music before the war so that we see that ultimately all of this music would stand on its own merit, regardless of its composers’ tragic fates.

We just did a story about the Barrington Stage Company’s production of Cabaret, which deals with some of the same themes – a liberal society and arts community that developed coming into conflict with the Nazis when they rose to power.

In the second program, we actually go into cabaret and Terezin, because cabaret artists ended up in Terezin and were immediate targets. But they were already targets for the Nazi Party that was formulating in the 1920s. By the 1920s, the Nazis were targeting not only pieces [of music], but composers – this didn’t just come about in 1933. Even dating back as far back to the 1830s, you’ll see influences that eventually were absorbed within the Nazi policies, that then evolve into the Nuremberg racial laws and then ultimately the Final Solution.

The Nazis weren’t just racialists or militarists. They were also culture warriors and they sought to remake culture in their own image, as well as society and geopolitics.

A lot of the language that was used, the terminology and the policies of that period, are textbook being used today. The fact that people are declaring a war on segments of society is a warning, a red flag. You can’t help but make connections to that time period that have an unfortunate resonance in the political landscape, not only in the United States, but throughout the world. It also gives you a sense of the degree that regimes and politicians who tend to be in the more totalitarian realm are fearful of the power of the arts.

I think people will be struck by similarities. But more importantly, I find that these two talks are a journey into what is the power and the inspirational aspect, not only of these composers and visual artists, but of the arts overall. It sounds very dark. And of course, it is an incredibly dark chapter. But with it is an understanding not only the power of the arts for them, but for us in future generations when we look at the inspiring act of creating and being, of having that role of defiance and looking at the role of music as an agent of not only resistance, but of hope and survival and ultimately transformation.

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“Immersion: Defiant Music,” is a two-part event collaboration between the Tanglewood Learning Institute and the Terezin Music Foundation exploring cultural creators persecuted by Nazis during World War II. The program will be facilitated by Mark Ludwig, Terezin Music Foundation director and Boston Symphony Orchestra member emeritus. Both presentations will be presented at the Linde Center, Studio E.

Immersion: Defiant Music Part 1: “Degenerate Music–Voices That Could Not Be Silenced,” on Friday, August 11 at 4:30 p.m.: Explores the Nazi “cultural cleansing” policy targeting jazz, modernist, and non-Aryan—including all Jewish—composers before and during World War II. This will include a sampling of art, historical photos, and performance videos.

Immersion: Defiant Music Part 2: “Our Will To Live” – Music and Art in Terezin’ on Saturday, August 12 at 3 p.m.: An artistic and musical journey into the astonishing cultural community of imprisoned musicians and artists in Terezin, a Nazi camp where 33,000 people died. This program will include art and historical photos with live performances by BSO members.

Tickets for each day are available for \$25 per seat and may be purchased at the Tanglewood box office or online at bso.org.

“Personal growth is the silver lining for each of us”

Photographs by Carol Smokler



LENOX – If you visit the Lenox Library this summer, you’ll encounter a selection of photos by Carol Smokler. Many of the images capture the loneliness and dislocation of the pandemic lockdowns, which Carol felt acutely as she spent time in Florida, Newfoundland, New York City, and the Berkshires.

She writes that she used the time as an opportunity to expand her skills as a photographer, taking online classes through Santa Fe Photography Workshops and the International Center.



I used to focus on street photography, people, travel and landscape. I often saw beauty in exotic places and historic sites which became inaccessible during the pandemic.

My world was limited and I saw it differently. When I look back on the photographs I made, three areas seemed to dominate: I saw empty places, where I had once seen people and activity. I saw people from the back as if to keep them at a safe distance and not impose myself on them. Finally, I looked at small moments that I had overlooked before.

I found beauty in nature and even in everyday objects. Photographing these intimate moments helped me to feel optimistic and hopeful. The pandemic reminded me how precious time is and that we must use it well. I was grateful to find opportunity in these missing years. Personal growth is the silver lining for each of us.

The current exhibition draws from her book: *The Missing Years 2020-22*.

CULTURE & ARTS

TRAVELING WITH JEWISH TASTE

Go Fish!

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



It's Sunday morning and time for brunch. Or it's *kiddush* after shul. Or it's time to break your Yom Kippur fast. What's on the menu? For sure there will be at least one fish dish. Yes, we Tribespeople lay claim to a host of pickled, smoked, and seasoned fishes. At least, the *Ashkenazi* branch of the family does. The Sephardim work more with fresh fish, which we'll look at in a bit.

Gefilte fish may be among the most maligned dishes in the Eastern European repertoire of foods. And frankly, if you insist on eating the stuff from a jar with that icky jelly, then yeah, the stuff deserves your disdain. But home cooks have made their own for generations (my bubbie's was terrific), so if you don't mind smelling up the house, then by all means, go for it. However, these days you can find a nice log in the freezer section of the grocery store. Baked with carrot, onion, and celery, it's delicious.



"The stuff from a jar with that icky jelly"

For Sunday brunch, bagels, lox, and cream cheese is the iconic combination. Or is that smoked salmon you're eating? The difference? Lox in Eastern Europe originally referred to salmon brined in salt water. Lox, from the Yiddish word for salmon, *lox* or German *lachs*, is cured in salt, a technique of food preservation that our ancestors used for generations in Eastern Europe. (Scandinavians also cure their salmon in salt.)

Smoked salmon is, well, exactly that. But it can be cold-smoked or hot-smoked. The cold smoked variety looks similar to lox, with a glossy finish and sliced thin to go on a bagel with cream cheese, while hot-smoked looks more like a cooked fish. Despite the term "hot," the smoking temperature for this variety ranges only between 70 and 90 degrees, so its texture is juicy and flaky. But kippered salmon, another form of hot smoked, is prepared at around 180 degrees and has more of a cooked feel than its cousin.

Then there's Nova salmon, a hybrid of the two preservation techniques. Named for the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, it is lightly brined, then cold smoked. Today smoked salmon comes not only from Canada, but Norway, Scotland, and Ireland, as well.

Back to kippered salmon. It should not be confused with the kippers that our British cousins like. Those delights are made with herring that is cold-smoked. But herring is a very flexible fish, and kippers aren't the only way to prepare them. Whether in wine sauce, tomato sauce, or sour cream, in chunks or chopped, herring in any form is comfort food for many. I include myself among its fans, even as it makes my feet swell.



"Herring," by Steve Marcus

Jews embraced it as a cheap source of protein. When they came to America, they brought their recipes for herring with them, where herring continued to nourish working-class immigrants.

Whole smoked whitefish was the Sunday breakfast at Camp Ramah back in the day. I became pretty proficient at pulling the spine from said fish without leaving behind any bones that could get stuck in my throat. Alas, those days are long gone. Occasionally I'll see a nice big golden fish at a bar mitzvah kiddush, but not too many other places. However, whitefish salad, when made well, is sublime on a bagel or challah roll or even straight up out of the spoon.

Finally, we come to sable. No, not the fur coat. Sable, the last of our Ashkenazi fishes, is also known as black cod or butterfish. Smoked and coated in paprika, it's used as a topping for bagels when sliced. With its silky smooth, buttery texture, sable is a nice alternative to lox, smoked salmon, or whitefish.

As for the Sephardi branch of the family tree, all the fish dishes that I've come across from our cousins are based on fresh white fish neither cured nor smoked. (BTW, that's white-fleshed fish, not whitefish of the smoked variety.) That makes sense given that most countries in which the Sephardim have lived border the ocean, where fresh fish is readily available. One of the most popular dishes is

probably the Moroccan *Chraime* (pronounced hray-meh), made with a spicy tomato sauce – appropriate, as the name is based on the Arabic word for hot. It is a regular on Shabbat dinner tables.

The dish known as *peshkado frito* has a Jewish history of its own. This fried fish dish was an important tool in evading the "holy" inquisitors of the Inquisition. Because Portugal in the 16th century was ruled by the iron hand of Catholic monarchs, everybody was expected to be Catholic. Hence, everybody was expected to eat fish on Fridays. Authorities closely scrutinized the *conversos*, many of whom continued as crypto-Jews, practicing their Judaism secretly. The *conversos* figured out that they could have their fish on Erev Shabbat and save the leftovers to eat cold on Saturday, thereby avoiding cooking on Shabbat. (Faking the pork thing was an entirely different matter.)

When the Jews fled Portugal for England, they brought their traditions, and their recipes, with them. *Peshkado frito* was among them. The inimitable Claudia Roden writes in her *The Book of Jewish Food* that Thomas Jefferson sampled fried fish while visiting London and reported that he ate "fish in the Jewish fashion." So, what would make it Jewish? Victorian chef Alexis Soyer explained the moniker in his 1845 cookbook, *A Shilling Cookery for the People*. He included a recipe for precisely that dish, "Fried Fish, Jewish Fashion." It called for oil, not lard.

As for the chips part of the wildly popular fish and chips equation, those fried potatoes probably originated in Belgium, not from the Tribe.

Fish is healthful and delicious, so go wild! Or farmed, if you prefer.



Chraime: Moroccan Fish in Spicy Tomato Sauce

The word "*chraime*" comes from the Arabic word for "hot," but you can adjust the seasoning on this recipe to suit your own personal taste. What makes the dish even better is that prep time is less than 30 minutes!

- INGREDIENTS:
- 2 pounds of firm, white-fleshed fish (I used haddock)
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 5 cloves garlic, minced
 - 2 large onions, chopped
 - 2 tablespoons tomato paste
 - 1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes
 - 1 long hot Italian pepper, seeds removed then chopped
 - 2 teaspoons cumin
 - ½ teaspoon cinnamon
 - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 1 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1 cup water
 - ¼ cup fresh cilantro, chopped (or parsley if you can't stand cilantro)

- DIRECTIONS:
- Sauté the minced garlic olive oil over medium heat for about 30 seconds.
 - Add the onions and sauté until caramelized, 3 to 4 minutes.
 - Add the spices and the tomato paste, and sauté until fragrant.
 - Add the chopped tomatoes and stir. Cover the pot and let simmer for 10 minutes.
 - Mash the softened tomatoes with a vegetable masher.
 - Add the water and stir until combined.
 - Carefully place the fish filets into the pot, and spoon making sure to cover well with the tomato sauce.
 - Cover the pan and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn the fish over and season with salt and pepper.
 - Sprinkle the cilantro or parsley over the fish, cover the pan and cook another 5 to 8 minutes until the fish is ready.

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

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

CULTURE & ARTS

Torah in the Tarot: Hidden Secrets of the Crypto-Jews

Did Crypto-Jews use tarot cards as a secret tool for Jewish education?



GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, August 11 at 10:45 a.m., Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “Torah in the Tarot: Hidden Secrets of the Crypto-Jews,” a program in collaboration with the Boston-area Jewish Arts Collaborative (JAarts) as part of Federation’s Celebration of Sephardic Culture.

This free Knosh & Knowledge program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

In this conversation moderated by Laura Mandel (director of the Boston JAarts), Torah scholar Stav Appel and Berkshire artist Jonathan Prince examine the Tarot anew through a Judaic lens of understanding. They will reveal its images as secret vessels for Hebrew letters, Judaic ritual objects, Jewish Holy Days, and legends of Torah.

The mesmerizing cards, masterpieces of cryptography crafted when the Jewish faith was targeted for destruction, contain a surprisingly comprehensive portrait of the rituals and lore of Judaism within the limited space of 22 small card-board squares. Appel and Prince are collaborating on a way to present this story through augmented reality (AR) software.

Intrigued by enigmatic Biblical imagery in antique Tarot cards, Stav Appel started looking for answers. What he found reveals an untold story of ingenuity, perseverance, and faith in one of the darkest moments of Jewish history, when the practice of the faith was prohibited through much of Europe.

See the evidence for yourself and learn more about how this research is being transformed into an augmented reality (AR) app called “Secrets of the Tarot.” Available now in the app store, the app takes you on a journey to uncover the Torah in the Tarot that has been hiding in plain sight for nearly 400 years.

The *Torah in the Tarot* is available at torahtarot.com/shop.

About Our Presenters



Stav Appel

Prince, art is a journey that contemplates science, technology, and an ongoing investigation of spirituality. His works balance both precision and imperfection, congruent with the inevitable dualities found in life. Despite an early interest in sculpture, Prince’s prowess for science and technology led him to become a maxillofacial surgeon. After an extensive career in the medical field, and having spearheaded various companies that greatly advanced the development of internet and media technology, Prince turned to his passion for sculpture once again in 2002. His studio, The Berkshire House, is located in Southfield in New Marlborough

Stav Appel is a data scientist and a life-long student of the Torah who resides in upstate New York. He advises businesses on how to use data visualization technology to identify strategic insights hidden within large data sets. He has held leadership positions at Pfizer, RRD, and Accenture. He has an MBA from the Yale School of Management and a BA in Philosophy from Binghamton University.

For Berkshire-based sculptor **Jonathan**



Jonathan Prince

A few words with Stav Appel about *The Torah in the Tarot*

The Torah in the Tarot is a reproduction of the 22 major arcana (or trump cards) of The Jean Noblet Tarot de Marseille, created in France circa 1650, with Stav Appel’s commentary in a booklet and on the back of each card. For nearly 400 years the Judaic content of the Tarot de Marseille has been unnoticed, misunderstood, or ignored. This card, “The Street Entertainer,” for example, represents the first patriarch of Judaism, Abraham – notice how the figure’s hands are held in a way that resembles the letter ‘Aleph’ (א). On the table are the tools of circumcision, which Abraham underwent at the age of 99. In his left hand, he holds a...oy. Well, come to the program and ask questions. We caught up with Stav Appel in June for a little more insight on how tarot cards became so Jewish and why the seemingly obvious connection has been overlooked. Our conversation was edited for length and clarity.

So in doing my research, I looked over the voluminous Wikipedia entries for both ‘Tarot’ and ‘Tarot de Marseille.’ Then I did a search for the word ‘Jew’ on both pages – and nothing came up. How do you explain that absence given that, as you show, there is such obvious Jewish iconography?

What’s really funny about that absence is that a lot of Jewish people played a central role in the creation of contemporary tarot culture. [Science fiction and comic book writer] Rachel Pollack, was a very famous writer [who popularized and reimagined tarot in a book considered a classic of its type, *78 Degrees Of Wisdom*]. Stuart Kaplan from US Games was central to the popularization of tarot in the United States and around the world. But officially, there’s no connection between tarot and Judaism, which is really weird, because if you read a lot of the esoteric or occult tarot books, you’ll find them filled with Judaic imagery, Hebrew letters, and kabbalah. But if you go to the occult tarot world, they have this kind of school of theology that I call, half-jokingly, ‘Occult Kabbalah.’ It’s a form of kabbalah that has been purged of Judaism and Jews.

The history of the tarot is like a big game of broken telephone played over generations by different kinds of people. Artists were copying this deck over and over again, and a lot of the Judaica in subsequent copies began to deteriorate. But if you go to the original versions, it’s actually quite apparent – yet somehow Judaism is never mentioned in the conversation. There’s actually a very specific reason for that. In 1800s, there was a French author, Alphonse Louis Constant, a self-professed magician who wrote a book called *The Doctrine and Ritual of High Magic* under the pen name of Éliphas Lévi. He describes this new mystical theology called ‘kabbalah,’ which had nothing to do with Judaism. At this time in France, Jews and Judaism were seen as alien and bizarre and threatening. Lévi put on the face of the Jewish sorcerer, playing on the stereotypes of the magical Jew for theatrical effect while appropriating Hebrew language and the nomenclature of kabbalah. In esoteric circles, when people began to think of Hebrew or these Judaic ritual objects, they began to associate it more with Occult Kabbalah than with Judaism. Those people laid claim to the Tarot de Marseille as their foundational artifact – and that one event of intellectual trickery masked the Jewish theme in these cards. Later, [the serious kabbalah scholar] Gershom



Scholem called Éliphas Lévi out as a charlatan.

I’m trying to show that when you wash away this veneer of Occult Kabbalah, underneath it, there’s not only genuine Judaic kabbalah, but also Judaism. For centuries, tarot historians have debated the meaning of the word ‘tarot.’ For me, it’s obvious. ‘Tarot’ is a wordplay on ‘Torah.’ And I believe there was kind of a community of people who always have known that there is a Jewish thread hidden deep inside this story.

Before they had an association with the occult, tarot cards were used as playing cards for different kinds of games. How did they become Jewish?

There still there’s a lot of mystery around the early history of tarot in Europe. Originally, they were called ‘trionfi’ cards, which means ‘parade’ [and from which the word ‘trump’ is derived]. So the idea was that you could have a miniature parade of characters in your pocket. And yes, originally they were used for game playing and some were created at beautiful objects of art. But I don’t see anything Judaic about those early cards.

At some point in the 1500s, there were two big changes. One is they started being called ‘tarrochi’ cards, and then they started being called Tarot de Marseille. Nobody really knows why. The second thing is that the number of picture cards became standardized to 22. That standardization of the number 22 and the name ‘tarrochi’ arose in unison in northern Italy and in southern France, which happened to have been

locations to which many Jews fled during the Spanish Inquisition. And 22 is very important, because that happens to be the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

Tarot historians have always claimed that’s just a wild coincidence. But, let’s think for a second – who in the 1500 had the motivation to actually hide Hebrew letters in a package of playing cards? Quite frankly, it was Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition [who had to hide their identity]. One of the crazy things to me is that the tarot world suffers this bout of Judaic blindness. They can see Hebrew, they can see kabbalah. They can even see Judaic ritual objects. But for some reason, this entire field that’s been going on for centuries is incapable of seeing Jews and Judaism.

[The 1500s were] a key moment in the evolution of the medium where so much of the design of the cards was inspired. I have to believe it wasn’t just one artist. The amount of Judaica is so dense, so filled with Judaica in such a thoughtful, clever manner, that I can only conclude that it was a group of artists who collaborated and worked on these cards for years, if not decades.

The Jean Noblet Tarot de Marseille is the only deck I know of that I’m sure was intentionally Jewish. The artists knew what they were doing and it’s a total masterpiece. And it’s a completely unrecognized work of genius. [The only existing copy is] sitting in the French National Library and it’s categorized as a deck of playing cards. It’s an absolute crime that this deck has not been recognized for what it is. The artists who created this deck were giants. I’m in total awe of the ingenuity and the creativity and the mastery of cryptography that went into it. I also think this one deck of cards is a key to opening up a whole other world of not just tarot history, but Jewish history that’s been completely lost.